

**CHARLOTTESVILLE/ALBEMARLE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 6, 2000**

Members Present

Martha Carroll, 16th District Court Service Unit
Dr. Kevin Castner, Albemarle County Schools
Azzurra Cox, Charlottesville Youth Representative
Robert Cox, Charlottesville Dept. of Social Services
Happy Darcus, Albemarle Youth Representative
Richard Merriwether, Chair
Larry Miller, Albemarle Citizen Representative
Jim Peterson, Region Ten Community Services Board
Deborah Pomerantz, Charlottesville Citizen Representative
Kathy Ralston, Albemarle Dept. of Social Services
Sterling Robinson, Albemarle Citizen Representative
Ruth Stone, Private Provider Representative
Dr. William Symons, Charlottesville City Schools
Cathy Train, United Way-Thomas Jefferson Area
Roxanne White, Albemarle County

Members Not Present

Dr. Michael Dickens, Charlottesville Citizen Representative
Dr. Susan McLeod, Thomas Jefferson Health District
Linda Peacock, City of Charlottesville
Martha Snell, University of Virginia

CCF Staff Present

Saphira Baker, Director
Rory Carpenter, Juvenile Justice Coordinator
Gretchen Ellis, Planner/Analyst
Debbie Stone, CSA Coordinator
Terrilynn Platt, Project Assistant

Others Present

Josh Stuart Silver, Public Attending
John Phillips, MSW Intern to R. Cox
Dave Chapman, Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC), Commonwealth Attorney
Jack Gallagher, JJAC & JJAC Detention Center Sub-committee, Community Attention
Mark Andrews, JJAC Detention Center Sub-committee, Juvenile Court Assessment Center

Handouts (prior to meeting)

Agenda for September 6 CCF meeting
July 5, 2000 CCF meeting minutes
Blue Ridge Detention Center Report
Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) Monthly Report
Outcome Measurement Report Excerpt
Updated CCF membership and address list
Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) meeting minutes June 22, 2000
JJAC meeting minutes July 13, 2000
Outcome Measurement volunteer flyer
CCF general volunteer flyer

Handouts (during meeting)

Draft of legislative issues.
Draft of United Way's Information and Referral legislative issue
Proposed Retreat Agenda
Listserv registration information and highlights

I. WELCOME/NEW FACES

Richard Merriwether called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. and welcomed the public member in attendance. Saphira Baker introduced Happy Darcus, the new County Youth Representative, Gretchen Ellis, the new CCF Planner/Analyst, and Terrilynn Platt, the new CCF Project Assistant.

Roxanne White asked to hear the job descriptions of the Planner/Analyst and the Project Assistant, and whether the job descriptions had changed. S. Baker described the Planner/Analyst and Project Assistant jobs, explaining that more emphasis would be put on communications and outreach in the new Project Assistant job this year, and the part-time Planner/Analyst job would remain as proposed originally:

focusing on *Stepping Stones*, Outcome Measurement, Data Analysis, and special projects, such as a Children and Families budget.

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

- ◆ **THE COMMISSION ADOPTED THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING WITH NO ADDITIONS OR CHANGES.**

III. COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC

R. Merriwether asked for comments from Josh Stewart-Silver, the only member of the public in attendance. J. Stewart-Silver said he was there because he was interested in getting fathers more involved with their children. R. Merriwether thanked J. Silver for attending.

IV. MINUTES FROM JULY 5, 2000

R. Merriwether asked if anyone had changes to the July 5 minutes.

Kathy Ralston had two changes to the CNES Work Group Report section of the minutes: 1) She wanted to add to paragraph five of the Children Needing Extensive Services Work Group report that in the study of children in the Bright Stars program, those who experienced domestic abuse were less likely to pass the PALS (Phonological Awareness and Literacy Screening) test; and 2) She wanted to strike from paragraph nine of the same section the phrase “through the Lafayette school.” She explained that the current wording suggests that Lafayette school is inadequate, when in fact, the intent was to show that the *availability* of Day Treatment services in general, such as those offered by Lafayette school, is currently inadequate.

R. Merriwether asked for a motion to approve the minutes with the requested changes.

- ◆ **THE COMMISSION APPROVED THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 5, 2000 CCF MEETING WITH THE REQUESTED CHANGES.**

Kevin Castner mentioned that Madison Cummings had requested appointment to CCF, and should be thus be added to the CCF mailing list.

V. REPORTS FROM WORK GROUPS

R. Merriwether asked representatives of the Work Groups to present.

A. DETENTION CENTER SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE—R. CARPENTER

Rory Carpenter stood to present the Detention Center Sub-committee report. He introduced Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) Detention Center Sub-committee members Jack Gallagher of Community Attention and Mark Andrews of the Juvenile Court Assessment Center (JCAC) who were present at the meeting, and read the names of the sub-committee members not present at the meeting. JCAC member Dave Chapman, Charlottesville Commonwealth Attorney arrived during the presentation.

R. Carpenter began by explaining the history behind the Blue Ridge Detention Center Report. JJAC was established two years ago by the Commission. It completed its Comprehensive Plan this

past month, which will be available within the next month. Five sub-committees of the JJAC were arranged around the priorities of the plan; one of these is the Detention Center Sub-committee.

The Detention Center Sub-committee is working with the current Blue Ridge Detention Center Commission on locating a multi-use, multi-service assessment center adjacent to the proposed detention center. The Blue Ridge Detention Center Commission had asked the JJAC Detention Center Sub-committee to write a report which would: 1) identify alternative philosophies for the operation of the Blue Ridge Detention Center and the Assessment Center that will be collocated at the same site, 2) define the relationship and the parameters of how the Detention Center and the Assessment Center will interact, 3) achieve community consensus on the philosophy for the operation of the Blue Ridge Detention Center and the Assessment Center, 4) compile a list of desired qualifications and characteristics for the Blue Ridge Detention Center Superintendent, and 5) define the process for hiring the Blue Ridge Detention Center Superintendent.

The Detention Center Sub-committee began by looking at the Community Assessment Center model put forth by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Juvenile Delinquency Prevention. Most children in detention centers, R. Carpenter explained, often have multiple problems and require multiple services; the assessment center concept brings service workers together in one place to address the needs of the children twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. This would include: 1) a central, safe place for agencies responding to crises and providing assessment and intake of youth and families after normal business hours; 2) a home for Juvenile Court Assessment Center (JCAC) staff six evenings per week from 5:00–midnight; JCAC and Court Service Unit (CSU) staff might also use this space as needed each night between midnight and 8:00 a.m. and on weekend days as necessary for crises and intake; 3) space for Region Ten Community Services Board to use this facility for after-hours and weekend Temporary Detention Order (TDO) evaluation of juveniles; 4) access to the facility for local Departments of Social Services for child protective services calls or foster care crisis calls; 5) one permanent office for JCAC and one of two interview rooms for the use of agencies as available; 6) file cabinets for forms, brochures, etc. for each agency; 7) keys to the center for the use of each agency’s on-call personnel; and 8) consolidation of overnight community “on calls.”

The proposed multi-service assessment center will be paid for primarily by local funds and will therefore be overseen by the localities. R. Carpenter expressed the need to define the relationship between the City, the County, and the Blue Ridge Detention Center, specifically concerning how they will govern the proposed assessment center. He added that the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee would like to ensure that the Detention and Assessment centers are service-oriented. At the request of the Blue Ridge Detention Commission, the Detention Center Sub-committee is considering hosting a community forum to find out what the public wants out of the Detention Center project, and to educate the public on the forthcoming Detention and assessment centers.

R. Carpenter opened the floor to questions and comments.

Ruth Stone asked if the current JCAC next to the courthouse would remain where it is once the assessment center project is brought to fruition. R. Carpenter responded that the current JCAC would remain where it is, and will function in the same site as always during regular work hours. The proposed assessment center will function primarily as an on-site assessment center at the Detention Center, and will function during non-work hours, i.e., evenings, nights, and weekends.

R. Merriwether asked about the current plans for construction of the Detention Center. R. White responded, saying that the Detention Center is expected to open in January, 2002. Construction bids have already begun, and the Blue Ridge Detention Center Commission hopes to have a Superintendent on staff before the end of this year. R. White added that she will, in the near future, ask for input from the Commission on the job description of the Superintendent.

K. Castner asked how the Blue Ridge Detention Center will help the public schools. He explained that he currently has four students awaiting trial for felonies out on the street. He is not interested

in having these students in school, however he does not want to deny these students an education. He asked if these students would go to the Detention Center. Dave Chapman responded that these children would go to the Detention Center if ordered to do so by the court while awaiting trial, and they would receive educational services there. If the local schools provide the specific class work, it will be incorporated into instruction.

K. Castner explained that “Project Return” currently exists to provide support for continuing education. A couple years ago, K. Castner did not have the authority to exclude children from school. Now he has that authority, but that does not solve the problem of these children being out of school while awaiting trial.

R. Carpenter inserted that school participation in the Detention Center is important.

K. Ralston added that, after hours, police can take children to the Detention Center for assessment. Albemarle County Department of Social Services (ACDSS) assessment workers will not necessarily be there, but the ACDSS on-call worker can meet the children there.

R. Stone asked if the Detention Center staff would provide security. R. Carpenter responded, saying that he didn’t yet know, but he and JJAC hope the Blue Ridge Detention Center will provide that needed security.

Jim Peterson added that the concept of the Detention and Assessment centers is not to have a Region Ten assessment worker there at all times; the Assessment Center simply makes space available for the on-call Region Ten worker.

M. Andrews remarked that since JCAC extended its hours to 5:00 p.m. to midnight, usage has increased, revealing that these hours are more favorable for those in need of assessment and for those requesting assessments.

R. Stone asked if JCAC does mental health assessment. M. Andrews responded that JCAC is not equipped to perform mental health assessments.

R. Merriwether thanked R. Carpenter for the presentation and asked if this presentation was informational or if it required approval by the Commission.

R. Carpenter responded that this presentation was informational, but he would like to count on CCF’s support for the proposal. CCF members expressed general support for the concept as outlined in the Blue Ridge Detention Center Report. R. Carpenter added that September 14, 2000, he will present this report at the Blue Ridge Detention Center Commission meeting.

J. Gallagher added that this multi-use concept had sat until R. White and L. Peacock had taken the leadership and found the resources to start the project. This was, he said, a great example of City and County collaboration.

R. Merriwether thanked R. Carpenter again for his presentation.

B. CSA COMMITTEE—R. COX

Robert Cox highlighted from the CSA report, pointing specifically to the financial reports from the City and County. Charlottesville will be spending up to 14% more than last year, but will serve 22% more children. This figure is unusual because the trend is generally for the spending amount to increase more than the increase in children served.

R. Stone asked if R. Cox had arrived at reason for this. R. Cox said he had not.

R. White asked if the figures include Medicaid reimbursements. R. Cox replied no, however added that Medicaid is paying more quickly and abundantly than it has in the past, saving local dollars. This past year, in fact, Medicaid saved \$26-27 thousand for the City and County combined.

R. Merriwether asked if Medicaid pays for dental work. R. Cox responded in the affirmative for children, but not for adults.

R. Cox then added that J. Peterson is the chair of the State and Local Advisory Team which advises the State Executive Council (SEC). J. Peterson described his position as chair, and he added that July 1, 2000, the state legislature changed the State Management Team to an Advisory Board.

R. Cox introduced the topic of the state-wide corporal punishment issue, also known as the “spanking regulation,” discussed at the July, 2000 CCF meeting. The State Social Services Board had postponed their decision to allow for an extra period of public comment. Public comment will be closed on Thursday, September 14, 2000, when the state board will vote. R. Cox asked if CCF should discuss the issue and take a position on it now.

R. White commented that the money invested in CSA is an incredible amount, as is the money invested in the Detention Center.

K. Castner asked if it were appropriate that the commission take a position on corporal punishment. Would testimony help? he asked R. Cox. R. Cox responded in the affirmative and then made a motion that the Commission take a position against the “spanking regulation” and put this in a letter to the state.

◆ **THE COMMISSION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MOTION TO TAKE A POSITION AGAINST THE USE OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT BY FOSTER FAMILIES AND TO WRITE A LETTER TO THE STATE INFORMING THEM OF THE OFFICIAL OPINION OF CCF.**

R. Stone commented that taking a position on this was important because it not only included spanking but shaking, etc.

R. Cox added that the state commissioner had said this issue had arisen because the state feared any regulation against any corporal punishment would deter potential foster parents from becoming foster parents.

Cathy Train asked if local social workers directly asked potential foster parents about corporal punishment, and if these parents decided not to take in foster children expressly for this reason. R. Cox said that he had not seen any example of this.

R. Stone added that Tri-Area Foster Families (TAFF) does a good job of training foster parents, especially on the issue of alternative discipline.

VI. DRAFT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

R. Merriwether opened the floor to S. Baker who introduced and passed out the possible legislative issues.

S. Baker explained briefly what the legislative issues in general are about, and that these specific issues could be included in the local legislative packets, and then endorsed by the localities and the Thomas Jefferson Planning District. This not only puts CCF legislative items in front of the localities’ General Assembly lobbyist, but tells the localities what CCF and its Work Groups care about.

S. Baker added that she was specifically looking for a decision about approval of the legislative agenda following the discussion.

R. Cox explained the CSA issues, describing the five CSA recommendations, four of which are about funding, one about collaboration.

R. White commented on the legislative issue process, saying that everyone contributes to the planning district's package. The planning district tries to incorporate all of the requests into one total package. CCF legislative issues will fall under the human services category. After the planning district compiles the issues, the whole package will be sent to the localities for endorsement, and then return to the planning district. This gives legislators a regional packet all in one document to use as the basis of discussion. This also lets legislators know which positions have already been taken by the localities.

R. Cox proposed that the JJAC legislative issue concerning the increased administrative pressure on local youth service agencies receiving CSA and VJCCCA funds, and subsequent proposal to "appoint a study group to recommend improved collaboration between the Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) and Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act (VJCCCA) programs" made more sense than the CSA proposal of the same nature; the JJAC issue and proposal should incorporate and replace the similar CSA proposal.

R. Carpenter asked if the Commission on Youth would be appropriate to research this issue at the state level. K. Ralston inquired if the Commission on Youth could represent CSA issues since they already represent juvenile justice issues.

R. Stone, referring to the legislative issue concerning summer youth employment programs, suggested expanding the language to include year-round youth employment services for youth not in school. C. Train worried about the language connecting youth employment to pregnancy prevention. She felt that the language implied that if youth are not employed they will necessarily get pregnant, which is not true.

R. White requested a more specific action step under the category "Early Childhood Development and School Readiness." She explained that currently the state only funds sixty percent of the four year olds identified to receive funding. R. White wants these identified four year olds funded at one hundred percent.

C. Train added an issue about increasing funding for Information and Referral. The current Information and Referral services housed at United Way-Thomas Jefferson Area will be restructured as of the end of October. United Way-TJA receives at least fifty calls per day, not including walk-ins., usually about daycare. She added that people usually need help with more than one issue and require crisis intervention. There is a statewide crisis line and there are numerous guides and resources available at United Way-TJA.

R. Stone asked if United Way-TJA distributed the Legal Aid booklet. C. Train replied in the affirmative.

K. Ralston felt that adding Information and Referral as an issue was fine, however she did not want to specifically ask for TANF funds to be directed toward Information and Referral. She added that the legislators can do the work of finding the funding, not CCF. R. Cox agreed that Information and Referral should not be tied to TANF funds.

R. Stone asked if more childcare issues should be added. C. Train said she would like to increase funding for the United Way childcare scholarships. R. Cox agreed about adding childcare issues. He added that family and childcare are big budget issues this year. He wanted to add an issue about increasing subsidies for daycare for low-income families.

R. Merriwether asked for a motion to approve the legislative agenda with the suggested revisions and additions.

J. Peterson moved to adopt the agenda with the suggested revisions and additions.

- ◆ **THE COMMITTEE APPROVED THE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA WITH THE STATED REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS.**

VII. UPCOMING RETREAT

R. Merriwether announced that the CCF retreat will be held Thursday, October 12, 2000 from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Region Ten's Meadowcreek Center. J. Peterson invited everyone to the Meadowcreek Dedication Ceremony on Friday, September 15, at 3:00 p.m.

R. Merriwether, referring to the presentations of the CCF Annual Report and *Stepping Stones* to the Charlottesville City Council and Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, commented that the Council and Board had been very impressed with CCF's work this past year. R. Merriwether would like to see that good work continue. He announced that Jan Dorman would facilitate the retreat, and he pointed to the questions on the retreat agenda, requiring CCF members to think about a few key issues before arriving at the retreat. He then asked if there were any questions.

R. White asked for a copy of the work plan generated by last year's retreat to review before the October 12 retreat. S. Baker said she would e-mail to the Commission members the work plan which had been officially approved by the Commission in February, 2000. C. Train added that she would also like to see the Commission work plan from the year prior.

R. Merriwether then presented a gavel engraved with J. Peterson's name to J. Peterson. R. Merriwether also showed J. Peterson the knocking block to which a name plate with J. Peterson's name and his term engraved was added. J. Peterson thanked the Commission for the gift.

VIII. UPDATE—S. BAKER

A. RESIGNATION

S. Baker announced that Meredith Gunter, Vice Chair of the Commission, had resigned due to personal circumstances. Thus, the Commission now has a vacancy for a Citizen Representative from Albemarle County.

R. White invited Commission members to recommend good candidates for the position.

B. PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN LITERACY KITS

S. Baker continued, explaining that the Literacy Kits designed by the Partnership for Children will be brought to the Commission at the next meeting. S. Baker described the contents and the purpose of the Literacy Kits, adding that the Partnership for Children is still finalizing the design of the kits. Both public school Superintendents, K. Castner and William Symons, have been very involved in this project and the school systems have contributed \$5000 each toward the kits. The kits will be distributed to parents by home-visitors at first, and later by hospitals, libraries, and pediatricians' offices.

C. ANNUAL REPORT ONLINE

S. Baker announced that the Annual Report is currently on the CCF web site, and she added that she would encourage the commission members to please spread information about CCF when they make various presentations.

D. OUTCOME MEASUREMENT WORK GROUP FINAL REPORT

S. Baker explained Outcome Measurement and how it changes the current agency-funding structure. She explained that CCF and United Way-TJA would sponsor a two-day training for the agencies, and that peer tutors trained in Outcome Measurement would be available to assist agencies in the budget application and review process. Because of training, there would be a busy outcome measurement timeline in the fall. S. Baker added that the City, County, and United Way will do their review of the agencies together. This would be more difficult on the reviewers but easier on the agencies. Final decisions about the funding would remain with City Council, the County Board of Supervisors, and United Way-Thomas Jefferson Area. Initial feedback from the agencies on outcome measurement has been positive.

E. DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE COMPLIANCE VISIT

S. Baker continued with the update saying that she thought the Department of Juvenile Justice triennial compliance visit had gone well. CCF had met all but two of the grant standards, and the problem in these two incidents appeared to be that CCF had not fully documented that compliance had occurred, involving distribution of reports. As a result, CCF members will note that handouts will be listed in meeting minutes.

F. C-AYOUTHFAMSERV HANDOUT

C-ayouthfamserv, the Youth and Families listserv, S. Baker continued, has done well recently. She asked CCF members to please sign up for the listserv and to encourage their colleagues to sign up as well.

G. INTERNAL COMMUNICATION

Finally, S. Baker urged Commission members to please respond within one to two days when asked about dates and other important communication where possible to allow for more timely scheduling.

IX. MEMBERS' COMMENTS

R. Merriwether thanked those who presented the Annual Report to City Council and the County Board of Supervisors. R. White seconded R. Merriwether's sentiment. She added that the County had been very impressed by the presentation, and they felt the materials were concise and well-written, not too glossy, but still very professional. Deborah Pomerantz added that the City Council members had been very impressed.

R. White then announced that the Board of Supervisors had presented a plaque to M. Gunter that morning. Charles Martin had many nice things to say about her, and approximately fifteen people had appeared at the presentation in support of M. Gunter. M. Gunter was very appreciative.

R. Merriwether requested a motion to adjourn.

◆ THE COMMISSION APPROVED THE MOTION TO ADJOURN.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.