

## **Marion County Children's Alliance Monthly Meeting** **Wednesday, July 7, 2010**

### **Invocation:**

Given by Rev. Jim Bullock,

### **Introductions:**

Mr. Scott Hackmyer welcomed all.

### **Minutes:**

The April minutes were approved as written.

### **Coordinator's Report:**

Mike Jordan announced Early Learning Coalition of Marion County funded 10 summer sites for MCCA children. Currently 185 children are being served.

Teen Pregnancy Workgroup will be chaired by Scott Hackmyer from Devereux Kids and Evelyn James from Marion County Health Department.

### **Speaker:**

Mike Jordan welcomed Shelley Fraser Mickle. Mrs. Mickle, Gainesville author presented on, "The Importance of Literacy for At-Risk Children". Mrs. Mickle believes literacy is a vital key to unlocking any child's potential. As a result, Mrs. Mickle started the Wild Onion Press. Wild Onion publishes books featuring children with various physical differences. All of Mrs. Mickle's books donate a portion of the proceeds to a service or nonprofit organization that is a good fit for a particular story theme. For instance, her newest book "Jason and Elihu, A Fisherman's Story" benefits foster care children. All books have high frequency words and lesson plans. For more information on Mrs. Mickle and her books can be found at [www.wildonionpress.com](http://www.wildonionpress.com).

### **Roundtable:**

- Scott Hackmyer, reminded audience to see future Alliance meetings on the bottom of today's agenda. Scott announced Convoy of Hope Saturday, July 31 starting at 7:00 am will give away 100,000 pounds of food at the Livestock Pavilion. Scott also announced MCCA received a \$44,000 in-kind donation from an upscale consignment shop. Donation will provide clothing to Family Violence victims.
- Myrna Watkins announced Marion County Public Schools is writing for the Carol M. White PEP grant.
- Barbara Carbaugh, new Executive Director for Project Hope reported that 5 new family units will be opening near Vanguard High School.
- Karen Jensen from Marion County Public Library encouraged group to pick up a copy of Words magazine. Words list all the summer programs available at the 9 library locations.
- Roseann Fricks, announced Early Learning Coalition will be no longer be contracting with Childhood Developmental Services for Subsidized Childcare, VPK and provider and parent services. 369-2315.
- Howard Moon announced Ed Croskey pool is providing swimming classes for autistic children.
- Lola Gonzalez from Devereux Kids introduced herself as the new community facilitator for the Marion Oaks community.
- Rhoda Swonger announced the Guardian Ad Litem office is in need of more guardians. New GAL training for Marion County will start in August. For more information interested guardians should contact the GAL Office at 620-2525.
- Marsha Holloway from Habitat for Humanity announced for the next three Saturdays house blessings will occur at Phoenix Place behind Howard Middle School at 9:00 am.
- Debra Zirakian from Homeless Council (732-1369) announced one permanent housing facility should be opened in the fall.

- Rev. Bullock announced he needs mentors.
- Dennis Baxley announced that Hiers-Baxley Funeral Homes will be hosting monthly barbeque charity fundraisers. First charity barbeque will benefit Marion County Children’s Alliance. If any organizations are interested in being the charity they can contact Beverly Brown at 671-1926. In addition, he is running for the Florida House.
- Stacy Hoffman announced she provides Parent/Child Interaction therapy for children ages 2-7 in her private practice.
- Monica Bryant announced Back-To-School Bash Saturday, August 14, from 10 am – 2pm. Vendor tables are still available and sponsorships are still needed. \$10 would sponsor a back pack with school supplies. MCCA newsletter deadline is Friday, July 9.
- Gerry Brent, Workforce Connection grant provided training and employment for green jobs. For more information contact Patricia Sokol at 849-5700 x5550 for upcoming training sessions. Grant Advisory Workgroup location has changed to United Way for Thursday, July 22 meeting at 11:00 am.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Future Alliance Meetings

Safe Kids Coalition	Friday, July 9 – 9:00 a.m., Health Dept. Coleman Ctr. Conf. Rm.
Family Violence Prevention	Monday July 12 – 11:00 a.m., Sheriff’s Office
Marion County Disability Alliance	Tuesday, July 13 – noon, ARC Marion
Faith Community Network	Wednesday, July 14 – noon, OPD
Mentoring Workgroup	Wednesday, July 21 – 11:30, Jail Admin. Conf. Room
Grant Advisory Workgroup	Thursday, July 22 – 11:00 a.m., United Way
Tobacco Coalition	None in July
Childhood Nutrition	Thursday, July 26 – 9:00 a.m., Health Dept. Coleman Ctr.
Alliance Monthly Meeting	Wednesday, August 4 – 11:30 a.m., Jail Adm. Bldg.
Board of Directors	Wednesday, September 1 – 11:30 a.m., Jail Adm. Bldg.