

Marion County Children's Alliance
Board of Directors
January 13, 2010
11:30 a.m.

Board Members present: Jim Bullock, Bill D'Aiuto, Ed Dean, Scott Hackmyer, S. Purves, S. Sue Robbins and Judi Zanetti/Maureen Quinlan and Dennis Baxley

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Ed Dean. The invocation was done by Rev. Jim Bullock.

Approval of September Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the September 2009 Board of Directors meeting was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Alliance Monthly Meeting Chairman: Scott Hackmyer said the need over the holidays was so great but the good news was the response from the community which was overwhelming. 177 children received pajamas from Success By Six.

All the workgroups are accomplishing great things and the monthly meetings are having good speakers.

Coordinators Report: Dr. Jordan stated he had a few quick comments. The bulk of the 2009 Final Report and 2010 Strategic Plan will be discussed later in the meeting. Secretary Frank Peterman, Jr., Department of Juvenile Justice had a fantastic time at the November meeting with 140 in attendance. Dr. Wil Blechman was the keynote speaker at the Children's Breakfast in November with 300 in attendance. The new 2010 calendar of Alliance meetings is available on the handout table. Board approval to ratify officers will be done via e-mail due to a lack of a quorum. Mike said he and his wife were asked to chair the March of Dimes Walk which will be held on April 24th.

Organization Reports:

Kids Central – C. Schuler stated that a bid was done and a change in case management providers was the outcome. The Centers is now doing an incredible job and we hope to continue with them in the future. Youth & Family Alternatives is the new adoption provider. A list of contacts will be forthcoming. KCI funded afterschool and Christmas programs in all five counties with the Children's Alliance assisting with monitoring programs. A federal grant for "Family Finding Project" was awarded for \$500,000 for three years to re-connect kids with their families. An annual report was distributed.

Sheriff Dean presented and discussed 9 graphs based on Marion County statistics: Number of Youth Referred to DJJ; Verified Child Abuse Cases; Serious School Offenses; Non-Promotions; Reported Child Abuse Cases to Hotline; Birth to Teens; Number of Infant Deaths; High School Dropouts and Youth Drug Use.

Family Violence Prevention Workgroup – Monica Bryant reported all 2009 Strategic Plan goals were accomplished. The mall gift wrapping came to \$10,000+ with 60% going to the Family Violence Prevention workgroup. The "Know the Law" book based on Lake County's is now in the final stages with assistance from DJJ. Over 5,000 toys were distributed with the 5th annual toy drive. Dating Violence campaign stats should be out in February. Another "Hands Are Not For Hurting" event will be planned. Community with a Heart donated \$5,000. Surveys and pledges were given in order to obtain local statistics

which Monica will summarize. Sheriff Dean requested that Major Lumpkin and Captain Dixon also get the results.

Afterschool and Summer Programs – Nancy Castillo reported all goals were accomplished with the limited funds available. 1,159 children attended one of the five programs offered. All are given pre and post testing which show positive results. One correction: the Forest program was listed with 30 but is now up to 39 kids. We will continue to seek funding to meet the two objectives in the new Strategic Plan. The goal is to increase math and reading by 20%.

Mrs. Zanetti asked whether there was much contact with families in the apartment complexes. Mrs. Castillo answered that SES required feedback, engaging families and increasing communication to start a child's program and monthly thereafter. Debbie Lloyd from Jotar has been very helpful with the complexes and home visits are done if parents are unable to come to us. With the summer program at least 1 contact with a parent was done.

Childhood Nutrition – Joanna Bennett reported that there has been a significant decrease in obesity (over 2%) which is counter to the national trend. Sheriff Dean stated as a community they are to be applauded for overcoming this obstacle. Pre and post tests are done and resulted in a 24% increase in comprehension of the 5-2-1-0 program. The kids are "getting it." The workgroup will continue to develop tools. Dunnellon Middle School produced a PSA. The Health Department did a wonderful job with screenings. 570 students were in the summer program with the 5-2-1-0 initiative. Depending on actual attendance at Kidfetti 10-15,000 children participated. The greatest challenge is "sweetened beverages." Health screenings will continue. The workgroup is working through a list of needs and partnering will be done with community childcare providers. Sheriff Dean stated he would like to see action steps for getting the media involved to keep the message alive and in front of people. Specifically formulate something with the Star Banner to engage on this health issue.

Myrna Watkiss said the message is also getting out in the school system with "Classroom Connection which was made possible due to the Alliance and PEP grant.

Autism & Other Disabilities Workgroup - Sylvia Miller and Howard Moon reported that the Pilot Kids program was very successful. A Parks & Recreation partnership resulted in "Sportsability which was a big effort on raising awareness. Agencies were also partnered with to increase sensitivity issues. Next year the workgroup will continue partnering and add a quarterly roundtable meeting; work on getting children ready for adulthood, internships and housing. A fall conference is being worked on with Rasmussen College. The group will also work on expanding family fairs with stakeholders, expanding Pilot Kids to include teens and adolescents and a continuation of services because problems don't go away in adulthood.

Safe Kids – Donna McCroan reported a Tuscowilla Park tournament was held and the duck got the first fish! The drowning prevention part of the swimming prevention campaign lost numbers and is no longer funded; this year numbers are down and an exact figure will be out shortly. Almost 600 bike helmets were given. Eight out of ten situations result in brain injury. In the fall a walk-to-school with middle schools outreach was held. Success By Six continues their partnership working on co-sleeping, SIDS and shaken baby. Scott Hackmyer asked if there was any way to get an actual cause of death on the 39 previous infant deaths. Donna stated that they were primarily due to medical issues and birth deformities.

Next year all activities will continue except bike helmets.

Sheriff Dean requested a one page summary highlighting accomplishments in one place be available. The number of tragic deaths with teen drivers continues to be an issue. The MCSO offers free a Teen Challenge program but more is needed.

Mentoring/Faith Community Network – Rev. Jim Bullock reported that he started a letter writing mentoring project with a kid who last year completed his GED. He has helped a woman mentor a baby and Mom whose house burned down. Mentoring is being done in lots of neighborhoods with neighbors. A brochure was produced and a billboard on Pine Ave. Big Brothers Big Sisters is no longer in Marion County due to funding. Mentoring needs have to be strengthened by getting more people involved. An agency or person to facilitate helping mentor elementary kids needs to be found. The SAFE program will continue until June 30th.

Rev. Bullock is trying to learn about all different kinds of ministries to help promote the Faith Community Network. He recently became aware of a mentor center in Hog Valley and Meadowbrook Church is mentoring children of divorce. Interfaith Food For Kids numbers went from 900 to 1,300. He is continuing to discover how folks are serving in different parts of the county. The next meeting will touch on Kinship Care. The Re-entry program through the Faith & Justice Coalition recently opened helping with life skills, mentoring clothes, jobs and food stamps. Rhoda Swonger asked if there was training for mentors. Jim replied that many of the groups have their own training. All require background screening too.

Grants Development – Gerry Brent announced that \$389,218 in grants is pending. An active grant alert database of 230 goes out. She would like a list of organizations and their needs. The Grant Writers Network meeting is held on the 4th Thursday of each month and has a speaker each time. Gerry will be having a meeting with KCI to find out how to strengthen an application. Next year's goal is to obtain \$500,000 in funding and more capacity building. A recent grant had 1,469 applications resulting in 11 awards. Targeting with research before RFP's go out will be worked on.

Dennis Baxley announced that he filed the paperwork to launch his campaign for the House of Representatives, District 24.

A motion to accept the Strategic Plan and Budget will be held at the May meeting due to a lack of a quorum.

Roundtable:

Steve Purves – is amazed at all that goes on in the community.

Scott Hackmyer – thanked all the workgroups and participants. “It makes such a difference.”

Judy Zanetti – The numbers on the graphs presented show the hard work is paying off in the lives of children and their families.

Dennis Baxley - Following the news that State Representative Kurt Kelly is seeking a Congressional seat, Dennis suggested Dr. Jordan contact him to see about any funds that can't be brought over to the federal race going towards the efforts of the Alliance.

Jim Bullock - The African Children's Choir will take place on 2/4/2010 at 6:30. Call him for more information. Help for Haiti can be done by texting “Haiti” 90999.

Bill D' Aiuto – A new call center opened putting 75 people to work and to address case loads of 150%. TANIF subsidies are available through Workforce Connection. It is a blessing to have all the community support in Marion County.

Maureen Quinlan – The United Way campaign will be closing soon and probably hit 90% which is very good with the present economy. Income tax assistance is again being offered. 211 formerly called First Call for Help is now up and running.

- * Russell Rasco – a 15 bed adolescent center opened on January 1st.
- * Julie Linhart – Girl Scout cookies are now being sold for \$3.50.
- * Adrian Fletcher – can be contacted at 732-1700 regarding a job fair at the CFCC Klein Center.
- * Ken Nelson – Interfaith worked with 6 churches and KCI over the winter break. Over 285 meals were supplied with 1,372 more until the end of the school year costing \$3,000-\$4,000.

Future Meetings:

Safe Kids Coalition	Friday, Jan. 8, 9:30 a.m., Health Dept.
Family Violence Prevention	Monday, Jan. 11, 11:00 a.m., Sheriff's Office
Autism & Other Disabilities	Tuesday, Jan. 12, 11:00 a.m., ARC
Faith Community Network	Wednesday Jan. 20, noon, Jail Admin. Bldg.
Childhood Nutrition	Thurs., Jan. 21, 9:00 p.m., Health Dept.
Grant Writers Network	Thursday, Jan. 28, 11:00 a.m., OPD
Alliance Monthly Meeting	Wednesday, Feb. 3, 11:30 a.m., Jail Adm. Bldg.
Mentoring Workgroup	Wednesday, Feb. 17, 11:30 a.m., Jail Adm. Conf. Rm.
Next Board Meeting	Wednesday, May 5, 2010, 11:30 a.m., Jail Adm. Bldg.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.