

Alliance for Children Network
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April 8th, 2011

- The Residential Care Placement Commission is holding its June 23rd meeting at in Martinsburg hosted at the Board of Child Care. Expect there will be great interest in attendance at the meeting from folks in the Martinsburg area. There is still much debate about the 50 mile standard that is consideration in out of state care decision-making. Certainly that will be a factor increased interest in the location of this particular meeting.
- Long time Davis-Stuart staffers Joe and Belinda Collins will be leaving Davis Stuart this spring as Joe becomes the fulltime minister for a church in Versailles, Kentucky. They will be missed as they have made many, many positive contributions to Davis-Stuart's mission to serve kids and families but this has been something that has been coming for some time and all that know them wish nothing but the best.
- The planful and transparent nature and thoroughness CHS' CEO succession process is serving as a model for other organizations to follow particularly in light of the observations folks have made regarding the performance of Valley Health, Wheeling Children's Home, Family Services of Kanawha Valley and most recently Burlington United Methodist Family Services in hiring CEO's over the last few years. Following CHS' lead Prestera Mental Health is just beginning a succession process acknowledging the eventual and too distant retirement of Bob Hansen as their Chief Executive. Recognizing the organizational value of in-house succession apparently the Daymark Board of Directors has decided longtime senior leader Vicki Pleasants will take over upon Dennis Pease's retirement some time later this year.
- B&T's main office in Dunbar was recently destroyed by fire suspected to be arson. They have set up a spartan-like office in Dunbar and are conducting all their communication via internet and cell phone with one line coming in and the receptionist taking messages so calls can be returned. While the building is still structurally sound apparently all the internal contents of the office were lost. At least today the plan calls for them to return after all the cleaning, and repairs are made.
- For the federal fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2010 the Bureau for Children and Families served 6,855 children and youth in the state's foster care system. That number, we understand, is down from the previous year.
- The Alliance Board has formally asked that Social Work Licensing Board to seek to issue emergency rules for the recently passed Social Work licensing law changes. Hopefully the Board will make a case with the Secretary of State's Office and act quickly to issue new rules.

- Pretera CEO Bob Hansen will be the incoming Board President of the WV Behavioral Health Care Provider's Assoc. taking that position on July 1st.
- We understand that WV State University and Concord University will be submitting proposal to the Higher Education Board a plan for establishing a joint MSW program with the primary rationale being that the off-campus program at WVU in Charleston/Beckley cannot accept enough of the BSW grads from the two schools to meet the need.
- Dr. Karen Harper-Dorton has informed the Div. of Soc. Wk. faculty and staff at WVU that she will be stepping down as the Division's Chairwoman at the conclusion of the spring semester in May. The Div.'s long time professor Dr. Roger Lohman will be retiring this spring as well. Roger's retirement has been anticipated and a faculty search started. Karen will not be leaving faculty and Dr. Jones, the new Dean of Eberly College has not yet announced an interim appointment that we know of.
- It's anticipated the evaluation report ordered by the court in the Hartley case about APS' impact on behavioral health care services in WV will be public in the next 30 days or so.

If you have information you want included in the weekly update just send it to sboileau@alliance4children.org.

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