

**CHARLOTTESVILLE/ALBEMARLE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
MINUTES  
APRIL 10, 2002  
Michie Annex Conference Room (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor City Hall)**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dr. Kevin Castner, Albemarle County Schools  
Martha Carroll, 16<sup>th</sup> District Court Services Unit  
Mark Kindler, Albemarle Citizen Representative  
Richard Merriwether, Chair, Charlottesville Citizen  
Aurora Nichols, Charlottesville Youth Representative  
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  
Roxanne White, Albemarle County

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Robert Cox, Member-at-Large, Charlottesville  
Department of Social Services  
Dr. Michael Dickens, Charlottesville Citizen  
Representative  
Dr. Susan McLeod, Thomas Jefferson Health District  
Larry Miller, Albemarle Citizen Representative  
Representative  
Linda Peacock, City of Charlottesville  
Debbie Pomerantz, Charlottesville Citizen  
Representative  
Sterling Robinson, Albemarle Citizen Representative  
Cathy Train, United Way-Thomas Jefferson Area  
Dr. William Symons, Charlottesville City Schools  
Ashley Young, Albemarle Youth Representative

**CCF STAFF PRESENT:**

Saphira Baker, Director  
Rory Carpenter, Juvenile Justice Coordinator  
Jennifer Stone, CSA Coordinator  
Cindy Stratton, Administrative Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Lisa Trivits, Juvenile Justice Contract Staff  
Chris Callihan, WINA News

**HANDOUTS (PRIOR TO MEETING):**

Agenda for March 6, 2002 Meeting  
CCF Meeting Minutes for March 6, 2002  
Director's Update  
CART Confidential Report  
CSA Committee Report  
CSA Financial Reports for Albemarle and  
Charlottesville  
Updated Needs Assessment Work Plan

**HANDOUTS (DURING MEETING):**

Charlottesville/Albemarle Juvenile Detention  
Utilization Study – February 2002  
Charlottesville/Albemarle Young Juvenile  
Offender Initiative Summary  
Developmental Plan for the Assessment Center  
Annex  
Jefferson School Task Force Application Notice  
Kids Count Leaders' Institute Application

**FOLLOW-UP ACTION (S) NEEDED:**

**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**

Not having a quorum present, the Commission could not amend or adopt the agenda.

**III. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were none.

#### **IV. MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 6, 2002 MEETING**

Not having a quorum present, the Commission could not amend or adopt the agenda.

#### **V. GUIDE TO YOUTH SERVICES DISTRIBUTION – C. STRATTON**

C. Stratton gave an overview of the current status of the newly released *Guide to Youth Services*. CCF has printed 1,000 copies and is targeting public and non-profit agencies (including all those listed in the Guide), pediatricians, family practices, faith-based organizations, foundations, and other organizations that will use it to help parents connect to resources. In addition, agencies have been asked if they would like to serve as a distribution site for parents. It was noted that as of this meeting requests for copies of the Guide totaled over 1300. 269 have already been placed in the hands of agency personnel; another 259 are ready to be delivered to local governments, schools, hospitals and libraries; and the remainder are being shared with agencies serving as distribution sites, or given directly to parents. S. Baker noted that the decision to print only 1,000 had been made when CCF was facing a \$90,000 shortfall, and therefore needed to save this year's funding for FY03. She noted that she is assessing whether there might be remaining funds available for a small reprint, combined with \$6 donations before June 30, 2002.

#### **VI. SELECTION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE – R. MERRIWETHER**

R. Merriwether stated that Dr. McLeod has agreed to chair the Nominating Committee again. R. Merriwether has completed his one-year term as Chair of the Commission. The offices of Chair and Vice-chair will need to be filled. The slate will be presented at the next meeting of the Commission and the election of officers will be held at the June meeting.

#### **VII. DETENTION CENTER UTILIZATION STUDY AND YOUNG OFFENDERS GRANT UPDATE – R. CARPENTER & LISA TRIVITS**

R. Carpenter presented final copies of the report to the Commissioners. He noted that this would be one of several forthcoming reports from the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee in the next several months. He gave an overview of the objectives of the report and highlighted excerpts from the executive summary. He noted that the objectives of the report are to provide an overview of trends in juvenile justice arrests and predictions of juvenile populations at the national, state and local level and the demographics of local youth admitted to juvenile detention facilities. R. Carpenter noted some highlights including:

- A decline nationally in the number of juvenile violent crimes.
- A statewide trend in a declining juvenile arrest rate.
- An increase in Charlottesville City arrest rates of juveniles, increasing from 307 juveniles in 1997 to 440 in 2000, not reflective of national or state trends.
- The Commonwealth of Virginia detains juveniles at a higher rate than the national average.
- The majority of Albemarle/Charlottesville juvenile detention admissions were the result of Violation of Juvenile Court Orders and Juvenile Probation/Parole Order violations.
- The recent study, Profile of Juvenile Offenders, indicates that a significant number of juvenile detainees (69%) had a psychiatric diagnosis, and that mental illness and substance abuse are significant factors for delinquency.
- The author has estimated that the cost of allowing one youth to leave high school for a life of crime and drug abuse costs society between \$1.7 – \$2.3 million.

There was discussion of the numbers of arrests and detainees presented in the report. R. Merriwether asked what was being done in Virginia with regard to providing services to children needing psychiatric services. R. Carpenter responded that there were a lot of programs locally and that mental health organizations were taking significant hits due to budget cuts. He noted that a needs assessment tool was being developed for community wide use for intake of juvenile offenders. R. Merriwether asked what were the percentages of African Americans being detained. R. Carpenter responded that African Americans were over represented in numbers – page 27 of the report - and that the Juvenile Justice Committee will be pursuing this issue further. A. Nichols asked if there were programs available to help youth leaving detention integrate back into the community. R. Carpenter responded that most of the detentions were short term and that there was not much available. M. Carroll commented that it is anticipated that a better job would be done having a local facility available versus working with the center in Staunton. She also noted that probation officers caseloads were very high. S. Baker pointed out that a significant number of detentions were for technical violations and asked if the JJAC sub-committee's recommendations would deal with why we arrest children. R. Carpenter replied that the sub-committee would be looking at this issue. Discussion ensued with regard to who might be involved in reviewing this issue and the need to look at it in more detail.

## **DEVELOPMENTAL PLAN FOR THE ASSESSMENT CENTER ANNEX – L. TRIVITS**

L. Trivits presented final copies of the report to the Commissioners. She reviewed the objectives of the report and its recommendations.

L. Trivits noted that, in the summer and fall of 2001, the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee was awarded a Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant to conduct a planning and best practices study for the Assessment Center Annex that will be located adjacent to the new Blue Ridge Detention Center. The study methodology involved a combination of interviewing key stakeholders and conducting research using scientific databases, information and publications from local, state, and national juvenile justice agencies such as the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), and online resources provided by other assessment centers. The four main study objectives represent distinct phases and utilization recommendations for the further development of the Juvenile Court Assessment Center (JCAC) and the Assessment Center Annex from a single agency entity serving juvenile justice youth to a multiple agency initiative serving the community, including both delinquent and non-delinquent youth.

She emphasized the following:

- Priorities will need to be made due to limited funding.
- There is a strong need for a de-toxification unit.
- There needs to be a memorandum of understanding between the Juvenile Court Assessment Center and the Detention Center to specify who will be responsible for what.
- The usage of the center during the day needs to be addressed and clarified.
- An effective information management system will be very important for interagency collaboration to work well.
- Further development of the model need to begin as soon as possible.

Additional discussion revolved around the location of the center and the value of having a mental health worker in close proximity to provide services.

## **YOUNG OFFENDERS GRANT UPDATE – R. CARPENTER**

R. Carpenter gave those present a handout of information on the Young Offender Grant Initiative, since there was insufficient time to review the materials. He noted that screenings of youth would begin July 1, 2002.

## **VIII. OTHER BUSINESS – S. BAKER**

S. Baker introduced Jennifer Person, CCF's intern for this year. She noted that Jennifer has made tremendous contributions to the development of the *Guide to Youth Services*, the Community Services Survey Report and other CCF operations.

It was also noted that Commissioner Aurora Nichols has been accepted to Yale.

## **IX. DATA TEAM GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS PRESENTATION – S. BAKER**

S. Baker gave a brief overview of the history behind the creation of the Data Team, as part of the City of Charlottesville's Neighborhood Development Strategy Team, and pointed out some of the benefits the geographic mapping of indicators affords for interdisciplinary problem solving. She noted that the Data Team's objective is to map indicators important to understanding and improving current neighborhood conditions and/or predicting transition neighborhoods. The Data Team has completed the first phase of its work by collecting and mapping all available relevant interdepartmental data. They have also provided comparisons between an Intervention Area – designated by the City as an area of high open-air drug activity – and the city as a whole. S. Baker presented Geographic Information System (GIS) maps in six areas of neighborhood well-being: **demographics, income, academics, community resources, housing, and crime**. Each section was accompanied by a definition of the indicator mapped and an interpretation of the results, including percentages that match the dots on the map. The team also developed legal guidelines, prepared by Lisa Kelley, with respect to confidentiality of data and sharing of the Power Point with public audiences. S. Baker noted that these same legal guidelines would likely be transferable to the County, should departments choose to develop a similar project.

There was discussion of why the data was gathered, what it indicated and who would be shown the information. R. White noted that the County was in the process of mapping this information as well.

## **X. CSA COMMITTEE – J. STONE**

J. Stone reviewed the CSA and CART committee reports and the financial reports previously submitted. She noted that she was working on a more readable and uniform financial spreadsheet. K. Castner asked whether children were tracked

once they left the CSA system. K. Ralston responded that they were not. It was noted that there was a need and a desire to do this.

**XI. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE – S. BAKER**

S. Baker reviewed her written report. She also shared with the commissioners a report on the dental initiative she had received from Judy Smith regarding an all day clinic being held July 12<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Smith met with Dr. Bill Vigilone, local dentist, Dr. Terry Dickinson, Executive Director of the Virginia Dental Association and Dr. Frank Farrington, MCV/VCU School of Dentistry on April 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss their plan for dental services to indigent or Medicaid clients. There will be 12 chairs available. It is anticipated that 130 patients will be seen. On August 23<sup>rd</sup> they will hold a follow-up treatment day. Children entering kindergarten and first grade have been identified as the target population. Ms. Smith has spoken with Head Start, Bright Stars and the Family Support Program in the County and they are all willing to participate. CHIP will also be participating. The stated objective of this initiative is to attempt to meet the unmet need of children in the community, to help other dentists see that working with “this population” is not so bad and to get community recognition for what they are doing. It was noted that CCF had requested information and has not yet received a response. It was suggested that she write Dr. Vigilone a follow-up letter of thanks and suggest that more be done. It was also suggested that CCF assist with getting good public relations for the initiative. R. White noted that a proposal for funding had been received and that it was not funded because it was not well developed. She suggested that a request with more information to support the need for services be developed and that perhaps the City and County would support it. It was also suggested that other localities be looked at to determine what they are doing to provide this service.

S. Baker distributed copies of the announcement from the Clerk of Council regarding applications being accepted for the Jefferson School Task Force and the Kids Count Leaders' Institute.

**XII. MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

R. Merriwether asked for comments from members. There were none.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Due to lack of a quorum, the meeting was adjourned by consensus at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cynthia Stratton  
CCF Administrative Secretary