

**CHARLOTTESVILLE/ALBEMARLE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
MINUTES
MARCH 6, 2002
Albemarle County Office Building – Room 246**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Kevin Castner, Albemarle County Schools
Robert Cox, Member-at-Large, Charlottesville
Department of Social Services
Mark Kindler, Albemarle Citizen Representative
Dr. Susan McLeod, Thomas Jefferson Health District
Richard Merriwether, Chair, Charlottesville Citizen
Larry Miller, Albemarle Citizen Representative
Representative
Aurora Nichols, Charlottesville Youth Representative
Linda Peacock, City of Charlottesville
Jim Peterson, Member-at-Large, Region Ten
Community Services Board
Kathy Ralston, Albemarle Department of Social
Services
Marti Snell, University of Virginia
Ruth Stone, Vice Chair, Private Provider
Cathy Train, United Way-Thomas Jefferson Area
Ashley Young, Albemarle Youth Representative

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Martha Carroll, 16th District Court Services Unit
Dr. Michael Dickens, Charlottesville Citizen
Representative
Debbie Pomerantz, Charlottesville Citizen
Representative
Sterling Robinson, Albemarle Citizen Representative
Dr. William Symons, Charlottesville City Schools
Roxanne White, Albemarle County

CCF STAFF PRESENT:

Saphira Baker, Director
Cindy Stratton, Administrative Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

I. WELCOME

Richard Merriwether called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. and welcomed the Commissioners and all others present.

II. SPECIFICATION OF ITEM(S) TO BE ADDED AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The meeting agenda was amended to table item number IV and reverse the order of item numbers VII and VIII.

- **THE COMMISSION ADOPTED THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING AS AMENDED.**

III. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were none.

HANDOUTS (PRIOR TO MEETING):

Agenda for February 6, 2002 Meeting
CCF Meeting Minutes for February 6, 2002
Director's Update
CART Confidential Report
CSA Committee Report
CSA Financial Reports for Charlottesville
Facilitator Notes from July 2001 Youth Summit
Region Ten Teen Summit Report
Request for Information Draft from CNES Work
Group

HANDOUTS (DURING MEETING):

Agency Budget Review Team Report
Revised Request for Information Draft from CNES
Work Group
CSA Financial Reports for Albemarle
Key Message Information Packets

FOLLOW-UP ACTION(S) NEEDED:

- Order copies of National Forum booklets for Commissioners
- Reissue Key Message Volunteer Notes from 2001
- Send Updated Work Plan for Needs Assessment

IV. MINUTES FROM THE MEETING

Motion to adopt the minutes of the February 6, 2002 meeting was made by M. Snell, and seconded by M. Kindler.

- **THE COMMISSION ADOPTED THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING WITH NO CHANGES OR ADDITIONS.**

V. AGENCY BUDGET REVIEW TEAM – L. PEACOCK

L. Peacock provided the group with a synopsis of the Fiscal Year 2003 Agency Budget Review Team report recommendations. She noted the following:

- Overall total requests for the City and County was 3.5 million dollars.
- There were three(3) new applicants:
 - Abundant Life Ministries
 - Computers4Kids
 - Worksource Enterprises
- Recommendations represented a 3.1% increase for the County and a 5.5% increase for the City.

S. McLeod asked whether the figures on the spreadsheet of the report were actual budget figures. L. Peacock replied that they were in the proposed budget to the City and County. M. Snell asked how many of the recommendations would be accepted. L. Peacock replied that probably all would be accepted and that agencies would request more money during the public hearing process. She noted that there were some controversial recommendations in the report. S. Baker added that between 89 and 95% of the requests had been accepted over the last several years.

VI. STATE BUDGET IMPACT UPDATE – B. COX

B. Cox reviewed the status of the State budget process and reported on the impact the budget cuts would have on programs previously identified as areas of concern by the CCF. He noted the following:

- The funding formula changes for CSA were not done this year, but may be changed next year.
- HB 621 included some positive things for CSA. K. Ralston noted that this could also mean more administrative responsibility on the localities.
- Juvenile Justice will experience some severe cuts in funding – 50 – 51% statewide. He is not sure how this will take effect locally.
- Offices on Youth were totally eliminated.
- Healthy Families and Child Health Partnership programs have had substantial amounts of the proposed cuts reinstated, although they may experience some cuts due to changes in the draw down formula.
- New juvenile detention center will be delayed in its opening. There was some discussion of how placements would be funded in the interim and where children would be placed.
- Departments of Social Services will experience some across the board cuts.
- Other local agencies (i.e. OAR and Region Ten) will experience cuts as well. J. Peterson gave a general overview of the impact the cuts would have on Region Ten's program operations.

K. Ralston asked L. Peacock about the support of the CCF locally by the City and County. She replied that the City Council and the Board of Supervisors would be provided with information regarding the magnitude and impact of the budget cuts and that she did not know where they stood on the funding of CCF. K. Ralston asked whether it would be appropriate for members of the commission to speak on behalf of CCF at the budget hearings. She replied yes. S. Baker asked whether the CCF was considered an agency or a government entity. L. Peacock replied that it was a combination. She noted that this year the City had \$35,000 in its discretionary fund in contrast to last years approximately \$100,000-200,000.

VII. CSA COMMITTEE – B. COX

B. Cox distributed copies of the County CSA financial reports and noted that the financial report for the City, the CSA Committee report and the CART report were received prior to the meeting. He stated that the City has served 7% more children with a 20% increase in dollars spent and the County has served 14% more children with a 7% increase in dollars spent.

He then gave a brief statement about HB 621 and the positive effects it would have on local program operations and due process issues.

He noted that the biggest concern of the committee was the increase in the number of children on caseloads that have extensive and expensive needs. The CNES work group was formed as a result of this concern. K. Ralston attended the CSA committee meeting last month with recommendations due to the increase in the number of cases requiring

specialized placements over the last several years. R. Merriwether inquired as to whether the children were coming from outside the area considering the fact that the population of Charlottesville has not increased. B. Cox replied that some of them were and that Charlottesville has the highest rate of foster care per capita in the state. In response to a question from C. Train, there was some discussion of the funding formula, the factors that impact the formula and supplemental requests.

VIII. UPDATES FROM WORK GROUPS – CNES WORK GROUP – K. RALSTON

K. Ralston distributed a revised copy of the Proposal for “Request for Information” and additional background on the proposal. She noted that the wording in the request had been changed to add “assessment” as a requirement. K. Ralston motioned for approval of the proposal. S. McLeod seconded the motion.

- **THE COMMISSION APPROVED THE MOTION**

IX. NATIONAL ISSUES FORUM UPDATE – S. BAKER

S. Baker gave commissioners an update on the Charlottesville/Albemarle Civic Engagement Initiative being sponsored by the Weldon Cooper Center and Nancy Gansneder in October 2002. She stated that the focus of this forum would be children and families. She gave a brief overview of the intent of the initiative and noted that the CCF, due to its research information, would be able to localize the materials used by the initiative. The first date for the training of moderators is July 21st through 23rd, 2002 and another training is scheduled for sometime in October. D. Pomerantz, K. Ralston and S. Robinson have already expressed an interest in participating. The sponsors are continuing to seek moderators and S. Baker encouraged any one else who might be interested to let her know. She displayed a copy of the book that will be used for the forums and at the request of commissioners agreed to order copies for them. It was suggested that perhaps a human services fair could be held immediately following the forum to provide participants with information regarding the array of services available in the community. M. Snell stated her support of this idea. S. McLeod asked whether the CCF would still want to actively participate in this initiative if there were less staff due to budget impacts. S. Baker replied that this would be something that would have to be ascertained at a later date; perhaps at the CCF annual retreat. R. Stone expressed a desire to participate in the moderator training.

X. DIRECTOR’S UPDATE – S. BAKER

S. Baker informed the group about her interview with the C’Ville Weekly newspaper. She circulated copies of the community service survey and group home information documents for commissioner review. She noted that the *2002-2004 Guide to Youth Services* is now available on the CCF website which is currently being restructured. B. Cox asked about the timetable for the community needs assessment. S. Baker gave an overview of the progress to date and agreed to provide commissioners with a revised timetable as soon as possible.

XI. MEMBERS’ COMMENTS

R. Merriwether asked for comments from members. There was discussion of the possible need to change the date of the April 2002 CCF meeting due to the local school’s spring break. After a show of hands regarding availability, it was decided to change the meeting date to April 10, 2002. He then asked commissioners whether there was a potential problem with the date of July 3, 2002 due to the July 4th holiday. All commissioners said that they would be available on this date and it was decided to maintain this as the meeting date for July 2002.

K. Ralston asked if the CCF had ever had a presentation by the new director of the juvenile detention center. S. Baker replied that they had not. L. Peacock noted that it had been previously suggested that the CCF commissioners take a tour of the new facility. S. Baker noted that the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee would be presenting to the CCF at its April meeting and that the new director had been working with this work group. It was suggested that the presentation on the juvenile detention center be postponed until the May 2002 meeting.

S. Baker distributed the CCF Key Message Information Packets for use by the commissioners. S. McLeod asked if members were being called by staff to make presentations or were they expected to pursue the presentations on their own. S. Baker replied that at the October retreat, commissioners had made commitments to make a variety of presentations. K. Ralston suggested that the list of commissioners’ commitments be re-issued. S. Baker agreed to do so. M. Snell asked if the packets would be updated. S. Baker replied that they would be given updated materials as necessary.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

R. Merriwether asked for a motion to adjourn. R. Stone mad the motion to adjourn. A. Nichols seconded the motion.

- **THE COMMISSION APPROVED THE MOTION TO ADJOURN.**
The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cynthia Stratton
CCF Administrative Secretary