

**CHARLOTTESVILLE/ALBEMARLE COMMISSION
ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 6, 2007
ACOB-5TH STREET, ROOM B**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Leslie Beauregard, City of Charlottesville
Brian Bills, Albemarle Youth Representative
Ralph Chester, Albemarle Citizen
Representative
Robert Cox, Charlottesville Dept. of Social
Services
Madison Cummings, Chair, Albemarle Citizen
Representative
Bryan Elliott, Albemarle County
Chip Harding, Charlottesville Police Department
Gertrude Ivory, Charlottesville City Schools
Robert Johnson, Region Ten Community
Services
Steve Koleszar, County School Board
Representative
Winx Lawrence, University of Virginia
Charles Martin, Private Provider Representative
John Miller, Albemarle Police Department
Pam Moran, Albemarle County Schools
Pat Mullaney, Albemarle Department of Parks &
Recreation
Lilian Peake, Thomas Jefferson Health District
Kathy Ralston, Albemarle Department of Social
Services
Ruth Stone, Charlottesville Citizen
Representative
Paul Wisman, Charlottesville Citizen
Representative

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Lou Bograd, City School Board Representative
Martha Carroll, 16th District Court Service Unit
Tracey Hopper, Charlottesville Citizen
Representative
Amy Laufer, Albemarle Citizen Representative
Carolyn Lawlor, Albemarle Citizen
Representative
Mike Svetz, Charlottesville Department of Parks
& Recreation
Shaquille Thompson, Charlottesville Youth
Representative
Cathy Train, United Way Representative

CCF STAFF PRESENT

Gretchen Ellis, Director
Maryfrances Porter, Coordinator of Research
and Planning
Linda Rahman, Administrative Assistant
Hallam Roth, FAPT & Information and
Outreach Coordinator
Cindy Stratton, CSA Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT

Steve Stern, PhD, Professor of Economics, UVA
Bree Thomas

HANDOUTS (prior to meeting)

Agenda for June 6, 2007 CCF meeting
May 2, 2007 CCF meeting minutes
Director's Report
Charlottesville CSA Summary Financial Report
Albemarle CSA Summary Financial Report
CSA Monthly Program Report-May 2, 2007

HANDOUTS (during meeting)

CCF Nominating Committee Report
CSA Case Summary Samples – June 2007
CSA Committee Report – June 2007
CSA Committee PowerPoint Presentation Notes

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 June 6, 2007 Agenda was made by R. Stone and seconded by B. Bills.

◆ **THE COMMISSION ADOPTED THE JUNE 6, 2007 CCF MEETING AGENDA.**

III. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No comments were made.

IV. MINUTES FROM THE CCF MEETING FOR MAY 2, 2007

A motion to approve the May 2, 2007 minutes with revisions was made by W. Lawrence and seconded by B. Elliott.

◆ **THE COMMISSION APPROVED THE MAY 2, 2007 CCF MEETING MINUTES WITH REVISIONS.**

V. FINAL PRIORITIES FOR HUMAN SERVICES

M. Porter stated that two months ago, she presented the history of the strategic plan priority identification process to Commissioners and received approval for research on best practices and cost/benefit analyses to be conducted on the three preliminary priorities. She stated that she has come back today to ask for the Commissioners thoughts, comments and approval of the priority areas identified by the Strategic Plan Advisory Committee. She presented a Power Point presentation showing what steps were used by the Committee to guide the analysis of the available data and the identification of priority areas. She presented the overall results from the focus groups and the preliminary priorities as approved in the April CCF meeting. M. Porter stated that Professors Steve Stern and Dick Reppucci, along with five graduate and undergraduate students from UVA, spent numerous hours conducting research into the costs and benefits, as well as best practices, in child care and the treatment for moderate adult mental health issues. She stated that, unfortunately, they were not able to complete the same research on youth development but felt it was very important to move forward with the process and complete the youth development research at a future date. She reported on the research conducted by UVA, specifically the Evidence Based Practice programs available for child care, the elements found to be common and most important to these programs and the financial benefit to society of child care. She also reported on the research UVA conducted on adult mental illness prevention and health promotion; specifically the best practices in addressing moderate adult mental health issues and the cost/benefit analysis. M. Porter stated that in conclusion, research found that there is a strong indication that investing in mental healthcare yields a high return to society and the investment in full-time child care geared toward early education and targeting poor or at-risk youth is clearly justified.

M. Porter stated that the Human Services Advisory Committee was unable to identify a clear priority based on the research, especially since they did not have the information on youth development. Therefore, the Committee took a strategic approach to identifying priorities – with the goal of identifying fewer final priorities such that resources may be optimally focused. She stated that the Committee agreed that affordable, quality child care is a high community priority

with large benefits to children, families, and society while there are organizations in town promoting mental healthcare, and that to advance this issue with a strategic plan, a sponsoring agency would need to be identified and much work would have to be done to develop a coordinated, community-level effort. Also, while youth development was very highly endorsed in the data analysis, CCF is already under-taking a community-wide strategic effort to improve services and therefore, it already has a priority status within the Commission.

M. Porter stated that the Human Services Advisory Committee would like to ask for the Commissions' endorsement of the following priorities, given that the affordable housing and transportation priorities have been already articulated:

- The Advisory Committee recommends that expanding affordable, quality childcare be adopted as the **service-oriented priority**. This would mean that they would recommend that local service providers work together strategically to expand and/or create programming aimed at ameliorating this issue.
- The Advisory Committee recommends preventative and early intervention mental health services for adults be adopted as a **planning priority**. This would mean that they would recommend that local efforts should be focused on coordinating service providers and stakeholders such that the following issue can be strategically addressed in the future.
- The Advisory Committee recommends enhancing the ease with which clients are able to navigate the service array, such that service provision among service providers is best supported and coordinated with the goal of promoting client's movement to self-sufficiency and enhancing the provision of culturally competent, accessible and affordable services, including the use of adequate translation/interpretation services be adopted as the **contextual priorities**.

M. Porter stated that if the Commission adopts the priorities, the following next steps would take place:

- The child care service priority would be incorporated into the ABRT application for FY09 and FY10.
- CCF would charge the Partnership for Children with developing strategic plans for addressing the issue of expanding affordable, quality child care over the course of the next two years.
- CCF would continue with strategic efforts to address the issue of improving youth development programming locally. The cost/benefit analysis will be conducted and the best practice research would be completed.
- Local providers and stakeholders will be approached about the issue of adult mental health needs and encourage coordination aimed at eventually addressing this issue.
- CCF will create information sheets on housing and transportation, including all the information gathered on these issues, and ask the Council/Board to continue to address these issues as local priority areas.

The Commissioners discussed the priority areas and had questions and concerns on the following issues:

- How the focus group's priorities were determined.
- The reasoning behind addressing adult mental health issues and not children's mental health issues.
- By not including youth development, or placing it as a higher priority - the fear of it falling off the radar screen especially if funding prioritizes childcare only.
- Placing priorities on gaps in services – causing other services/programs to decrease.
- Should the Commission's approval be postponed until July to review research by UVA on youth development?

- The problem of at-risk children not being able to afford after-school programs.
- The issue of additional funding not being available in FY09 or FY10.

M. Porter explained how the focus groups' priorities were determined and reviewed page 142 of the full report (where summaries of all the focus group and surveys are listed) to explain how common themes and conclusions were arrived at. The entire Human Services Strategic Plan and Executive Summaries can be viewed on the CCF website. She stated that the priority is going to new programs addressing childcare and that funding would remain the same for other programs.

G. Ellis explained that the Youth Development Network has a strategic plan and is in the process of hiring a coordinator.

M. Porter stated that the Human Services Plan incorporates things that are working well and should be kept at the forefront of the community. M. Porter stated that in addition, she will be working on completing an assets map as Systems of Care goes forward. She stated that MACAA is also interested in preparing assets mapping.

A motion was made by W. Lawrence and seconded by R. Chester to adopt the Human Services service-oriented priority of local service providers working together strategically to expand and/or create programming and access to affordable, early care and education for children from birth through age 5, which meets an agreed upon minimum standard of quality.

And adopt as a planning priority that local efforts should be focused on coordinating service providers and stakeholders such that the issue of expanding affordable and accessible preventative and early intervention mental health services for adults, as well as psychotherapeutic and medication management services for adults struggling with moderate mental health issues can be strategically addressed in the future.

A motion was made for a friendly amendment by B. Bills and seconded by W. Lawrence to add to the service-oriented priority by asking local service providers working together strategically to expanding programming and access to affordable youth development services during out of school hours, including during the summer, and activities including mentoring.

◆ **THE COMMISSION APPROVED THE MOTION TO ADOPT THE HUMAN SERVICES SERVICE-ORIENTED PRIORITY AND PLANNING PRIORITY AS AMENDED.**

VI. CSA REPORT

Due to time restraints, the CSA Report was tabled until the CCF Meeting in July.

VII. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

K. Ralston reported that the CCF Officers nominated for FY 2008 were:

Chair – Madison Cummings

Vice-Chair – Ruth Stone

At-Large – Winx Lawrence

At-Large – Charles Martin

A motion to approve the CCF Nominating Committee Report was made by C. Martin and seconded by S. Koleszar.

◆ **THE COMMISSION APPROVED THE CCF NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT.**

VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

G. Ellis acknowledged Brian Bills, Albemarle County Youth Representative, for his contributions to the Commission for the last two years and wished him much success in the future. M. Cummings presented B. Bills with a certificate of appreciation and a CCF Polo Shirt. B. Bills stated that he would be attending Yale University in the fall and introduced Brea Thomas, his possible replacement.

G. Ellis reported that:

1. The Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant would be completed and FedEx by next Friday. She will send another synopsis to the Commissioners next week.
2. CCF is continuing to recruit parent representatives for both the CHINS and FAPT teams.
3. CCF is currently advertising for a Youth Development Network Coordinator which will be funded by IV-E funds for one year and that CCF has found another grant that would cover the costs for four more years. After that time, many of the partners in the Safe Schools/Health Students grant feel they can support the position by building the cost in their budgets.
4. CCF received the DCJS Truancy Case Manager grant of \$65,000 – A Truancy Case Manager would be working in two or more elementary schools as decided by the School Superintendents.

G. Ellis updated the Commissioners on the Functional Family Therapy Grant as requested by B. Cox. W. Lawrence stated that there initially was difficulty with referrals and getting people trained but to-date, they are three-fourths full with referrals with plans to increase referrals and get one more person trained. She noted that the workers have commented that they like the process and that families are staying in the program. G. Ellis stated that the site was visited by State and Federal funding.

IX. MEMBER'S COMMENTS

P. Moran stated that she really appreciated G. Ellis' skill set in working through so many agencies with the Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant – it really helped. G. Ellis thanked all who served on the planning team – “they were really great”

M. Cummings read the thank you note Roxanne White sent the Commissioners.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55p.m.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMISSION WILL BE
JULY 11, 2007
IN THE ALBEMARLE COUNTY 5TH STREET OFFICE BUILDING
CONFERENCE ROOM “B”
5:30pm to 7:00pm