

Marion County Children's Alliance Monthly Meeting Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Invocation:

Given by Brian Daymon, The Samaritan Corp., Youth Mentoring Program.

Introductions:

Mr. Scott Hackmyer recognized the dignitaries in the audience and asked for introductions from each agency in attendance for the benefit of Secretary Peterman.

Scott thanked our generous and caring community for the work with toy drive collections. This is so important because we work with many children who will not open even one present on Christmas morning.

Minutes:

The November minutes were approved as written.

Speaker:

The highlight for today is our guest speaker, Secretary Frank Peterman, Jr., Department of Juvenile Justice who has a long history of civic service and a life-long commitment helping Central Florida. He began his career as a Juvenile Services Counselor and gained experience as a Parole and Probation Officer Trainee. He accepted a position as Director of Development for the Juvenile Services Program that works to transform the lives of at-risk youth. Secretary Peterman entered public service with his elections to St. Petersburg City Council followed by the FL House of Representatives. He graduated from Morehouse College and attended the Dallas Theological Seminary where he completed course work towards an M.A. in Biblical Studies.

Secretary Peterman thanked Scott Hackmyer, DJJ employees and all members and organizations within the community for their hard work and dedication. All are "real people doing real work." DJJ's focus is now based on prevention and intervention. People make mistakes and taxpayer dollars are saved on the backend when we work with at-risk youth on the front line. The juvenile arrest rate is at an all time low at the same time that the population is increasing. Everything we do is built on strengthening our children so they may turn their lives around by creating localized plans that respond to the needs of each community.

Since 2008 when he took office, many initiatives have been implemented to improve the focus. Legislation has been signed that reduces the number of children referred to the juvenile justice system from schools for petty acts of misconduct (Senate Bill 1540). Sec. Peterman thanked Rep. Kelly for introducing the Zero Tolerance legislation. This legislation maintains strict school safety policies while reducing unintended consequences that lead to the wrongful placement of students in the juvenile justice system. (Some stats were given for School Related Referrals for First Time Offenders by County.)

Partnerships and Key Stakeholders have been brought together to implement change and keep our focus on efficiently delivering services to our children.

A question and answer session followed.

Roundtable:

* College Road Baptist Church, 5010 S.W. College Rd. (Hwy. 200) will hold two showings (3 p.m. & 7 p.m.) on Thursday, Dec. 3rd for the movie "To Save A Life."

* Eden of Ocala is hosting an inclusion Sports Program on Sunday, 12/6 from 2-4 p.m. at the E.D. Croskey Center. There will be U of FL students working one-on-one with children doing kickball and other sports. Call 369-3336 for more information.

* Donna McCroan reminded everyone that the meeting time for Safe Kids has been changed to Fridays at 9 a.m. at the Health Department. The next meeting will be on 12/11.

* Glynis Johnson (622-6386), Holy Band Deliverance Center, 1019 N.W. 10th Street, has an Outreach Ministry that serves breakfast on Sundays from 8-9:15 a.m.

* Evelyn James said Marion County Health Department is hosting a Youth Rally on 12/21 at 10 a.m. and a Parent Rally on 12/22 at 6 p.m., 1801 SE 32nd Avenue, "Making Healthy Choices" including physical activities, Nutrition, Tobacco and sexual relationships.

* Ann Doyle (813-915-7101), Devereux Kids is working with DCF on surveys needing information on prevention services. This is a comprehensive assessment needed for the new 5 year plan. She will have Monica Bryant send out a link.

* Jim Bullock stated that the Re-entry trailer is now open for operation. It will help in getting jobs, food stamps and ID for the recently released.

* Lorelei Loudis, 624-2001 said the SAFE program is now funded and a new class will start on 1/5/2010 on Tuesday evenings across from Greenway Elementary School in Silver Springs Shores. Referrals are needed and the program is FREE.

Future Meetings:

Autism & Other Disabilities	2 nd Tuesday, Dec. 8 – 11:00 a.m., United Way
Tobacco Coalition	2 nd Wednesday, Dec. 9 - 3 p.m., Health Dept.
Faith Community Network	2 nd Wednesday, Dec. 9 – 12:00 p.m., Call for location 438-5997
Safe Kids Coalition	2 nd Friday, Dec. 11, 9 a.m. – Health Dept.
Family Violence Prevention	2 nd Monday, Dec. 14 – 11:00 a.m., Sheriff's Office
Mentoring Workgroup	3 rd Wednesday, Dec. 16 – 11:30 a.m., Jail Adm. Conf. Rm.
Childhood Nutrition	3 rd Thursday, Dec. 17 – 9 a.m., Health Dept.
Grant Advisory Workgroup	due to holiday Thursday, Dec. 17 – 11:00 a.m. at OPD
Quarterly Board	1 st Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2010 - 11:30 a.m., Jail Adm. Bldg.
Alliance Monthly Meeting	1 st Wednesday, Feb. 3. 2010 - 11:30 a.m., Jail Adm. Bldg.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.