

**CHARLOTTESVILLE/ALBEMARLE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
MEETING MINUTES  
march 5, 2003  
Room 235 Albemarle County Office Building**

<b><u>Members Present:</u></b>	<b><u>Handouts (prior to meeting):</u></b>
Martha Carroll, 16th District Court Services Unit	Agenda for March 5, 2003 Meeting
Robert Cox, Charlottesville Department of Social Services	CCF Meeting Minutes for February 5, 2003
Madison Cummings, Albemarle Citizen Representative	CART Meeting Minutes
Leslie Harris-Scott, Charlottesville Citizen Representative	Director's Report
Mark Kindler, Albemarle Citizen Representative Winx Lawrence, University of Virginia Representative	CSA Committee Report
Dr. Susan McLeod, Thomas Jefferson Health District	CSA Financial Reports for Charlottesville and Albemarle Juvenile Court Survey Report Executive Summary
Larry Miller, Albemarle Citizen Representative Linda Peacock, City of Charlottesville	Retreat Priorities Survey Analysis Supplemental Information related to Albemarle
Jim Peterson, Region Ten Community Services Board	Youth Risk Behavior Survey Findings
Debbie Pomerantz, Charlottesville Citizen Representative	<b><u>Handouts (during):</u></b>
Sterling Robinson, Albemarle Citizen Representative	Executive Committee Retreat Charter
Andrew Roland, Charlottesville Youth Representative	<b><u>Follow-up Action (s) Needed:</u></b>
Ruth Stone, Chair, Private Provider	
Roxanne White, County of Albemarle	
Ashley Young, Albemarle Youth Representative	
<b><u>Members Not Present:</u></b>	
Dr. Kevin Castner, Albemarle County Schools	
Dr. Michael Dickens, Charlottesville Citizen Representative	
Holly Hatcher, Charlottesville Citizen Representative	
Ron Hutchinson, Charlottesville City Schools	

Kathy Ralston, Vice-Chair, Albemarle Department of Social Services	
Cathy Train, United Way-Thomas Jefferson Area	
<b>CCF Staff Present:</b>	
Saphira Baker, Director	
Rory Carpenter, Juvenile Justice Coordinator	
Cindy Stratton, Administrative Secretary	
<b>Others Present:</b>	
Jon Nafziger, United Way-Thomas Jefferson Area	

**I. WELCOME**

R. Stone, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:17 p.m. and welcomed Commissioners and all others present.

**I. SPECIFICATION OF ITEM (S) TO BE ADDED AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

R. Stone, Chair, called for amendments and or changes to the agenda. There were none.

- **The agenda was approved by consensus.**

**I. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were none.

**I. MINUTES FROM THE february 5, 2003 MEETING**

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

A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by B. Cox. M. Cummings seconded the motion.

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

**I. CCF PRIORITIES SURVEY RESULTS/IMPLICATIONS – S. BAKER**

S. Baker reviewed the process that lead to the development of the *CCF Retreat Priorities Survey Analysis* report. She gave a summary of the survey results noted in the report. Discussion ensued regarding rating inconsistencies and possible solutions that would solidify priorities. It was decided that key contradictions/inconsistencies would be reviewed, summarized and brought back to the next meeting for clarification. S. Baker asked if individual work groups should prioritize among themselves. B. Cox stated that inconsistencies needed to be cleared up first. There was additional discussion about whether each commissioner was presently serving on a work group. R. Stone stated that it is expected that each commissioner would serve on a work group. S. Baker noted that this is not currently the case.

## **I. COMMITTEE AND WORK GROUP UPDATES – R. CARPENTER**

### **JJAC – Juvenile Court Survey Findings**

R. Carpenter reviewed the contents of the *Juvenile Court Survey Report Executive Summary*. Commissioners had a lengthy discussion regarding the survey instrument, different groups who participated in the survey, the survey process and the implications and implementation of the report recommendations. Members provided feedback on each of the three (3) recommendations contained in the summary. There was additional discussion about the differences between public defenders and court appointed counsel; concern about the nature of trial postponements and concurrent problems; report findings regarding treatment of respondents by judges and additional groups to be included in further discussions. R. Carpenter stated that the *Guide to the Juvenile Court System* might possibly take the form of a video and that staff has been hired to move this process forward. Commissioners provided the following suggestions/comments:

- ◊ a presentation of the report findings be made to the Bar Association
- ◊ Judge Berry's "Best Practices Group" be utilized to further the groups' discussion efforts
- ◊ the importance of structuring group discussions utilizing a standard format with an outcome aimed at improving the current system
- ◊ utilization of video to fill wait time in court
- ◊ development of trainings for professionals on court processes
- ◊ find out what information respondents are not receiving
- ◊ review the causes of postponements
- ◊ cross tabulate survey results by race

R. Carpenter concluded by requesting that CCF support the recommendations of the committee. W. Lawrence stated that she supported the idea and would like to know what each of the stakeholders would do with the information and what they would like from CCF. Commissioners were requested to contact R. Carpenter if they had additional questions or feedback.

## **I. COUNTY YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY FOLLOW-UP/TRENDS – S. BAKER**

S. Baker gave an overview of the request from CCF to provide additional information regarding the survey findings. She reviewed the information document and highlighted G. Ellis' findings. Discussion ensued regarding the validity of the survey. S. Baker stated that she had consulted an article by Dewey Cornell on the validity of the YRBS and shared his perspective on the validity of the survey results. W. Lawrence stated that she would feel more comfortable if she knew that the person tabulating the results had considered removing non-responsive surveys that might skew results. B. Cox stated that the information on suicide continued to be confusing; asking, "What is the National norm?". W. Lawrence asked: "What does CCF want to do with the information?" M. Cummings stated that the County School Board had concerns about the survey validity and were very alarmed at the results. He also suggested that the City Schools should conduct such a survey because it is helpful in planning. R. Stone asked members what action they would like to take based on what they currently had. A. Roland shared his experience of completing the PRIDE survey at CHS, noting that he did not think it was a good survey. W. Lawrence asked if the differences in the statistics were significant; i.e., when the survey was tabulated were the ones taken out that needed to be; is the County concerned and do they have a plan; and, do they want help? R. White and L. Peacock stated that CCF should find out what the School Board is doing with the information before any additional steps are taken. M. Cummings said that he would like to talk more with Regina Kirk. After additional discussion it was agreed by consensus that no letter would be written to the School Boards until further investigation had occurred. M. Cummings agreed to contact and meet with Regina Kirk and bring the results back to the CCF. It was also suggested that the Superintendents be asked how they intended to use the survey results. L. Harris-Scott agreed to obtain a copy of the PRIDE survey.

## **I. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – S. BAKER**

She noted that CCF will have to fill member vacancies soon and requested that Commissioners encourage their colleagues and friends to submit applications. R. White asked what would be the best way to get high school student applicants. A. Young suggested school wide announcements and noted that she had been encouraged to apply by her advisor. A. Roland stated that he saw the newspaper ad. A. Roland volunteered to solicit applications through use of the morning news show broadcasted at CHS. It was agreed that recruitment information would be provided to A. Young and A. Roland to be used at their respective schools. W. Lawrence

stated that text of information should identify what the position is. S. Baker presented members of the FY 04 Agency Budget Review Team Report. S. McLeod asked "What's the bottom line?" L. Peacock responded that level funding recommendations were made in most instances. R. White and L. Peacock commented that recommendations had been linked to outcomes.

**I. MEMBERS' COMMENTS/KEY MESSAGE UPDATES – R. STONE**

There were none.

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by B. Cox. D. Pomerantz seconded the motion.

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

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cynthia Stratton,  
CCF Administrative Secretary

***THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMISSION WILL BE  
APRIL 2, 2003  
ROOM 235 OF THE ALBEMARLE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING***