

**CHARLOTTESVILLE/ALBEMARLE COMMISSION
ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
MEETING MINUTES
September 2, 2009
ACOB-5TH STREET EXTENDED, ROOM B**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Leslie Beauregard, City of Charlottesville
Martha Carroll, 16th District Court Service Unit
Ralph Chester, Albemarle Citizen
Representative
Bryan Elliott, Albemarle County
Kathleen Galvin, City School Board
Representative
Brian Hemmert, Vice Chair, Private Service
Provider Representative
Chelsea Henderson, County Youth
Representative
Robert Johnson, Chair, Region Ten Community
Services
Amy Laufer, Albemarle Citizen Representative
Winx Lawrence, University of Virginia
Tim Longo, Charlottesville Police Department
Jan Martin, Albemarle Citizen Representative
Pam Moran, Albemarle County Schools
Lilian Peake, Thomas Jefferson Health District
Ronnie Price, County School Board
Representative
Ruth Stone, Charlottesville Citizen
Representative
Maurice Walker, Charlottesville Citizen
Representative

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Rosa Atkins, Charlottesville City Schools
Buz Cox, Charlottesville Dept. of Social
Services
Carolyn Lawlor, Albemarle Citizen
Representative
Sean McCord, Charlottesville Citizen
Representative
John Miller, Albemarle Police Department
Pat Mullaney, Albemarle Department of Parks &
Recreation
Tanner Perkins, City Youth Representative
Kathy Ralston, Albemarle Department of Social
Services
Cathy Train, United Way Representative
Paul Wisman, Charlottesville Citizen
Representative

CCF STAFF PRESENT

Gretchen Ellis, Director
Maryfrances Porter, Intervention Team Leader
Linda Rahman, Information-Outreach-Volunteer
Coordinator
Kim Stanton, CASASStart Truancy Prevention
Casemanager
Cindy Stratton, CSA Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT

Charity Haines, Bright Stars Program
Coordinator
Terri Higgins, Bright Stars Family Coordinator,
Stone Robinson Elementary School

HANDOUTS (prior to meeting)

Agenda for September 2, 2009 CCF meeting
Draft of the July 1, 2009 CCF meeting minutes
Director's Report
CSA Monthly Program Report
Charlottesville CSA Summary Financial Report
Albemarle CSA Summary Financial Report
Race Disparity for Charlottesville/Albemarle
Children Work Plan
Research Assistants and Interns End of the
Semester Report - Summer 09
Results from the Meeting Wizard for the CCF
Fall Retreat

HANDOUTS (during meeting)

CASASStart Truancy Prevention Evaluation
2009 Safe Schools/Healthy Students Abstract,
Core Management Team and Structure &
Support Elements

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

R. Johnson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30pm, welcomed Commissioners and public.

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

◆ **THE COMMISSION ADOPTED THE SEPTEMBER 2, 2009 AGENDA.**

III. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No comments from the public.

IV. REMINDER ON DECLARATION ON CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS

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

V. COMMISSIONER ISSUES

R. Stone thanked Maryfrances Porter for singlehandedly organizing the 16 Judicial District Best Practice training with Karl Dennis with over 140 attendees. She stated M. Porter did a fabulous job.

VI. MINUTES FROM THE CCF MEETING FOR JULY 1, 2009

A motion to approve the July 1, 2009 minutes was made by R. Stone and seconded by R. Price.

◆ **THE COMMISSION APPROVED THE JULY 1, 2009 CCF MEETING MINUTES.**

VII. BRIGHT STARS PRESENTATION

R. Johnson introduced Terri Higgins and Charity Haines from Albemarle County Department of Social Services. They gave a brief background on Bright Stars beginning in 1994 at Stone Robinson Elementary School and stated that they were able to track ten of the original students for 14 years who were now seniors at Monticello High School and held a reunion with them and their parents. T. Higgins reported that the parents shared their experiences with Bright Stars and they believed the benefits of the program included:

1. the children learned the importance of reading
2. they learned to read and write faster
3. they developed social skills through the program
4. some of the students who attended the program went on to be national honor stars and received awards throughout their school years
5. Bright Star students received tremendous support from parents and teachers
6. Bright Stars was a valuable aid to them
7. of the 10 original students, after graduation 7 were going to Piedmont Community College and 3 planned to transfer to higher education

They explained how the program works, how the children are selected and that Bright Stars has served 128 children. Bright Stars works with children through the 5th grade by developing a relationship with the child, parents and school personnel.

Commissioners inquired about the difference between Bright Stars and Head Start. T. Higgins explained that Bright Stars and Head Start aim for the same goal but that Head Start is a federal

program and 80-90% of the students have to be at the poverty level. Bright Stars has more of a mixture of students and operates 180 days whereas Head Start operates 160 days. Each program has a waiting list and they place as many children as they can. Commissioners discussed the pros and cons of having a family worker in middle school.

A video was brought for the Commissioners to see but due to technical difficulties, they were unable to view the video.

Commissioners thanked Ms. Higgins and Ms. Haines for their presentation.

VIII. CASASTART UPDATE

G. Ellis gave a brief background on how early truancy affects juvenile delinquency and therefore CCF applied for a three year grant, CASASTart Truancy Prevention, for Greer and Burnley Moran Elementary Schools. G. Ellis stated that the grant ends in July of 2010 and stressed the importance of continuing with this program.

K. Stanton presented an evaluation of the CASASTart program from 2008-2009 to the Commissioners. She presented the eight strategies for youth success that she follows; partnering with the youth, the youth's parents and the schools. K. Stanton stated that she currently has 14 cases involving 19 students that have been identified as truant by the schools. She stated that in the 2008-2009 school-year, there was a 32% absence rate at the beginning of the program and at the end of the program, the percentage decreased to 11%. K. Stanton explained how the program works and the accomplishments that have been made. She explained the services she provides, including help with housing, school supplies, pregnancy care, afterschool and summer programs, education services, liaison between the families and schools, mentoring, and incentives - especially the monthly family dinners where the families play games and the school principal visited and awarded certificates for improvement in attendance. K. Stanton works together with the school's family workers with the families and she attends Truancy Team meeting every month with the schools. She noted that since the truancy prevention program began, there has been an improvement in school motivation, improvement in degree to which students value performance, increased interactions with teachers, improvement in conduct grade, improvement in homework being done and more class participation, increased communication between parents and teachers, and an increase in parental awareness of homework assignments. K. Stanton surveyed the parents at the end of the school year and 90% felt CASASTart was very helpful in providing services and 100% believed CASASTart has been very helpful in getting their child to school.

IX. RACE DISPARITY WORK PLAN

R. Price updated the Commissioners on the Racial Disparity work group. He stated that several meetings had been held and that the work plan had been fine tuned and was ready to be presented to the Commissioners for their approval. Commissioners reviewed the work plan.

A motion to approve the Minority Disparity Work Group Work Plan was made by W. Lawrence and seconded by P. Moran.

◆ THE COMMISSION APPROVED THE WORK PLAN OF THE MINORITY DISPARITY WORK GROUP.

X. CCF RETREAT AGENDA REVIEW

G. Ellis stated that the CCF Retreat will be held at Region Ten conference room on Wednesday, November 4, 2009 at 5:30pm.

XI. SAFE SCHOOLS/HEALTHY STUDENTS UPDATE

G. Ellis gave an overview/abstract of the Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant. The Safe Schools/Healthy Students program will build on and expand the strong, collaborative approach to serving children and families that has guided local efforts for the past decade. The project will address five risk factors:

1. Economic Disparity
2. Youth Violence and crime in the schools and community
3. Race and socioeconomic achievement gap
4. Family disruption and disorganization
5. Early initiation of risk behaviors

The proposed Safe Schools/Healthy Students program will assure a safe school environment and violence prevention by expanding the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program to all schools and implementing Restorative Practices in all schools; will support alcohol and drug prevention activities by expanding in-school prevention and early intervention to seven previously un-served schools using the PA Student Assistance Model and Second Step; provide student behavioral, social and emotional supports by implementing Responsive Classroom in four elementary schools and by providing Life Skills training to high risk students; will improve mental health services providing eight clinicians who will use Teen Intervene and Motivational Interviewing; offer early childhood social and emotional supports by creating a second three year old High Scope classroom and providing additional family support workers for publicly funded pre-schools.

Commissioners inquired whether the grant included “risky sexual behaviors” and G. Ellis stated that it was not one of the elements in the grant; that the City Schools did not measure risky sexual behaviors and that the grant would require an annual survey.

XII. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Commissioners did not have any questions on the Director’s Report.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMISSION WILL BE

January 6th, 2010
ACOB 5th Street – Meeting Room B
5:30pm-7:00pm