

**CHARLOTTESVILLE/ALBEMARLE COMMISSION  
ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 5, 2008  
ACOB-MC INTIRE, ROOM 235**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Rosa Atkins, Charlottesville City Schools  
Ralph Chester, Albemarle Citizen  
Representative  
Buz Cox, Charlottesville Dept. of Social  
Services  
Bryan Elliott, Albemarle County  
Brian Hemmert, Private Service Provider  
Representative  
Kathleen Galvin, City School Board  
Representative  
Chelsea Henderson, County Youth  
Representative  
Robert Johnson, Vice Chair, Region Ten  
Community Services  
Amy Laufer, Albemarle Citizen Representative  
Carolyn Lawlor, Albemarle Citizen  
Representative  
Winx Lawrence, University of Virginia  
Jan Martin, Albemarle Citizen Representative  
Sean McCord, Charlottesville Citizen  
Representative  
John Miller, Albemarle Police Department  
Pam Moran, Albemarle County Schools  
Pat Mullaney, Albemarle Department of Parks &  
Recreation  
Ronnie Price, County School Board  
Representative  
Kathy Ralston, Albemarle Department of Social  
Services  
Hadya Abdul Satar, City Youth Representative  
Cathy Train, United Way Representative  
Maurice Walker, Charlottesville Citizen  
Representative  
Paul Wisman, Charlottesville Citizen  
Representative

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Leslie Beauregard, City of Charlottesville  
Martha Carroll, 16<sup>th</sup> District Court Service Unit  
Tim Longo, Charlottesville Police Department  
Lilian Peake, Thomas Jefferson Health District  
Ruth Stone, Chair, Charlottesville Citizen  
Representative  
Mike Svetz, Charlottesville Department of Parks  
& Recreation

**CCF STAFF PRESENT**

Gretchen Ellis, Director  
Maryfrances Porter – Intervention Team Leader  
Linda Rahman, Information-Outreach-Volunteer  
Coordinator  
Cindy Stratton, CSA Coordinator

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Christopher Clapp  
Euguen Conti  
John Pepper  
Steve Stern

**HANDOUTS (prior to meeting)**

Agenda for November 5, 2008 CCF meeting  
Draft of the September 3, 2008 CCF meeting  
minutes  
Director's Report  
CSA Monthly Program Report  
Charlottesville CSA Summary Financial Report  
Albemarle CSA Summary Financial Report  
Youth Development Network Committee's  
Youth Development Action Plan Draft

**HANDOUTS (during meeting)**

Systems of Care Presentation

**I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

R. Johnson, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed Commissioners and public. Introductions were made around the table. New City of Charlottesville Citizen and Youth Representatives, Sean McCord, Maurice Walker and Hadya Satar, introduced themselves.

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

G. Ellis proposed that Item VIII. Presentation on Youth Development Strategic Plan be removed from the November agenda and placed on the January agenda as the YDN steering committee has not approved the strategic plan. Commission members agreed and adopted revised agenda.

**III. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

E. Conti stated that Ragged Mountain School will be opening up an independent living youth facility soon.

**IV. VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER**

R. Johnson stated that he was pleased to announce that the members of the University of Virginia Comprehensive Services Act Research Team as Volunteers of the Quarter for fall 2008. The team members included graduate student Christopher Clapp, and Professors Steve Stern, John Pepper and Amalia Miller (who was not present this evening). R. Johnson stated that the team, assisted by undergraduate students is in the midst of conducting an extensive study of CSA financial data in order to help CCF and community partners to understand and address the growth in CSA costs.

Professors Stern and Pepper explained to the Commissioners the research process, the difficulty of disentangling the data and trying to reconcile the information. Once they made sense of the data, they believed they will have the information ready by spring. The information would include where services are being used and the cost of these services. It was noted that no other county in the State is doing this type of research and that this could be a model for other counties.

**V. REMINDER ON DECLARATION ON CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS**

G. Ellis reminded Commissioners on the rules regarding voting on items that could present a conflict of interest.

**VI. COMMISSIONER ISSUES**

No comments were made.

**VII. MINUTES FROM THE CCF MEETING FOR SEPTEMBER 3, 2008**

Revisions were made to the September CCF Meeting minutes.

A motion to approve the September 3, 2008 minutes was made by B. Elliott and seconded by B. Cox.

**◆ THE COMMISSION APPROVED THE SEPTEMBER 3, 2008 CCF MEETING MINUTES.**

## VIII. SYSTEMS OF CARE UPDATE

G. Ellis stated that the Commission approved the concept of Systems of Care and to move forward in May 2008 and that M. Porter will be presenting a PowerPoint presentation updating the Commissioners on Systems of Care. M. Porter described the changes in the service delivery system for children and families, what is going to be different, why we are changing, what we are doing and what it means for the community. She stated that "Systems of Care" is a way of thinking that makes services work better. She stated that the core values and beliefs of System of Care is family focused, strengths based, culturally proficient and linguistically accessible, child centered, community based and well coordinated. M. Porter noted that families should be seen as strengths and not a bundle of problems; children do not fail – services fail. B. Elliott inquired if Albemarle/Charlottesville has the capacity to bring kids home? M. Porter stated that with more innovative and tailored needs to the children and more people and service providers in the community that we would be capable. She stated that we are currently using Region Ten differently to meet these needs but the biggest missing piece is foster care families and educating the child.

M. Porter stated that there are currently 60 Charlottesville/Albemarle children in congregate care. Commissioners discussed the costs involved in residential, group homes and the costs involved in bringing these children home and providing them with wraparound services. M. Porter described how it would work with Systems of Care being the values and beliefs, wraparound being the process, care coordination being the facilitator and the local service array as the program. She stated that Region Ten is in the process of hiring a care coordinator and will charge CSA per case. The care coordinator would work with 8 to 10 families at one time, sharing information and working with all people in the local service array. She stated the process was similar to what we do now but guided by the Systems of Care values and beliefs.

The Commissioners shared their concerns regarding budget realities, match rates changing and the increasing concern that the state will not reimburse the localities. The School Superintendents were concerned about the cost the schools would be incurring to take care of the children returning to the community from residential facilities. They would like a time table of when this would all happen and the exact cost that would be involved. R. Atkins stated that they may not have the capacity to respond to the needs of these kids, the other students, and maintain school safety. She stated that she is concerned about these children getting lost in the school system and stated to keep in mind there is only one high school and one middle school in the city. M. Porter stated that children will be returned to the community one-at-a-time, and that workload should balance out because staff would be used more efficiently and the child's needs would be decreasing as time goes on. The goal is to have the whole community to come together to have better resources and outcomes for children and at a lower cost.

W. Lawrence stated that it is not a Systems of Care if you strain the community - a philosophy is what we're talking about. G. Ellis stated that they have already spoken to different people in the schools and are continuing with a meeting next week. The school superintendents would like to have a conversation to look at the big picture and the school's capacity to respond to those children's needs. G. Ellis stated that she has a document that she will send to all on Friday comparing Hampton's service array with the Charlottesville/Albemarle service array.

R. Atkins stated that she is already struggling to keep her students from transferring to private schools. She stated that she is asking the parents why they are transferring and that they are advising her it is because of their concern over their child's safety and the diverse needs of the students and the schools ability to handle them. These parents believe the schools are not able to provide what is needed. P. Moran is concerned that bringing these children home and into the school system, that the teachers will not be able to teach. B. Elliott recommended having meetings with the school so that they have more information. Commissioners agreed for the Systems of Care Sub-Committee to continue meeting with the schools, invite the superintendents

to attend the meetings, and help guide those meetings so that the schools will know what will be required of them. We need a step down plan, so that children returning to the community are prepared for attending public school. All agreed to continue to move forward.

**IX. 2008 STEPPING STONES**

The Commissioners suggested tabling the presentation on the *2008 Stepping Stones* until the January meeting. G. Ellis stated that the Commission does not need to approve the release of Stepping Stones, that they were to receive a presentation on it this evening and that it will be released mid November.

**IX. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The Commissioners had no questions on the Director's Report.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMISSION WILL BE  
JANUARY 3, 2009  
IN ROOM B - ALBEMARLE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING  
5<sup>TH</sup> STREET EXTENDED  
5:30pm to 7:00pm**