

**CHARLOTTESVILLE/ALBEMARLE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
MINUTES  
MAY 2, 2001**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dr. Kevin Castner, Albemarle County Schools  
Happy Darcus, Albemarle Youth Representative  
Dr. Michael Dickens, Charlottesville Citizen Representative  
Mark Kindler, Albemarle Citizen Representative  
Dr. Susan McLeod, Thomas Jefferson Health District  
Richard Merriwether, Chair, Charlottesville Citizen Representative  
Jim Peterson, Member-at-Large, Region Ten Community Services Board  
Sterling Robinson, Albemarle Citizen Representative  
Marti Snell, University of Virginia  
Ruth Stone, Vice Chair, Private Provider Representative  
Roxanne White, Albemarle County

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Martha Carroll, 16<sup>th</sup> District Court Service Unit  
Azzurra Cox, Charlottesville Youth Representative  
Robert Cox, Member-at-Large, Charlottesville Dept. of Social Services  
Larry Miller, Albemarle Citizen Representative  
Linda Peacock, City of Charlottesville  
Debby Pomerantz, Charlottesville Citizen Representative  
Kathy Ralston, Albemarle Dept. of Social Services  
Dr. William Symons, Jr., Charlottesville City Schools  
Cathy Train, United Way-Thomas Jefferson Area

**CCF STAFF PRESENT**

Saphira Baker, Director  
Terrilynn Platt, Project Assistant

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Dewey Cornell, Project Director of the Virginia Youth Violence Project, Curry School of Education, University of Virginia  
Stan Hannah, Staff Member of the Virginia Youth Violence Project  
David McConville, Staff Member of the Virginia Youth Violence Project  
Carla Sykes, Observer from the League of Women Voters of Charlottesville/Albemarle

**HANDOUTS (prior to meeting)**

Agenda for May 2, 2001 Meeting  
April 4, 2001 CCF Meeting Minutes  
March 7, 2001 CCF Meeting Minutes  
Comprehensive Services Act May 2001 Report  
CART April 2001 Cases  
Director's Update for May 2, 2001 CCF Meeting  
Letter to CCF from Dewey Cornell of the Virginia Youth Violence Project  
Proposed CCF Annual Report Format and Process

**HANDOUTS (during meeting)**

Memo to CCF from Jim Peterson Regarding Nomination of Mr. Mark Jampol as Parent Representative on the SLAT  
Financial Spreadsheets of Comprehensive Services Act May 2001 Report

**I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Richard Merriwether called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. and welcomed the Commissioners and all others in attendance. Dewey Cornell, Project Director of the Virginia Youth Violence Project, introduced himself as well as Stan Hannah and David McConville, two doctoral students in clinical psychology and staff members of the project. Carla Sykes also introduced herself as the observer assigned to CCF from the League of Women Voters of Charlottesville/Albemarle.

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

Saphira Baker suggested that due to the absence of Commission Members from the Children Needing Extensive Services Work Group, the CNES presentation should be tabled until a later Commission meeting.

- ◆ **THE COMMISSION ADOPTED THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING WITH A TABLING OF THE CHILDREN NEEDING EXTENSIVE SERVICES WORK GROUP PRESENTATION.**

**III. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no additional comments from the public.

**IV. MINUTES FROM APRIL 4, 2001 AND MARCH 7, 2001**

Noting the inaccuracy of a sentence in the first paragraph of section V.D. of the April 4, 2001 minutes which states: "J. Peterson added that utilization management, as exists in West Virginia, is used across the country," Jim Peterson moved that the sentence be struck.

There were no changes or additions to the minutes of March 7, 2001.

- ◆ **THE COMMISSION ADOPTED THE MINUTES OF APRIL 4, 2001 WITH THE ABOVE STATED DELETION; AND THE COMMISSION ADOPTED THE MINUTES OF MARCH 7, 2001 WITH NO CHANGES OR ADDITIONS.**

**V. CCF PARTICIPATION IN VIRGINIA YOUTH VIOLENCE PROJECT PROPOSAL—DEWEY CORNELL**

S. Baker introduced Dewey Cornell of the Virginia Youth Violence Project. D. Cornell began by noting that the Columbine situation is not likely to occur in Charlottesville/Albemarle. The existing problem, however, is that youth are making threats, and the adults of the community are trapped between a fear of overreacting and a fear of the possible consequences of not reacting at all.

Through the Virginia Youth Violence Project, D. Cornell has had the opportunity to work with the FBI on implementing threat assessment techniques to address youth who have made threats. This work included examining threat identification and threat intervention programming. The Jessie Ball duPont Fund is currently supporting the project, and the FBI has expressed its commitment by assigning two of its officers to the project.

The federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has recently released a grant for youth violence prevention programming which includes the establishment of a community-wide collaborative effort to address youth violence and the implementation of a youth violence prevention program in the second year of the grant. Fortunately, the SAMHSA grant ties in well with both the Commission's mission and the existing Virginia Youth Violence Project. D. Cornell asked the Commission to endorse the Virginia Youth Violence Project's pursuit of the SAMHSA grant, as well as to assist in the implementation aspect of the grant. Implementation would require the establishment of a Youth Violence Prevention Work Group which would provide logistical and organizational support, as well as perform the following functions: organize regular Work Group planning meetings; compile or review existing data on youth problems and risk factors in the community, as well as existing community resources and services; hold professional training sessions on youth violence issues, particularly principles and methods of threat assessment and threat management; and conduct activities to mobilize public attention and support for youth violence prevention efforts, such as community meetings or focus groups, outreach efforts to parents and youth, contracts with local non-profit groups.

R. Merriwether shared his pleasure at hearing that both school districts will be collaboratively involved. He then asked if the threat assessment and intervention program has been implemented elsewhere. D. Cornell replied that this might be the first program of its kind, and the FBI is prepared to field test the program. Other communities are currently designing programs to address the same issue, but no program has yet been developed. Kevin Castner noted that this is a wonderful project which he thoroughly supports, and he anticipates that this overall project will take a comprehensive look at the problem and the solutions, considering the entire school system and environment, and not be limited to a purely psychological approach. Susan McLeod asked about participants in the project, to which D. Cornell responded that the Virginia Youth Violence Project is intended to involve community practitioners, the faith community, and as many other community members as possible. L. Peacock added that she believes the link to the SAMHSA grant is particularly relevant to this community.

Sterling Robinson moved to endorse the Virginia Youth Violence Project in its pursuit of the SAMHSA grant, and to establish a Youth Violence Prevention Work Group to fulfill the duties as outlined by D. Cornell. Ruth Stone seconded the motion.

◆ **THE COMMISSION APPROVED ENDORSEMENT OF THE VIRGINIA YOUTH VIOLENCE PROJECT AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION WORK GROUP.**

**VI. REPORTS FROM WORK GROUPS**

**A. COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES ACT COMMITTEE—SAPHIRA BAKER**

S. Baker announced that though she could not yet reveal the name of the new CSA Coordinator, the position has been accepted with a start date of June 1. S. Baker said she was very pleased with the new person, and she believes that this Coordinator will take the position in new directions.

R. Merriwether, indicating the CART report, asked about the particularly high cost involved with case #8 and how CCF would handle this unusual situation. S. Baker replied that due to the high cost, CART may pass the case to the CSA Committee which may consider sending the case to the Commission for a vote.

J. Peterson explained that the State/Local Advisory Team is the state-level team that advises the State Executive Council, which oversees the CSA program. SLAT is therefore the advisory group for CSA, while the State CSA office handles the administrative and training aspects of CSA. SLAT members are generally appointed by the State Executive Council, however parent representative nominations must be made by the local Community Policy and Management Teams (CPMTs). Nominations for parent representatives are currently sought. J. Peterson recommends Mark Jampol who had served as a parent representative for Louisa County until he moved recently to Albemarle County. J. Peterson read a brief biography of M. Jampol, and then asked CCF to nominate M. Jampol as the Charlottesville/Albemarle parent representative to the State/Local Advisory Team.

Michael Dickens moved to nominate M. Jampol, and S. McLeod seconded the motion.

◆ **THE COMMISSION APPROVED THE NOMINATION OF MR. JAMPOL AS A PARENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE STATE/LOCAL ADVISORY TEAM.**

**VII. REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE—SUSAN MCLEOD**

S. McLeod announced that, as Chair of the Nominating Committee and as per CCF bylaws, she was pleased to nominate for the term of July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002: Richard Merriwether as Chair, Ruth Stone as Vice Chair, and Buz Cox and Jim Peterson as Executive Committee Members-at-Large.

- ◆ **THE COMMISSION APPROVED THE NOMINATION OF RICHARD MERRIWETHER AS CHAIR, RUTH STONE AS VICE CHAIR, AND BUZ COX AND JIM PETERSON AS MEMBERS-AT-LARGE FOR THE TERM OF JULY 1, 2001 TO JUNE 30, 2002.**

### **VIII. FORMAT FOR THE CCF 2001 ANNUAL REPORT**

R. Stone explained that after its first year, CCF had used the Annual Report to describe its intentions as a Commission. After the second year, the Annual Report focused on the work groups and the work CCF had completed. In this third Annual Report, however, CCF would like to join with the work groups to establish future visions, including a listing of priorities and recommendations. R. Stone added that the intention is to provide a document which would help the work groups as well as City Council and the Board of Supervisors focus on what CCF is doing surrounding children and families and in which direction CCF intends to head.

S. McLeod asked how the Annual Report would be presented. R. Stone replied that she believed the recommendations would come from the work groups and staff and be presented to CCF for approval. Roxanne White asked why the Annual Report was scheduled for completion in July if that time frame clearly rushes both the staff and the work groups, not to mention that many Council and Board members are on vacation during that time. R. White felt the Annual Report could reasonably be presented as late as September. R. Stone agreed. L. Peacock said she appreciates that the new Annual Report design will effectively link the activities of the work groups and will focus on how their work converges on the same policy recommendations. Marti Snell asked how CCF could decide whether or not to delay the recommendations. M. Dickens noted that the next edition of *Stepping Stones* would be published on schedule at the end of June, and he would like to incorporate some of the CCF consensus building into the introduction. R. Stone added that she thinks the timing would be appropriate if the report were released in September. R. White echoed the sentiment, adding that a presentation near the beginning of the school year would receive more public and media attention.

### **VI. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE—SAPHIRA BAKER**

S. Baker pointed to the Director's Update presented to the Commission and asked for any questions or discussion.

S. McLeod requested more information on internal City government "Coordination of Services." S. Baker responded that Coordination of Services has to do with coordinating outcome measurement among funders and agencies, but also improving information sharing so that city divisions and departments can benefit from each others' research and data. L. Peacock noted that the City had learned that due to the numerous funding streams and boards, many agencies would approach each City funder for funds separately, even when turned down by one department. By coordinating these funding groups, however, the funders begin to use similar assessment measures and become more aware of which funder is funding which agencies and for what reasons.

L. Peacock asked about the possibility of getting a UVa intern, and about progress on the state incentive grant (SIG) regarding substance abuse prevention. S. Baker replied that the UVa intern possibility was being pursued. Phil Crossen of Region Ten Community Services Board has taken the lead on the SIG grant, which requires a collaborative effort, and has brought the grant to the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee. To date, this group has discussed strategy and has convened a community-wide, multi-agency group to work specifically on this grant. Current focus possibilities being considered include drug court programs, family intervention programs, and after-school programs. L. Peacock asked if this grant would become part of the work of the Commission. S. Baker responded that as of yet she was unsure. CCF may be involved if the focus is on children, however some of the proposed focuses have primarily concerned adults.

R. Merriwether asked about the *Daily Progress* interview with B. Cox and S. Baker. S. Baker replied that she does not know when the *Daily Progress* article, concerning the affect of the faith-based initiative locally, will run. L. Peacock suggested that CCF investigate the possibility of arranging an insert in the *Daily Progress* which would include pieces of *Stepping Stones*.

R. White mentioned that the Partnership for Children has considered a similar approach to their Annual Report.

L. Peacock suggested the Community Relations Work Group pursue promoting *Stepping Stones* in the *Daily Progress*.

R. White asked about the timeline of the Needs Assessment Work Group. S. Baker responded that the Needs Assessment Work Group may report at the July CCF meeting. That group has collected all the in-house data, and is currently trying to decide whether to conduct a general or a targeted needs assessment. This group, she added, will present recommendations to the Commission for discussion.

R. Merriwether mentioned that since Happy Darcus is graduating, there would soon be a new Albemarle County Youth Member vacancy.

M. Dickens mentioned that *Stepping Stones* shows that juvenile crimes are dropping in the city though rising in the county. S. McLeod asked if the statistics were based on place of arrest or place of crime. M. Dickens replied that place of arrest is the factor. The overall juvenile crime rate, he added, is dropping.

## **VII. MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

R. Merriwether thanked Carla Sykes for attending the meeting, and he invited her to return.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.