

**CHARLOTTESVILLE/ALBEMARLE COMMISSION
ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 7, 2007
ACOB-5TH STREET, ROOM B**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brian Bills, Albemarle Youth Representative
Robert Cox, Charlottesville Dept. of Social
Services
Madison Cummings, Chair, Albemarle Citizen
Representative
Sara Dansey, Vice Chair, Albemarle Citizen
Representative
Winx Lawrence, University of Virginia
Tim Longo, Charlottesville Police Department
John Miller, Albemarle Police Department
Pam Moran, Albemarle County Schools
Pat Mullaney, Albemarle Department of Parks &
Recreation
Kathy Ralston, Albemarle Department of Social
Services
Rochelle Small-Toney, City of Charlottesville
Ruth Stone, Charlottesville Citizen
Representative
Mike Svez, Charlottesville Department of Parks
& Recreation
Shaquille Thompson, Charlottesville Youth
Representative
Roxanne White, Albemarle County
Paul Wisman, Charlottesville Citizen
Representative

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Rosa Atkins, Charlottesville City Schools
Lou Bograd, City School Board Representative
Martha Carroll, 16th District Court Service Unit
Neta Davis, Region Ten Community Services
Leslie Harris-Scott, Charlottesville Citizen
Representative
Tracey Hopper, Charlottesville Citizen
Representative
Steve Koleszar, County School Board
Representative
Amy Laufer, Albemarle Citizen Representative
Charles Martin, Private Provider Representative
Lilian Peake, Thomas Jefferson Health District
Cathy Train, United Way-Thomas Jefferson
Area

CCF STAFF PRESENT

Gretchen Ellis, Director
Rory Carpenter, Juvenile Justice Coordinator
Jana Glenn, Juvenile Justice Researcher
Maryfrances Porter, Coordinator of Research
and Planning
Linda Rahman, Administrative Assistant
Cindy Stratton, CSA Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT

None

HANDOUTS (prior to meeting)

Agenda for February 7, 2007 CCF meeting
January 3, 2007 CCF meeting minutes
Director's Report
Draft of 2006 Annual Report
Charlottesville CSA Summary Financial Report
Albemarle CSA Summary Financial Report
CSA Meeting Minutes

HANDOUTS (during meeting)

Local Truancy Patters Report
Powerpoint Presentation Notes on Local
Truancy Patterns

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

M. Cummings, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:35p.m. and welcomed Commissioners and public.

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

A motion to adopt the Revised February 7, 2007 Agenda was made by B. Bills and seconded by K. Ralston.

◆ THE COMMISSION ADOPTED THE REVISED FEBRUARY 7, 2007 CCF MEETING AGENDA.

III. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No comments were made.

IV. MINUTES FROM THE CCF MEETING FOR JANUARY 3, 2007

A motion to approve the January 3, 2007 minutes as revised was made by J. Miller and seconded by S. Dansey.

◆ THE COMMISSION APPROVED THE REVISED JANUARY 3, 2007 CCF MEETING MINUTES.

V. TRUANCY STUDY AND TEAM UPDATE

M. Cummings introduced Rory Carpenter, CCF Juvenile Justice Coordinator. R. Carpenter gave a brief background on the Truancy Grant stating that the grant was awarded to develop and implement an Interdisciplinary Truancy Team to staff CHINS truancy cases, to develop truancy "Best Practices" and to conduct research on local truancy patterns. He introduced Jana Glen who conducted the research and she presented her report to the Commissioners. J. Glenn stated that the local truancy pattern research conducted on truants coming before the Family Assessment and Planning Team for the school year 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 found:

- Ninth graders to be at the greatest risk for truancy
- A large number of truant students were behind at least one grade level
- Overrepresentation of African Americans in the study compared to school population
- More City School than County School truants
- The Virginia Code is interpreted and followed inconsistently regarding absent days
- Truants had multiple years of attendance issues
- The percent of truants living with an intact family is very low

J. Glenn stated that from the research, the following recommendations were made:

- Prevention be a priority
- Intervention start early
- Programs be developed to help students transition to ninth grade
- Better social histories be acquired
- Schools be consistent in interpreting and following Virginia Code on truancy

The report will be presented to the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee in March and then released to the public.

The Commissioners discussed the outcome of the research, the need for early intervention, mentors, and parent involvement. M. Cummings thanked J. Glenn and R. Carpenter for the report.

VI. ANNUAL REPORT

G. Ellis reviewed the draft of the CCF 2006 Annual Report with the Commissioners. She reported on each charge that CCF was charged with by the City and County and reported on what the Commission had accomplished in 2006 in regards to these charges.

Commissioners discussed presenting the Annual Report to the School Boards and P. Moran stated that there was going to be a joint City/County School Board Meeting to discuss alternative shared services. P. Moran to advise the Commissioners of the date and time. G. Ellis stated she would have staff available and information for the meeting.

A motion to approve the “draft” of the CCF 2006 Annual Report and authorize the release of the 2006 Annual Report when it is finished was made by P. Mullaney and seconded by W. Lawrence.

- ◆ **THE COMMISSION APPROVED THE “DRAFT” OF THE CCF 2006 ANNUAL REPORT AND AUTHORIZED THE RELEASE OF THE REPORT WHEN IT IS FINISHED.**

VII. SMART BEGINNINGS GRANT/PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN

G. Ellis reviewed the proposal for the “Smart Beginnings Partnership”. G. Ellis stated that the Partnership for Children work group and the United Way-Thomas Jefferson Area will be submitting a proposal for a two-year, \$500,000 grant from the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation. The grant would provide for a comprehensive strategy to strengthen the local early child care and education system and help all children reach kindergarten prepared to succeed. G. Ellis reviewed the strategies and stated that the grant would required an establishment of a high-level community School Readiness Council that would be chaired by John Casteen, President of the University of Virginia, and be composed of leaders from local business, government, education, human services and early childhood care. This council would serve as a leadership group providing oversight of the project’s goals, objectives and strategies, as well as evaluating its success.

Commissioners voiced their concern that not all Commissioners were aware of this grant before the Partnership for Children pursued it. The Commissioners discussed having a policy in place for workgroups to bring proposals to the Executive Committee and/or Commission first.

Commissioners also expressed their concern of not utilizing UVA or the school districts expertise on Early Childhood programs and the potential of confusing the roles of the two groups, the Smart Beginnings Partnership and the Partnership for Children.

A motion was made by R. White and seconded by B. Bills for the CCF Executive Committee to meet with the Partnership for Children’s Executive Committee to resolve the issues around the Smart Beginnings Partnership proposal’s development and implementation.

- ◆ **THE COMMISSION APPROVED THE MOTION FOR THE CCF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO MEET WITH THE PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN’S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO RESOLVE THE ISSUES AROUND THE SMART BEGINNINGS PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL’S DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION.**

VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Tabled due to time restraints.

IX. MEMBER'S COMMENTS

S. Dansey announced that she has accepted the position of Project Director of the Foothill's Child Advocacy Center and can therefore no longer be on the Commission for Children and Families. She will be presenting her resignation shortly.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20p.m.

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMISSION WILL BE
MARCH 7, 2007
IN THE ALBEMARLE COUNTY 5TH STREET OFFICE BUILDING
CONFERENCE ROOM "B"
5:30pm to 7:00pm**