

**CHARLOTTESVILLE/ALBEMARLE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 4, 2003
ROOM 235 ALBEMARLE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Kevin Castner, Albemarle County Schools
Shirley Copeland, Albemarle Citizen Representative
Robert Cox, Charlottesville Department of Social Services
Madison Cummings, Albemarle Citizen Representative
Dr. Michael Dickens, Charlottesville Citizen Representative
Leslie Harris-Scott, Charlottesville Citizen Representative
Holly Hatcher, Charlottesville Citizen Representative
Mark Kindler, Albemarle Citizen Representative
Dr. Susan McLeod, Thomas Jefferson Health District
Larry Miller, Albemarle Citizen Representative
Linda Peacock, Charlottesville Citizen Representative
Jim Peterson, Region Ten Community Services Board
Debbie Pomerantz, Charlottesville Citizen Representative
Kathy Ralston, Vice-Chair, Albemarle Department of Social Services
Sterling Robinson, Albemarle Citizen Representative
Andrew Roland, Charlottesville Youth Representative
Ruth Stone, Chair, Private Provider
Cathy Train, United Way-Thomas Jefferson Area
Roxanne White, County of Albemarle
Ashley Young, Albemarle Youth Representative

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Martha Carroll, Court Services Unit
Ron Hutchinson, Charlottesville City Schools
Winx Lawrence, University of Virginia

CCF STAFF PRESENT:

Saphira Baker, Director
Gretchen Ellis, CCF
Judith Zakaria, CCF temporary clerical assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kimberly Flash
Nicole Lloyd
Judy Randle
John Freeman

HANDOUTS (PRIOR TO MEETING):

Agenda for June 4, 2003 Meeting
May 7, 2003 draft minutes
Director's Report
Strategic planning documents
Draft set of post-retreat strategies
CSA committee May 21, 2003 draft meeting report
CSA Summary April 2003 Financial Report

for Charlottesville and Albemarle County
CART May 14, 2003 draft meeting minutes

HANDOUTS (DURING):

KidsWatch Brochures
Child Abuse and Neglect Research 4/4/03

FOLLOW-UP ACTION (S) NEEDED:

Notify CCF members and public of cancellation
Of July 2nd CCF meeting.

I. WELCOME/ INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER, SHIRLEY COPELAND

R. Stone, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. and welcomed Commissioners and all others present.
R. Stone introduced a new Commission member, Shirley Copeland, Albemarle Citizen Representative.

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

R. Stone, Chair, called for changes to and adoption of the minutes. There were none.

A motion was made and seconded.

- **THE COMMISSION APPROVED THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY.**

III. COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC

There were no comments.

IV. MINUTES FROM MAY 7, 2003

R. Stone, Chair, called for changes to and adoption of the minutes. There were none.

A motion was made and seconded.

- **THE COMMISSION APPROVED THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY.**

V. RECOGNITION OF WAL-MART CONTRIBUTION

S. Baker announced a \$1,000 contribution from Wal-Mart. She noted that the representative from Wal-Mart could not make the meeting to receive recognition from the Commissioners. D. Pomerantz asked how they heard of CCF. S. Baker responded that, from what she could gather, Wal-Mart's manager had asked around for an organization that would deserve this contribution, and CCF's name came up several times. It was noted by members that this was both a positive sign and a needed resource.

VI. FAMILY VIOLENCE WORK GROUP

G. Ellis introduced the Family Violence Work Group. She mentioned that two subcommittees that came out of this Work Group were the Domestic Violence Sub-Committee and Child Abuse Prevention Sub-Committee. The subcommittees created two task forces, the Child Advocacy Center study group and the Coalition for Violence Free Families, which has launched KidsWatch, a pilot program focused on child exposure to domestic violence. G. Ellis noted that the reports from the work groups are informational updates and the Work Group's report is not final.

K. Flash reported on the Domestic Violence Sub-Committee. K. Flash mentioned the negative impacts on children due to exposure of domestic violence. She mentioned that the subgroup have been meeting monthly to focus on three different categories, which are prevention, identification, and how to best intervene.

N. Lloyd, coordinator for KidsWatch, reported on the pilot program. The KidsWatch pilot program was launched on April and will run to September 2003, based on a receipt of a 6-month funding in the amount of \$5,000. Their goal is to establish identification and intervention services and raise public awareness. KidsWatch has worked with the Charlottesville Police Department to establish an identification protocol. When children are identified, their families are offered the opportunity for assessment and intervention. In addition, fourth grade students at Clark School participated in an educational presentation about domestic violence. As a result, 18 students self-identified and of these, 10 participated in group counseling. N. Lloyd noted that community education is a key to the prevention strategy for KidsWatch. She said that this will include educating the community and its leaders, being aware of different cultures in the neighborhood, getting more media attention, involving the medical community, and getting a broad-based community support. G. Ellis mentioned that Amber Zavada from CCF is developing some materials, brochures and poster to publicize efforts in raising the public awareness and community responsibility. These brochures will have customized information for parents, professionals, and kids. S. Baker mentioned that they are hoping that this program, if successful, will eventually be expanded in to the whole city and to Albemarle County.

J. Freeman gave out a hand-out on recent research from the Child Abuse Prevention sub-committee. He mentioned that this sub-committee was formed at the same time as the Domestic Violence Sub-Committee and is focusing on a coordinated community strategy related to child abuse and neglect. He explained that the two subcommittees avoid duplication of the same people gathering while working on a parallel and complementary track. He said that they have been meeting monthly since October 2002. He noted that the sub-committee has a varied and broad representation and named the various members of the group. He remarked that the group has completed some phases of their work plan, but is still trying to collect information. He explained that their target date for completion of research is the end of July 2003 and that they plan to have the final report by September 2003. The report will describe the desired state of community response to child abuse, to generate questions that will lead to research, and make their practice even better. He remarked that the research looks into 3 areas: prevention, intervention, and treatment. He mentioned that research on treatment is being done by a graduate intern from the University of Virginia Psychology Department. He described some examples of the research focus: child advocacy centers, forming multi-disciplinary teams, looking at what works in home visiting programs, and looking at a structured decision making and formal assessments to develop service plans. Once again J. Freeman remarked that this report is still a work in progress.

J. Randle reported for the Child Advocacy Center study group. She noted that the group has visited two CAC facilities, one in Rocky Mount, VA, and the other in Norfolk, VA. She mentioned that she liked what she saw in both centers and is very inspired by them. She described a CAC as a physical place, a facility. It is a multi-disciplinary-team (MDT)-based program, is family friendly, and is decorated to enhance this atmosphere. J. Randle explained that at a CAC facility, an MDT is always present; an MDT consists of child protective services, law enforcement, prosecutors, mental health professionals, medical professionals, and victim witness. She noted also that at each CAC facility, there needs to be an interview room, a meeting room, and an attractive and welcoming waiting room. She explained that the organizational capability in the system include: following the child and family progress from start to end, through case reviews, tracking, forensic interview, medical check-up, victim support and treatment. The CAC can be based in a hospital, DSS, or a university. She mentioned that one of the sources of the financial and technical assistance is from the National Alliance for Children. She noted that some of the benefits that come from a CAC are: more immediate follow-up, a reduction in interviews, and increased success in prosecutions.

C. Train asked if volunteers run these centers. J. Randle answered that volunteers do not run the Norfolk facility. C. Train posed the question on how do the families who are not in the system have access to the facility. J. Randle responded that the use of the actual centers depend on the locality. G. Ellis mentioned that Rocky Mount doesn't use the facility as much as Norfolk. She noted also that ongoing case management is provided in both localities.

J. Randle noted that the first systematic evaluation of CACs is being conducted by the University of New Hampshire. M. Dickens posed two questions regarding evaluation of CACs: What is the control? And what is the outcome objective? G. Ellis stated that she would e-mail Dr. Dickens and other interested members the interim report.

L. Peacock asked whether these Centers might accommodate supervised visitations. J. Randle answered that the Rocky Mount facility is providing supervised exchanges. R. Stone mentioned that the facilities there are multi-use. The facilities are funded by a variety of sources, including the National Alliance for Children, which provides about \$50,000 annually to full member centers.

J. Peterson asked how many cases and investigations there are annually in Charlottesville/Albemarle. J. Randle reported that there have been 360 cases in Albemarle County this year. J. Randle mentioned that there were 700 investigations last year on Child Abuse and Neglect. M. Dickens asked if they had the number of founded cases. J. Randle responded that, although she did not have the local number available tonight, through investigations, statewide, 20 % were founded. R. Stone noted that sex abuse cases are more difficult to report compared with physical abuse, where the evidence is visible.

S. McLeod asked whether services as well as assessment are provided at CACs. J. Randle mentioned that at Norfolk, which is a service-rich center, they have 8 therapists on site. In Rocky Mount services are contracted with outside agencies.

K. Ralston asked whether there were representatives from UVA or the County's Commonwealth Attorney included in the Child Abuse Prevention sub-committee. J. Randle mentioned that the Commonwealth Attorney would be joining their group. K. Ralston urged work group members to ask for Commissioners' influence in having impact on breaking down the barriers and doors identified by the domestic violence work groups, since a number of the barriers required interagency cooperation. She also asked if the groups include a focus on adult and elderly domestic violence. R. Stone responded that the current work group is just looking at kids and their families. N. Lloyd mentioned that there is another group that collaborates together to address broader issues like this, the Council for Sexual and Domestic Assault. K. Ralston invited Commissioners to applaud the sub-committees for their work.

VII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION

D. Pomerantz presented the slate of nominees for election, with S. Robinson and M. Kindler as Executive Committee members at large, H. Hatcher as Vice Chair, and K. Ralston as the Chair.

A motion to approve the election was made. M. Dickens seconded the motion.

- **THE COMMISSION APPROVED THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY.**

R. Stone congratulated the new officers and K. Ralston as the new Chair.

VIII. EXEC. COMMITTEE STRATEGIES DRAFT (POST-RETREAT)- R. STONE

R. Stone moved on to Post-Retreat Strategies Planning. She handed out a draft of strategies generated by the Executive Committee to respond to the charge they were given after the Commissioner's fall retreat. She mentioned that the strategies resulted from brainstorming among Executive Committee members, and asked if we were on the right track. She also asked if there were any additional strategies to be thrown in, and asked questions such as: Are lengthier blocks of time needed to get people's input? Do we need a different meeting structure, such as a longer meeting every other month? She noted ways to obtain more frequent interaction with city and county governments and to develop a "corporate culture" of identifying when CCF information or reports included recommendations to Council and Board. Other ideas presented included inviting the school board, Council, or Board to presentations of interest, and developing protocols to address time-sensitive issues, such as budget cuts. R. Stone also asked Commissioners to think of the number of work groups the CCF can and should support. Other recommendations she noted were expanding the review of outcomes from non-profit to public agencies and to pursue funding resources because staff capacity and space needs are at a crossroads. She suggested that the next task should be establishing a time frame to implement and revise the recommendations with the new Executive Committee.

L. Peacock remarked that, in determining CCF recommendations, the work groups should come back to a center core to see the relationships of the groups and identify issues that are common. She asked whether Commissioners want to do that themselves or whether a separate work group/policy group is needed to do that. It was noted that the Executive Committee might serve in that function, yet had not been asked to do so to date.

R. White asked whether all CCF workgroups are project specific with an ending point or be an ongoing entity. R. Stone suggested that CCF has a blend of workgroups, ongoing ones to coordinate services and more time-specific ones to develop recommendations and community plans. R. White suggested interaction with school boards and present them with, in addition to an annual report, with issue specific report to encourage action. R. Stone agreed that it would be good to engage them while the issues are timely.

IX. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE- S. BAKER

S. Baker asked members to consider the Executive Committee's recommendation to postpone the July meeting. Last year, a meeting held at a similar time was not well-attended due to the holiday. Due to the lack of the majority who will be available in July, it is decided that the next meeting will be on August 6.

M. Cummings reported that he had a meeting with Gordon Walker, an Albemarle County School Board member and discussed with him priorities for next year. One of the ideas under consideration is the expansion of service learning to middle school students, with a possibility of making it a graduation requirement. M. Cummings noted that this was an idea he supported, and was interested in presenting it to Commissioners with the thought that members might want to know about the proposal and to discuss it further. He noted that, while he did not have a written report this time, one could be brought to CCF members for future discussion. S. Baker noted that the Teen Pregnancy/STD Prevention Work Group has identified quality service learning as an effective prevention strategy, and that some of CCF's research on youth productive activities identifies a need to get high-risk/low-income youth more involved in positive activities like community service as a resilience strategy.

M. Cummings also mentioned the community service learning program at Monticello School that promotes character education. He noted that it has been a successful program. A. Roland remarked that the Charlottesville high school seniors are required to do community service. C. Train noted that United Way helps run the volunteer program for County high school students at Monticello High School. She said that the school would like to make it a formal requirement and that the students will eventually create a portfolio and a report of their volunteering. R. White asked if this requirement would essentially be an extension of Teens Give, a service learning program out of Community Attention. There was insufficient time left in the meeting to answer all the questions, and it was noted that this might be an area for future discussion at the next meeting or soon thereafter.

S. Baker announced (and Commissioners applauded) those members who have ended their appointments: Ruth Stone, Debby Pomerantz, Larry Miller, Andrew Roland, and Ashley Young. R. White complimented the student representatives, A. Roland and A. Young for their wonderful commitment and participation as youth representatives. K. Ralston extended the committee's recognition to Ruth Stone as the leaving chair. K. Ralston presented a series of warm and humorous anecdotes reflecting Ruth's achievement as Chair and her activism in the community. She noted that Ruth collects 1980 and 1985 quarters -- birth years of her children-- and requested Commissioners to send her off with these mementos if they had any in their pockets. R. Stone expressed her thanks to the committee. S. Baker presented R. Stone with two books as farewell gifts. Cake was served to honor all members finishing their terms.

IX. MEMBERS' COMMENTS

There were none.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Judith Zakaria,
Temporary CCF Clerical Assistant

***THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMISSION WILL BE
August 6, 2003
ROOM 235 OF THE ALBEMARLE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING***

