

**CHARLOTTESVILLE/ALBEMARLE COMMISSION
ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
MEETING MINUTES
January 6, 2010
ACOB-5TH STREET EXTENDED, ROOM B**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Martha Carroll, 16th District Court Service Unit
Ralph Chester, Albemarle Citizen
Representative
Buz Cox, Charlottesville Dept. of Social
Services
Bryan Elliott, Albemarle County
Brian Hemmert, Vice Chair, Private Service
Provider Representative
Chelsea Henderson, County Youth
Representative
Robert Johnson, Chair, Region Ten Community
Services
Carolyn Lawlor, Albemarle Citizen
Representative
Tim Longo, Charlottesville Police Department
Jan Martin, Albemarle Citizen Representative
Sean McCord, Charlottesville Citizen
Representative
Lilian Peake, Thomas Jefferson Health District
Kathy Ralston, Albemarle Department of Social
Services
Ruth Stone, Charlottesville Citizen
Representative
Cathy Train, United Way Representative
Maurice Walker, Charlottesville Citizen
Representative

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Rosa Atkins, Charlottesville City Schools
Leslie Beauregard, City of Charlottesville
Kathleen Galvin, City School Board
Representative
Amy Laufer, Albemarle Citizen Representative
Winx Lawrence, University of Virginia
John Miller, Albemarle Police Department
Pam Moran, Albemarle County Schools
Pat Mullaney, Albemarle Department of Parks &
Recreation
Tanner Perkins, City Youth Representative
Ronnie Price, County School Board
Representative
Paul Wisman, Charlottesville Citizen
Representative

CCF STAFF PRESENT

Gretchen Ellis, Director
Linda Rahman, Information-Outreach-Volunteer
Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT

HANDOUTS (prior to meeting)

Agenda for January 6, 2010 CCF meeting
Draft of the September 2, 2009 CCF meeting
minutes
Director's Report
CSA Monthly Program Report
Charlottesville CSA Summary Financial Report
Albemarle CSA Summary Financial Report
CCF Fall Retreat Notes
CCF Member Position Description

HANDOUTS (during meeting)

NONE

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

R. Johnson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:33pm, welcomed Commissioners and public.

II. SPECIFICATION OF ITEMS TO BE ADDED AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

◆ THE COMMISSION ADOPTED THE JANUARY 6, 2010 AGENDA.

III. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No comments from the public.

IV. REMINDER ON DECLARATION ON CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS

R. Johnson reminded Commissioners on the rules regarding voting on items that could present a conflict of interest.

V. COMMISSIONER ISSUES

R. Stone stated that she was disappointed that Maryfrances Porter had left CCF and how much she enjoyed working with her. G. Ellis stated that M. Porter will continue to work with CCF staff and possibly apply for the City Citizen Commissioner in the future.

R. Johnson reported that he is a member of a clearing house commission in Richmond that looks through all the legislation that might impact our system and that he was in Richmond today and looked at 90 Bills. He stated that with the economic downturn, the clearing house is trying to concentrate on reversing the freezing of Waivers for Disabilities. He stated that the freezing of these waivers would adversely affect those families with members with disabilities. R. Johnson reported that waivers that are lost, usually due to a death, would normally be distributed to the next person on the waiting list for a waiver. But with the freeze, that waiver is now lost forever and those on the list would never receive a waiver. He stated that there is an effort to not only restore the waivers, but to add to the number of spots (100) promised for this year. He reported that the freezing of waivers has never happened since the waiver system has been put in place. He stated that this would adversely affect the children in CSA on the waiting list as when they age out of the CSA system, families will be called to pick up their children with severe disabilities and will not have the resources to hire staff to take care of their disabled child/adult. In addition to the waivers, the closure of the Commonwealth Center for Children. is back on the block again. R. Johnson believes that the state will not obtain the amount of money they think they will receive by closing this facility.

VI. MINUTES FROM THE CCF MEETING FOR SEPTEMBER 2, 2009

A motion to approve the September 2, 2009 minutes with revisions was made by R. Chester and seconded by R. Stone.

◆ THE COMMISSION APPROVED THE SEPTEMBER 2, 2009 CCF MEETING MINUTES WITH REVISIONS.

VII. CCF RETREAT BUSINESS RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

R. Johnson stated that the Executive Committee did not recommend that the Commission on Children and Families continue to hold Legislative Forums as proposed at the annual retreat. He also stated that there was a draft of a new Commission Position Description included in the

meeting materials previously sent out and asked that the Commissioners review it, give their feedback to G. Ellis, and it will be an approval item on next month's agenda.

VIII. MOTION FROM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A motion to approve that the Charlottesville/Albemarle Commission on Children and Families meet every month rather than every other month was made by R. Johnson on behalf of the CCF Executive Committee. R. Johnson stated that with 28 commission members along with the big issues that are being discussed, not every commissioner has gotten as involved as they should. He believes that Commission members suffer from having meetings held every other month - it creates a sense of disconnectedness among Commissioners. He stated that the Executive Committee decided meeting monthly would be better for the Commissioners to do their job more effectively.

Commissioners discussed the motion and issues voiced included: lack of engagement of commission members and therefore reacting instead of setting policy; too much of a gap between meetings to get to know each other: things being lost within 60 days –questioning what's been done since the last meeting: citizen members having a hard time finding their place and making a contribution (acronyms and discussions hard to understand): losing the thread by having the meetings every other month: no sense of continuity or issues of substance, there was a shift when meetings were moved to every other month: strategies are not being built into the meetings after presentations: questioning whether there were enough issues to discuss monthly: difficult attending due to staff reductions: new members believing it is not the best use of their time and not attending

Suggestions included: changing the meeting to include a robust agenda with great engaging conversations: each agenda containing "consent" agenda: Commissioners doing their homework before the meetings. R. Johnson stated that issues were established at the retreat and that we need to know each other enough to meet every month and handle issues. B. Elliott suggested having Child obesity as an issue the Commission could tackle or looking at *Stepping Stones* and coming up with an issue and then come up with meeting times. C. Train stated that she found more value in what R. Johnson said about the waivers, how it affects us; that is what we should be involved with, things that we can act on and change. R. Johnson stated that he does believe there is a tie-in; paying attention to what is going on and how it affects us as a community. K. Ralston stated that Commission is not addressing obesity because of lack of hands and that other agencies were tackling this. G. Ellis stated that Youth Development and Early Childhood Development were on the Human Services Priorities. B. Elliott suggested extending the Executive Committee meeting on January 20th, inviting Commissioners who wish to join in, reviewing *Stepping Stones* and MAPP and identifying issues that, as a commission, we can make a difference, make an action plan, and bring back to next meeting.

A motion was made by B. Elliott and seconded by K. Ralston to table the motion to approve that the Charlottesville/Albemarle Commission on Children and Families meet every month rather than every other month; have other interested Commissioners meet with the CCF Executive Committee at their next meeting on January 20, 2010; increase the length of the Executive Committee meeting to two hours by having it start at 1:00pm; reviewing the recommendations from MAPP and *Stepping Stones* 2009; prepare an action plan and bring to the Commissioners at the February Meeting. If interested Commissioners are not able to attend the January 20th Executive Committee meeting, have another meeting prior to Executive Meeting and bring their top priorities to the January 20th Executive Committee Meeting

- ◆ **THE COMMISSION APPROVED TO TABLE THE VOTE ON CCF MEETING EVERY MONTH RATHER THAN EVERY OTHER MONTH AND HAVE THE CCF**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REVIEW STEPPING STONES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MAPP AND MAKE AN ACTION PLAN TO BRING TO THE COMMISSIONERS AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING.

IX. CCF RETREAT PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

R. Johnson stated that the top priorities determined at the retreat were:

- Identifying community needs through targeted research projects, ongoing data and collection, and publication of *Stepping Stones*.
- Writing grants to address identified community needs.

X. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

G. Ellis gave highlights of the Director's Report by stating that the Safe Schools/Healthy Students program is moving forward. She stated that:

- June Jenkins (Program Director) and Lois Wallenhorst (Program Assistant) have been hired.
- A local evaluator has been hired.
- They are on their second round of interviews with Team Leaders.
- Region Ten and the schools have hired positions.
- A Family Coordinator for the City and County has been hired. She stated that the 12th year grant was awarded and that the program shows universal improvement.

G. Ellis also stated that the CASAS Start Truancy Prevention Case Manager, Ashley Keefe, a full-time temporary employee, has been hired and it looks like the program will be sustained. She stated that position will be housed in the schools in the future.

R. Stone inquired if the Summer FUNd took donations? G. Ellis stated that donations may be made to CYFS for the Summer FUNd. K. Ralston stated that she would like to see this program grow as it provides enrichment for low-income children that they would not normally receive. G. Ellis stated that ACDSS has met with CYFS and the Y in hopes of serving the children at Wilton Farms and Stony Point and that DCJS funds have been accessed to provide an afterschool program for these children for the next three years. K. Ralston stated that transportation is still being worked on but gave CCF kudos for finding this grant.

C. Train stated that the Earned Income Tax Credit is up and running; featuring free income tax preparation. A flyer will be sent to all Commissioners regarding this.

The meeting adjourned at 7:01pm.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMISSION WILL BE
FEBRUARY 4th, 2010
ACOB 5th Street – Meeting Room A
5:30pm-7:00pm