

**CHARLOTTESVILLE/ALBEMARLE COMMISSION
ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 11, 2007
ACOB-5TH STREET, ROOM B**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Bruce Benson, Albemarle County Schools
Martha Carroll, 16th District Court Service Unit
Ralph Chester, Albemarle Citizen
Representative
Madison Cummings, Chair, Albemarle Citizen
Representative
Bryan Elliott, Albemarle County
Hallie Freer, Charlottesville Youth
Representative
Jim Henderson, Charlottesville City Schools
Robert Johnson, Region Ten Community
Services
Steve Koleszar, County School Board
Representative
Amy Laufer, Albemarle Citizen Representative
Carolyn Lawlor, Albemarle Citizen
Representative
Charles Martin, Private Provider Representative
Lilian Peake, Thomas Jefferson Health District
Ruth Stone, Charlottesville Citizen
Representative
Cathy Train, United Way Representative
Paul Wisman, Charlottesville Citizen
Representative

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Robert Cox, Charlottesville Dept. of Social
Services
Tracey Hopper, Charlottesville Citizen
Representative
Winx Lawrence, University of Virginia
Tim Longo, Charlottesville Police Department
John Miller, Albemarle Police Department
Pat Mullaney, Albemarle Department of Parks &
Recreation
Kathy Ralston, Albemarle Department of Social
Services
Mike Svez, Charlottesville Department of Parks
& Recreation

CCF STAFF PRESENT

Gretchen Ellis, Director
Rory Carpenter, Juvenile Justice Coordinator
Linda Rahman, Administrative Assistant
Cindy Stratton, CSA Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT

Laura Anderson
Neta Davis
Jonathan Earl
June Jenkins
Megan Raymond
Mary Sullivan
Tom von Hemert

HANDOUTS (prior to meeting)

Agenda for July 11, 2007 CCF meeting
June 6, 2007 CCF meeting minutes
Director's Report
Charlottesville CSA Summary Financial Report
Albemarle CSA Summary Financial Report
Motion to Adopt a Public comment on Foster
Care Prevention
Safe Schools/Healthy Students Overview
Safe Schools/Healthy Students Abstract

HANDOUTS (during meeting)

Quarterly Report – Summer 2007
CSA Case Summary Samples – June 2007
CSA Committee Report – June 2007
CSA Committee PowerPoint Presentation Notes
Human Service Strategic Planning Process

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

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

A motion to adopt the July 11, 2007 Agenda was made by B. Elliott and seconded by R. Chester.

◆ **THE COMMISSION ADOPTED THE JULY 11, 2007 CCF MEETING AGENDA.**

III. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No comments were made.

IV. MINUTES FROM THE CCF MEETING FOR JUNE 6, 2007

A motion to approve the June 6, 2007 minutes was made by B. Elliott and seconded by R. Chester.

◆ **THE COMMISSION APPROVED THE JUNE 6, 2007 CCF MEETING MINUTES.**

V. VOLUNTEERS OF THE QUARTER

M. Cummings announced that the Safe School/Healthy Students Grant Planning Team has been awarded the CCF "Volunteer of the Quarter" for Summer 2007. He stated that if the six million dollar grant was awarded, it would implement an integrated, comprehensive community-wide plan designed to create safe, respectful, and drug-free school environments and promote pro-social skills and healthy childhood development. M. Cummings stated that the core planning, research, and writing team spent the past eighteen months attending monthly planning meetings and the past three months attending weekly planning meetings to complete the proposal's narrative, logic model, and budget sections for each of the five Elements of the grant. He also stated that their leadership was critical to the success of this proposal and reflects the strength of our localities' interagency collaboration.

M. Cummings presented Tom von Hemert, Sue Sheffield, June Jenkins, Lee Davis, Jonathan Earl, Sgt. Phil Brown, Neta Davis, Laura Anderson, Kathy Flanders, Rory Carpenter and Gretchen Ellis with a certificate of appreciation, gift and thanked them for their leadership and hard work.

VI. CSA REPORT AND PUBLIC COMMENTS ON FOSTER CARE PREVENTION POLICIES

G. Ellis stated that twice a year, the CSA Committee presents a report to the Commissioners on CSA. She stated that the Commissioners will hear that there is a significant change in the balance between Charlottesville and Albemarle County on the numbers of children served and the dollar amount spent in each locality. She stated that they will also hear on a complex directive related to foster care prevention from the Virginia Office of Comprehensive Services, Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services and the Virginia Department of Social Services that may change how kids come into the system.

C. Stratton presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) Committee Report for July, 2007. She reported on the Charlottesville/Albemarle CSA program

structure and discussed the addition of the Children in Need of Supervision (CHINS) Team, Program Subcommittee, Fiscal Subcommittee and the single FAPT (Family Assessment and Planning Team) which provides a more effective and consistent planning team. C. Stratton reviewed the total number of CSA cases in Albemarle County and the city of Charlottesville for fiscal years 1994 to 2006 which showed that the number of cases continue to grow as the population grows. Other slides included the total CSA “State Pool” expenditures, total expenditures including CSA “State Pool”, IV-E and Medicaid funds and the total local share noting that the City of Charlottesville provides 31% of CSA dollars and that Albemarle County provides 45% of CSA dollars as the local match. The total expenditures and total number of children served at nine months for 2006 and 2007 – showed that the City of Charlottesville is spending more money but fewer children are being served. A comparison between the City and County shows a 7% increase in the number of children served in the County with a 5% increase in local cost vs. a 1.5% increase in children served in the City with a 21% increase in local cost. C. Stratton stated that a UVA Economics student will be conducting interviews and looking at the data to determine why.

C. Stratton reported on the third quarter FY07 data set, service/placement type and primary reason for services. Commissioners discussed the services children were receiving, services/facilities that were Medicaid reimbursable and if Region Ten would be able to provide services to help providers that were not accepting Medicaid.

G. Ellis discussed “Custody Relinquishment”, parents having to give up legal custody of their children in order to get mental health services paid for by CSA. She stated that there are two legally mandated CSA services: 1) children in foster care or needing services to prevent foster care and 2) children with special education needs that cannot be met in the public schools. G. Ellis briefly reviewed the history of these mandated services and stated that the State Executive Council has drafted new guidelines requiring CSA to provide mental health services to certain children without relinquishment of custody. She reviewed with the Commissioners the issues that would be involved with these new guidelines and the potential they would have on impacting local practices and expenditures. She stated that the Office of Comprehensive Services has invited public comments and that the CSA Committee has analyzed the proposed guidelines and has come to the conclusion that the children affected by them would be better served in the mental health system, rather than as foster care prevention. G. Ellis stated that, therefore, the CSA Committee has requested that the Executive Committee submit the public comment included in your materials for Commission approval.

Commissioners discussed the motion and their fear of being faced with an additional population, the already under-funded localities and how services are already stretched to handle the current population. The Commissioners agreed it would be better to be pro-active and put something in place as the proposed regulations would most likely go through. R. Johnson stated that Region Ten is working on crisis stabilization services and discussed the need for more locked units, working closer with the families and limiting the amount of each child’s stay. C. Stratton stated that the guidelines came from all stakeholders, not just the CSA Committee. B. Elliott stated that the County had already filed a letter earlier this week and the Virginia Federation of Families is very supportive of this initiative.

A motion to approve the public comment on Foster Care Prevention for submission to the Virginia Office of Comprehensive Services as stated below was made by C. Martin and seconded by M. Carroll.

“The current and proposed regulations remain extremely confusing to all healthcare providers and are a disservice to everyone's attempt to create the least restrictive, most cost efficient system of care for our children and families. After careful analysis of the interim and proposed guidelines, the Charlottesville/ Albemarle

Commission on Children and Families and the local Community Policy and Management Team (CPMT) offer the following comments and recommendations:

We recommend that mental health services be provided by Community Services Boards (CSB) and the DMHMRSAS, rather than forcing children inappropriately into the foster care system, and that these services be adequately funded. The foster care program and the Comprehensive Services Act are not the appropriate means to address unmet needs for children’s mental health services in Virginia. These services are the mission of the Community Services Boards (CSB) and the DMHMRSAS, but the mental health system is not adequately funded to meet the need. If children are not in need of foster care under current statutory guidelines, then consideration needs to be given to establishing a separate funding stream for their services and thus eliminating the potential mixing of disparate populations. Funding for this population should be placed within the current mental health system (CSB) as their primary issues require mental health interventions. Further, the mental health system currently follows the "Best Practice" of least restrictive service settings and is not inclined to over- prescribe residential placements, when less restrictive and less costly settings are indicated. The benefit extends to the increased likelihood that services can occur within the area where the family lives thus increasing the potential of family involvement in the treatment process and leading to better outcomes. Further, families will not have to give up custody of their children to gain critical services.

Funding these needs through CSA and the foster care program means services will be provided only when problems have become extremely severe. Funding these services through the mental health system would provide for earlier and more effective intervention. It is unduly cumbersome to require that this population meet the CHINS criteria.”

- ◆ **THE COMMISSION APPROVED THE PUBLIC COMMENT ON FOSTER CARE PREVENTION FOR SUBMISSION TO THE VIRGINIA OFFICE OF COMPRESHENSIVE SERVICES.**

VII. CLARIFICATION OF HUMAN SERVICES STRATEGIC PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

G. Ellis distributed a flow chart of the Human Services Strategic Planning Process (see Addendum A) to clarify the process for the Commissioners.

VIII. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

G. Ellis stated that:

- There has been a request to look at the meeting schedule to see about a more efficient process to help with the monthly attendance of all 28 members - similar to what the Chamber of Commerce conducted. C. Train, P. Wisman, M. Carroll, L. Peake, B. Elliott, and M. Cummings volunteered to form a sub-committee to look at this. G. Ellis stated that she would also like the Police Chiefs involvement on this sub-committee.
- The Commission is still looking for one more parent rep to serve on the FAPT and CHINS teams. A job description will be emailed to the Commissioners. G. Ellis stated that Mary Sullivan has volunteered to serve as a parent rep.

- The Teen Pregnancy/STD Prevention Work Group has met with the Substance Abuse Prevention Work Group to see about merging as a “Risk Prevention Work Group”.
- CCF has received written confirmation that CCF was awarded \$65,000 for a Truancy Case Manager.
- The ABRT Team is short one person. Lilian Peake volunteered to serve on the team.

IX. MEMBER’S COMMENTS

M. Cummings encouraged the Commissioners to serve on one of the CCF Work Groups.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45p.m.

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

Human Service Strategic Planning Process

***** 2006 *****

Initial Phase I (Investment Research)

Human Services Investments

***** 2007 *****

Initial Phase II (Needs Research and Priority Setting)

Background Data and Research and
Identification of Priorities

Initial Phase III (Strategic Plan Development and Implementation)

Partnership for Children: Develop Child Care Strategic Plan
Youth Development Network: Develop Youth Services Strategic Plan
Adult Mental Health Community Planning Initiated and handed off...

***** 2008 *****

Continued from 2007...
Partnership for Children: Implement Child Care Strategic Plan
Youth Development Network: Implement Youth Services Strategic Plan

***** 2009 *****

Continued from 2008...
Partnership for Children: Implement Child Care Strategic Plan
Youth Development Network: Implement Youth Services Strategic Plan

Renew Phase I

Human Services Investments

***** 2010 *****

Continued from 2009...
Partnership for Children: Eval/Final Report Child Care Strategic Plan
Youth Development Network: Eval/Final Report Youth Services Strategic Plan

Renew Phase II

Background Data and Research and
Identification of Priorities

Renew Phase III

Strategic Planning Teams Develop Around New Priorities

Human Service Strategic Planning Process Committees

*** 2006 ***

Initial Phase I (Investment Research)

- Budget Advisory Committee

*** 2007 ***

Initial Phase II (Background Research and Priority Setting)

- “Human Service Strategic Plan Advisory Committee” AKA Phase II Advisory Committee

Initial Phase III (Strategic Plan Development and Implementation)

- Child Care Strategic Planning Team
Membership: Partnership for Children plus Community Stakeholders and Consumers
- Youth Services Strategic Planning Team
Membership: Youth Development Network
- Adult Mental Health Community Task Force (NOT a CCF Work Group)
Membership: Community Stakeholders and Consumers

Unified Project “Oversight” Begins

- Strategic Plan Steering Committee
Membership: CCF, UVA Researchers, Child Care Team Rep, Youth Services Rep, Adult Mental Health Rep (?), City Managers Office, County Managers Office

*** 2008 ***

Initial Phase III Teams Continue

- Child Care Strategic Planning Team
- Youth Services Strategic Planning Team
- Adult Mental Health Community Task Force

Unified Project “Oversight” Continues

- Strategic Plan Steering Committee

*** 2009 ***

Renew Phase I

- Strategic Plan Steering Committee
Membership expands to include others for Budget Research

*** 2010 ***

Initial Phase III Teams Wrap Up

- Child Care Strategic Planning Team
- Youth Services Strategic Planning Team
- Adult Mental Health Community Task Force

Renew Phase II

- Strategic Plan Steering Committee
Membership reorganizes to include others for Background Research and Priority Setting

Renew Phase III

- **New** Priority Area Strategic Planning Teams

Renew Unified Project “Oversight”

- Strategic Plan Steering Committee shrinks back down to oversee the development and implementation of the 2nd set of strategic plans
Membership: CCF, UVA Researchers, Reps from Priority Area Strategic Planning Teams, City Managers Office, County Managers