

**CHARLOTTESVILLE/ALBEMARLE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 4, 2004
ALBEMARLE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 236**



MEMBERS PRESENT

Martha Carroll, 16th District Court Service Unit
Robert Cox, Charlottesville Dept. of Social Services
Dr. Scottie Griffin, Charlottesville City Schools
Leslie Harris-Scott, Charlottesville Citizen
Representative
Timothy Heaphy, Charlottesville Citizen
Representative
Jim Peterson, Region Ten Community Services
Board
Kathy Ralston, Chair, Albemarle Department of
Social Services
Sterling Robinson, Albemarle Citizen Representative
Danielle Wilcox, Charlottesville Citizen
Representative

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Dr. Kevin Castner, Albemarle County Schools
Shirley Copeland, Albemarle Citizen Representative
Madison Cummings, Albemarle Citizen
Representative
Dr. Michael Dickens, Charlottesville Citizen
Representative
Winx Lawrence, University of Virginia
Dr. Susan McLeod, Thomas Jefferson Health District
Linda Peacock, City of Charlottesville
Noah Schwartz, Monticello Area Community Action
Agency
Cathy Train, United Way-Thomas Jefferson Area
Roxanne White, Albemarle County

CCF STAFF PRESENT

Saphira Baker, Director
Linda Rahman, Program Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT

Mary Sullivan, M.Ed.

HANDOUTS (prior to meeting)

Agenda for August 4, 2004 CCF meeting
July 7, 2004 CCF meeting minutes
Director's Report
CCF Legislative Agenda
Charlottesville CSA Summary Financial Report for
June 2004
Albemarle CSA Summary Financial Report for June
2004

HANDOUTS (during meeting)

CCF Advisor Survey Results

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

K. Ralston, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00p.m.and welcomed Commissioners and Mary Sullivan, the Charlottesville/Albemarle Teen Pregnancy and STD Prevention Coordinator.

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

As a quorum was not present, the adoption of the agenda was deferred.

III. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No comments were made.

IV. MINUTES FROM THE CCF MEETING FOR JULY 7, 2004

As a quorum was not present, the approval of the minutes was deferred.

V. TEEN PREGNANCY-STD PREVENTION UPDATE – M. SULLIVAN

M. Sullivan introduced herself to the Commissioners and gave a brief overview of her extensive background working with teen pregnancy and STD prevention. She reported that she has over 15 years experience as a counselor and sexuality educator working in a variety of settings, including public and private schools, churches and community agencies. She is also a volunteer member and chair of the Council on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention and a member of the Strategic Plan Work Group; in addition to being a mother of three, including a teen and pre-teen. M. Sullivan reported that through a grant from Martha Jefferson Hospital, she is able to work part-time (8-10 hours per week) providing sexuality education to parents and students in addition to coordinating a teen peer health education program through the University of Virginia.

M. Sullivan discussed the challenges she foresees for herself personally and for the work group. She stated those challenges are:

1. Future funding for teen pregnancy and STD prevention.
2. The short amount of hours M. Sullivan is able to provide with the limited funding that is currently in place.
3. The need for a permanent administrative home for the Teen Pregnancy/STD Prevention Work Group.
4. The limited funding available to work with teens and service providers who have a variety of needs.
5. M. Sullivan's ability to walk a tight rope between education and advocacy. M. Sullivan reported that as she has become more informed, it is difficult for her not to take a stance.

M. Sullivan reported that she has been able to raise awareness through electronic network reports, presentations and programming about the physical, fiscal and spiritual costs of teen pregnancy and parenting. She stated that she has been instrumental in the formation of a very active and productive Youth Service Learning work group using best practices and community service as an effective way to help teens. In addition, she has increased collaboration and communication among teen-serving entities.

Ms. Sullivan stated that her future goals are to build on what has already been accomplished and to focus on STDs. In addition, she would like to get more information from teens. She stated that

a survey conducted by a Nursing School intern, surveying teens on the downtown mall, indicated that out of 66 teens interviewed, 27 reported that they received most of their information about sexuality from their friends but would prefer to receive information from their parents and schools. M. Sullivan has noted that parents often are not aware if and when their children become sexually active. She advised that national research on middle schoolers reveals that one in five girls are sexually active by age 15. M. Sullivan reported that she is currently trying to help the Thomas Jefferson Health Department use a survey they created to obtain information from teens visiting their STD clinic, trying to determine what teens know about STDS, where they learn it, and what they need to know, as she believes the community needs more information about teens and STDs. M. Sullivan and Commissioners discussed the “abstinence until marriage” sexuality education and the amount of money that has been poured into that campaign. She reported that the kids, who have taken the chastity pledges, have the same rate of STDs after becoming sexually active as those kids who did not take the pledge. In part, in order to address the increasing rate of STDs, M. Sullivan stated that she is currently working with the Charlottesville City Schools on their Family Life Curriculum this year with the School Health Advisory Board.

Commissioners discussed the challenges schools face in teaching and communicating with youth about teen pregnancy and STDs without parental permission or encroaching on family values. S. Baker inquired as to whether the Department of Social Services’ had compiled any research on the number of children coming from young (teen parent) families who are going into the foster care system and the possibility of the value of evaluating this information.

M. Sullivan stated that although the national trend in the number of teen pregnancies is going down, Charlottesville/Albemarle Counties’ number of teen pregnancies and STD’s are going up slightly. She reported that the Teen Center at UVA is also seeing more young teens contracting STDs or becoming pregnant from older male partners. She stated that the center is trying hard to educate males on statutory rape, in addition to child support and pregnancies. T. Heaphy reported that there is a national organization reaching out to adult males educating them on the statutory rape laws.

S. Baker reported that the funding for this initiative is entirely private and complemented Ms. Sullivan for doing a previously 40-hour per week job in 8-10 hours per week. The Commissioners thanked Ms. Sullivan for her presentation.

VI. RETREAT PLAN UPDATE – K. RALSTON/S. BAKER

S. Baker reported that we had a consensus on holding this year’s CCF Retreat on Wednesday, October 27, 2004 from 4:00pm-8:30pm. She stated that we are currently checking availability at the Ivy Creek Nature Center where the Retreat was held last year. S. Baker reported that the Executive Committee met and discussed whether the Commissioners should address broad issues, such as the CCF mission and the idea of expanding CCF to a human service commission or to focus on furthering specific work group recommendations and our role in achieving an impact. The Executive Committee agreed that the Commissioners should focus on the work group recommendations at this year’s Retreat. The Executive Committee would specifically like for the Commissioners to model our recommendations in the format that the City Council and County Board of Supervisors have requested. The recommendations should be more detailed in terms of what it would take to get the recommendations out, the cost that would be involved, which recommendations the Commissioners feel are priority, and what entities are involved. S. Baker stated that up until now, we have done a great job in getting the recommendations out, but this would take us a step further. She reported that there are three work groups that are ready to make recommendations. They are the Assets For Youth, Family Violence (“Child Advocacy Center” and Multi-Disciplinary Team), and Outcome Measurement. S. Baker reported that Lori Strumpf

will be the facilitator at this year's Retreat and the Executive Committee is currently working on the framework and hope to release the information to the Commissioners ahead of time. S. Baker advised the Commissioners to dress comfortably as it would be an informal setting. T. Heaphy inquired if there would be any broad discussion on CCF's role. K. Ralston responded that it was the intent that each issue would be discussed in the context of our role.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

• OUTCOME MEASUREMENT/FOCUS AREA UPDATE

S. Baker briefly highlighted two areas of the Director's Report. She gave an update on the Outcome Measurement's "Focus Areas" brochure informing the Commissioners that the design for the outreach brochure has been completed. She further reported that the work group plans to release this brochure along with this year's *Stepping Stones*. S. Baker stated that by releasing it with *Stepping Stones* and creating a very friendly, simplified version of the focus areas, without all the footnotes and report studies, the work group hoped it would help raise the awareness of the needs of families and youth. S. Baker distributed a few copies of the template to the Commissions and stated that the focus areas would be placed on the CCF website along with a full inventory of all the non-profit agency investments in the community and how they fit into these focus areas to help make more precise recommendations for future funding. She reported that the Focus Areas Brochure and *Stepping Stones* would be released either right before or at the September CCF meeting.

• REVISED SURVEY RESULTS

S. Baker stated that she thought it was a really good idea to extend the survey deadline. She stated that we received four more responses, totaling 11 responses in all. The results indicated that the CCF's publications that were most helpful were *Stepping Stones* (82%), CCF's Annual Report (73%) and the Agency Budget Review Team (64%). She stated that the results also indicated that just under half of the respondents used CCF information at least one to three times last year and four respondents used it four to ten times last year. S. Baker stated that in regards to strengthening our recommendations, the results indicated that there was 100% agreement that CCF recommendations should be accompanied with information about costs, possible funding sources and need; another 70% requested alternatives for re-directing funds to this purpose. The results indicated that overall satisfaction ranged from good to excellent and the respondents felt that the information they received was concise and easy to understand and our recommendations were described as often to very often persuasive. S. Baker stated that the respondents noted that they do not want fewer recommendations but actually asked for more detail with the current recommendations.

B. Cox inquired about the plans for this year's Legislative Forum. He asked, are we only postponing or not going to do it at all this year? S. Baker reported that at first the thinking had been that, due to a lack of capacity, CCF and CASA would not sponsor the forum. However, she stated that the timing of the event has always been an issue with the Legislatures and they have indicated that a different time frame would result in better dialog on human services issues. S. Baker reported that for right now, CCF is postponing the event and as we develop our working plan, we can revisit this issue as to whether we want to sponsor a Spring event, but it will require the need of at least six volunteers, and a staff or volunteer who might serve as a project manager in addition to raising funds from sponsors or funders.

L. Harris-Scott inquired if CCF received the Ronald McDonald Grant. S. Baker stated that we have not heard back but are hopeful as the Assets For Youth Work Group is producing brochures on free and low cost after-school activities for each of the elementary, middle and high schools that will be distributed to the children this fall when school starts. She reported that CCF does not have the funds in their budget to print the brochures and hopes CCF will receive the Ronald McDonald Grant to pay for the printing. S. Baker stated that they estimate the printing cost will

be \$2,000. Commissioners discussed other options for paying for the printing if the Ronald McDonald Grant does not come through. Commissioners suggested the possibility of a shared effort between the City and County schools to pay for the printing, the possibility of having the schools produce their own copies, or asking the school's PTOs for help in funding the printing costs. L. Harris-Scott volunteered to ask the Buford PTO to help sponsor the cost of printing. S. Baker stated there was an August 23rd deadline and she would advise the Commissioners if CCF did not receive the grant. She also asked Commissioners to email their suggestions for additional funding possibilities to her if they thought of any after the meeting.

K. Ralston complimented the CCF for receiving 100% on the 2004 Periodic Review for all VJCCCA programs and inquired about the KidsWatch community roll out scheduled for September. S. Baker stated that she would get back with the Commissioners with more information on the KidsWatch community roll out.

VIII. MEMBER'S COMMENTS

S. Griffin commented that this was her second CCF meeting, and how helpful and productive she found the meetings to be. She stated that she believed the Commission was working on worthwhile projects and was glad to be involved.

K. Ralston thanked Commissioner Sterling Robinson for his two productive years of service on the CCF Executive Committee, and his integral help in developing the CCF work plan.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMISSION WILL BE
SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2004
ROOM 235 OF THE ALBEMARLE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING**