

**CHARLOTTESVILLE/ALBEMARLE COMMISSION
ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 7, 2009
ACOB-5TH STREET EXTENDED, ROOM B**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rosa Atkins, Charlottesville City Schools
Martha Carroll, 16th District Court Service Unit
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
Winx Lawrence, University of Virginia
Sean McCord, Charlottesville Citizen
Representative
John Miller, Albemarle Police Department
Pam Moran, Albemarle County Schools
Pat Mullaney, Albemarle Department of Parks &
Recreation
Lilian Peake, Thomas Jefferson Health District
Kathy Ralston, Albemarle Department of Social
Services
Hadya Abdul Satar, City Youth Representative
Ruth Stone, Chair, Charlottesville Citizen
Representative
Cathy Train, United Way Representative
Maurice Walker, Charlottesville Citizen
Representative
Paul Wisman, Charlottesville Citizen
Representative

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Leslie Beauregard, City of Charlottesville
Carolyn Lawlor, Albemarle Citizen
Representative
Tim Longo, Charlottesville Police Department
Jan Martin, Albemarle Citizen Representative
Ronnie Price, County School Board
Representative

CCF STAFF PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Preston Cannon and family
Eugene Conti, Ragged Mountain Home
Bill McGee, VIA

HANDOUTS (prior to meeting)

Agenda for January 7, 2009 CCF meeting
Draft of the November 5 2008 CCF meeting
minutes
Director's Report
CSA Monthly Program Report
Charlottesville CSA Summary Financial Report
Albemarle CSA Summary Financial Report
Early Care Action Plan
Youth Service Action Plan

HANDOUTS (during meeting)

Stepping Stones 2008
CCF Quarterly Report – Winter 2008
Research Assistants and Interns End of the
Semester Report – Fall 2008
CSA Changes PowerPoint Presentation Notes
CSA Community Practice Model
Notes on updating stayactive.org

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

R. Stone, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:35pm and welcomed Commissioners and public. Introductions were made around the room.

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

◆ **THE COMMISSION ADOPTED THE JANUARY 7, 2009 AGENDA.**

III. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No comments from the public.

IV. VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER

R. Stone stated that CCF is thrilled to recognize 17 year-old VIA work-study student, Preston Cannon, as volunteer of the quarter. Preston works two hours a week at the CCF offices as an office assistant. She described Preston's responsibilities and how this experience provides an important context for the application of skills that he has worked diligently to master at VIA. R. Stone presented Preston with a gift of recognition and his family with a certificate of appreciation.

V. REMINDER ON DECLARATION ON CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS

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

VI. COMMISSIONER ISSUES

R. Chester stated he had been notified that a representative of the Virginia Governor's office has announced that the Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents is going to be closed. He stated that the children served by this center will need to be served in their individual communities with CSA dollars. He further noted that of the 2010 CSA dollars utilized to pay for this type of care, 80% of it is now gone. The Commissioners discussed the troubling impact this decision would have on local government, the communities, and the schools; the serious problems other states are facing with this, and the Commissioners decided that CCF should prepare a statement of dissension and send to the Virginia Assembly. R. Stone requested Commissioners to send information to G. Ellis and she would prepare a statement.

VII. MINUTES FROM THE CCF MEETING FOR NOVEMBER 5, 2008

Revisions were made to the November CCF Meeting minutes.

A motion to approve the November 5, 2008 minutes was made by R. Chester and seconded by W. Lawrence.

◆ **THE COMMISSION APPROVED THE NOVEMBER 5, 2008 CCF MEETING MINUTES.**

VIII. EARLY CARE STRATEGIC PLAN

The Early Care Action Plan had been reviewed by the Commissioners prior to this evening's meeting. G. Ellis stated that the Partnership for Children has reviewed and approved the Early

Care Action Plan and is asking Commissioners for their approval this evening. M. Porter stated that the Early Care and Education Work Group are in the process of making a work plan to accomplish their initiatives and asked if the Commissioners had any questions.

K. Galvin praised the thoroughness of the report and the Commissioners discussed funding, the availability of possible grants and tracking the outcomes. M. Porter stated that this work plan should be considered a “living document” that can be changed and will evolve in time.

A motion to approve the Early Care Strategic Plan was made by B. Cox and seconded by R. Chester.

◆ **THE COMMISSION APPROVED THE EARLY CARE STRATEGIC PLAN.**

IX. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN

R. Carpenter highlighted some of the components of the Youth Development Strategic Plan with the Commissioners. He stated that:

- An evaluation of the YDN referral system indicated that 83% of the participants were satisfied.
- Maurice Walker has volunteered to update the Stay Active website and make improvements. (Notes on updating stayactive.org were distributed.)
- Chelsea Henderson had gathered Albemarle County youth input to inform community on needed changes. Hadja Abdul Satar, City Youth Representative, is to gather Charlottesville City youth input.
- A connection had been made and will continue in the Westhaven and Southwood communities to develop grassroots’ efforts to engage youth in the community.
- A committee has been formed to develop funding for scholarships for summer programs/camps. Two grants, totaling \$5,000.00, have been received thus far for kids this summer.

K. Ralston stated that she was glad to have her staff help with including youth development activities in the community service planning. She stressed the importance of expanding job training/employment opportunities for at-risk children and suggested involving Ava Baun, One-Stop, to get the summer work/job program going. W. Lawrence suggested approaching the County about a summer work program and B. Cox stated that the Chamber of Commerce was very supportive of this initiative also. R. Stone suggested recognizing companies in newspaper articles that have work programs for youths.

R. Carpenter elaborated for K. Galvin on what he envisioned for a CATEC type programming to serve at-risk youth. He stated that youth that could best be served in CATEC but were not able to due to grades, etc; he envisioned programs that would help them learn a skill. B. Cox noted that CHINS children also need these skills. R. Chester recommended the Department of Rehab Services who work with kids who have dropped out of school and R. Atkins also stated that CATEC runs an adult program and there are alternative programs for kids who have left school for various reasons.

K. Ralston inquired if mentoring was addressed in the Action Plan. R. Carpenter stated that it was not. K. Ralston stated that she believed #6 needed to be flushed out more. Commissioners suggested adding the Big Brothers Big Sisters program and the new program at Walton Middle School to the strategic plan.

A motion to approve the Youth Development Strategic Plan was made by K. Ralston and seconded by M. Carroll.

◆ **THE COMMISSION APPROVED THE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN.**

X. PROCESS IMPROVEMENT TEAM

M. Porter updated the Commissioners on new CSA changes, reviewing the questions and the goals that the CSA Process Improvement Team were directed with, the research involved, highlights of the results, and the recommendations from the team. She distributed the Charlottesville/Albemarle CSA Community Practice Model for their review.

L. Peake inquired if the subcommittee would have to come up with a plan if something was not available for the child. M. Porter stated that the FAPT team would decide if there was a program that was needed and the subcommittee would help build services child by child. B. Cox stated that the committee is not new; the intent is to maximize the ability of the committee. The Commissioners discussed that it is time to provided support and deal with the problems transitioning children back into the community. With the closure of the Commonwealth Center and the push for communities to bring children back into the community, the localities are being penalized due to the match rate changes. Most costs are now going to the localities and it is time to stress that new laws need to be made or changed. K. Ralston inquired about administrative costs, would the new structure reduce those costs? G. Ellis stated that it would with the two FAPTS, the County FAPTS would be shorter and the City FAPTS would be longer, there would be child specific teams and CSA fiscal should be a wash due to cost savings of high level salaries. R. Johnson stated that 60% of costs are with residential care and this needs to be addressed along with every cost that we now have to pay. R. Chester recommended that Medicaid should have to pay for respite care. R. Stone thanked M. Porter for her presentation. G. Ellis thanked the committee for the hundred of hours spent researching this.

XI. STEPPING STONES 2008

G. Ellis gave a presentation highlighting some of the trends reported on in *Stepping Stones 2008*. She explained the printing error and the how the statistical analysis was completed with this year's information. She brought to the Commissioner's attention that she believes the number of children living in poverty will spike in the County next year. P. Moran stated that she has new high school drop out rates to incorporate in next year's *Stepping Stones*. C. Train mentioned that she would like to see figures on unmarried couples in next year's *Stepping Stones*.

XII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Commissioners reported that the Director's Report was not included with the meeting materials that were emailed out. L. Rahman apologized and will email the report to the Commissioners tomorrow. G. Ellis stated that the Safe Schools/Healthy Student's grant committee will be meeting on March 4th. She stated that the 3rd time is the charm! She also stated that this year's grant will be more cohesive and will ducktail with the at-risk children coming back into the schools.

K. Galvin questioned the difference in foster care in the City and County and the number of Special Education students. B. Cox had just left the meeting, but K. Ralston explained that the County has lower foster care and more Special Education students. She noted that there is a higher need for foster care in the city.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMISSION WILL BE

March 4, 2009

IN ROOM B - ACOB5TH STREET EXTENDED

5:30pm-7:00pm