

Marion County Children's Alliance
Board of Directors
May 5, 2010
11:30 a.m.

Board Members present: Dennis Baxley, Lori Boring, Jim Bullock, Bill D'Aiuto, Ed Dean, Scott Hackmyer, Maureen Quinlan, Mary Sue Rich, S. Sue Robbins, Jeff Shealy and Jim Yancey

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Ed Dean. Invocation by Rev. Jim Bullock. The Sheriff extended sympathies to Gary and Becky Linn for the recent loss of their daughter-in-law.

A plaque was presented to Jeff Shealy for his 35-1/2 years of service to the community.

Approval of September 2009 and January 2010 Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the September 2009 Board of Directors meeting was made, seconded and passed unanimously. Motion to approve the minutes of the January 2010 Board of Directors meeting was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Alliance Monthly Meeting Chairman: Scott Hackmyer thanked all the participants, workgroups and leaders for their efforts and let everyone know that even though it is May, Back-To-School plans are now in the planning stage.

Coordinators Report: Dr. Jordan welcomed Lori Boring, Senior Vice President of Wachovia Bank as the newest member of the Children's Alliance Board of Directors.

He distributed to the Board the Alliance's redesigned brochure. The last one was done five years ago. It's a nice update: friendly, open, colorful and slightly larger.

The Summer Activity Guide (SAG) is on track for the 10th annual distribution. It's a long standing activity able to be accomplished with Family Times. Printing should be done by next week.

In partnership with the Early Learning Coalition, this year's annual "Children First" breakfast will be held on Wednesday, October 27th at the Hilton Hotel. Dr. Wil Blechman is coming back as the Keynote Speaker. He has fashioned a new program since last year's visit-not waiting for preK to start a child's education.

Dr. Jordan stated that the Board of Directors had directed him to do a community survey. Toni James is helping put together two surveys-one for child care providers and one for community leaders.

The Autism Workgroup has changed their name to Marion County Disability Alliance. They have hooked up with ARC and are now an organization for kids beyond 18 years of age.

Revenues for the first four months of this year are over \$600,000. The Alliance is monitoring a project for Kids Central in Circuit 5 including all five counties and is the fiscal agent as well.

Sustainability is an ongoing issue. Two grants are ending after three years – PEP at the end of May and DJJ at the end of December. Other sources of funding need to be found.

Motion to approve the 2010 Office Budget was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the 2010 Strategic Plan was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Organization Reports:

Kids Central – C. Schuler thanked everyone for the great support received by Kids Central. There were 76 RFPs received for summer programs this year.

Kids Central is currently doing a needs assessment over five counties.

Bullying Prevention – Dan Geer was thanked for being a visionary on bullying prevention. He gave the final committee report on bullying. It is in the Marion County Public School's code of conduct book. House Bill 669 states that every school must have a plan on bullying. All schools in Marion County are being pro-active.

Workgroups & Staff Reports:

Family Violence Prevention Workgroup – Monica Bryant reported she is on 10 boards, did 3 trainings, 13 presentations, 5 community outreaches and has upcoming events throughout the remaining year.

Howard Moon stated it was great bringing the business community to our events this year.

Afterschool and Summer Programs – Mike Jordan reported for Nancy Castillo who is working on RFPs with Kids Central.

DJJ federal monitors visited the Alliance about a month ago and although there was no letter received, the impression was that they were happy.

There were 91 participants for Supplemental Educational Services (SES) this past school year.

The Alliance was awarded \$46,800 by the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County to provide phonemic awareness for our Summer Academy at 9 sites.

United Way awarded MCCA \$44,517 to continue services in the Forest for 2010-2011.

Childhood Nutrition – Mike reported for Nancy Castillo.

This has been supported by the PEP grant which ends this month. Nine sites and 4,000 kids have been interacted with since January.

A Public Service Announcement (PSA) contest was held with 46 schools and the three winners each received \$150 (each school) for a 30 second long PSA. There was one winner at the elementary (Harbour View), middle (Dunnellon) and high school (Lake Weir) levels.

Grants Development – Gerry Brent announced that 12 grants have been applied for since the first of this year for a total of \$390,616. Eight have been approved for a total of \$217,616.

A grant writer's network meeting is held each month and has opened the door to collaboration with 35-40 participants. The Children's Alliance is now looked at as a resource. 166 people are on the Grant Alert database. A Facebook page has been set up and transfers to Twitter which is a new way to attract the younger generation.

Autism & Other Disabilities Workgroup - Sylvia Miller and Howard Moon reported that they were able to be at three places at one time.

A fall mini-conference is being planned using more of a parent approach in addition to ongoing training throughout the county.

Joy Williams is working on developing a church ministry for children with autism and a drown proofing program with Safe Kids.

There were 52 agencies that showed up for the first meeting.

- 501 status has been applied for.
- Work is being done on a website with Howard's son.
- A post office box has been obtained and public relations is the next effort.
- A partnership with Parks & Recreation has been established.

Pilot Kids summer program will run June 21 to July 22, 30 kids with 1:1 staffing.

Sylvia asked the Board to reach out to their contacts in Alachua County as there is no Autism Workgroup at the Alachua Alliance.

Safe Kids – Donna McCroan reported focus on Bike Moments, Car Seat Safety (once a month). A new swim program with Joy Williams was sparked by an 11 year old autistic child who drowned.

The Cribs program (SIDS) is going well and a October Walk to School event is being planned.

Mentoring/Faith Community Network (FCN) – Rev. Jim Bullock reported they are gathering information on “all groups” that do mentoring and how many kids each group has and how churches and the Faith Community can be of help.

Billboards helped with public relations.

A group is being explored to help fill the gap Big Brothers/Big Sisters left in Marion County.

The last Faith Community meeting discussed Kincare. The next FCN meeting will be May 12 to learn about “Heart of Florida.” The next Mentoring meeting will be July 21 and will focus on needs in the community.

Rashad Jones, Marion County Health Department stated that the Florida Department of Health recognizes May 5 as “National Day of Preventing Teen Pregnancy and Unplanned Pregnancy.”

An interactive Board exercise was held after which Sheriff Dean asked that a new workgroup (Preventing Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy) be established with Rashad Jones chairing and working closely with Scott Hackmyer. The Sheriff said he would volunteer someone from the Marion County Sheriff's Office to attend and hoped everyone would start putting the word out.

BRAZEN (Be Bold, Be Strong, Be You) is hosting 2010 Summer Events called “Looks Can Be Deceiving!”

Roundtable:

Dennis Baxley – stated he was in favor of the new workgroup.

Maureen Quinlan – chaired allocation process with Jeff Shealy. Requests far exceeded dollars available. Devereux Kids is a new partner. All four grantees for WOW are addressing homelessness. The Prosperity (tax) program closed 4/15. 1,000 families were assisted for free. 847 applications were e-filed and 1.2 million in refunds was brought into Marion County that may not have been without this effort. \$192,000 in filing fees was saved and \$500,000 in earned income was claimed. Remember the mail carriers are doing a food drive this coming Saturday. Mary Sue Rich and Dan Kuhn are the new campaign co-chairs.

Scott Hackmyer – Reminder that the Children’s Alliance Board of Directors now only meets three times per year and needs to be an affirmation and business meeting. The Prevention vision in Marion County does make a difference! Devereux Kids program is being replicated next week in Marion Oaks with Lola Gonzalez working on strengthening families and keeping kids safe.

Lori Boring – extended an invitation thru the Wells Fargo Community Foundation to reach out and help in the community. There is a new process. Anyone interested can contact her at 620-7194.

- * Howard Moon thanked Cyndi Schuler for the successful Kids Central open house.
- * Sylvia Miller – Save the Date, Saturday, October 2, 2nd Annual Turquoise Ball, Hilton Hotel.
- * Jennifer Anchors - Duck Derby, Saturday, May 22 at Tusawilla Park, Ocala from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call Children's Home Society 352-334-0955 x307.
- * Tracey Sapp, Tobacco Prevention (SWAT) - car wash, Saturday, May 8 on 200 next to Krystals.
- * Rose Derkay, Family Times – the Summer Activity Guide (SAG) is coming out next week; 48 glossy pages this year.
- * Evelyn James, Health Dept. – Immunization Fair, Saturday, May 22 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.. Call 352-629-0137 for more information.
- * Karen Jensen & Nancy Young, Marion County Public Library – summer reading programs June 13 to July 31 at all nine branch libraries. “Born to Read” bags given to every newborn in Marion County.
- * Pastor Luis Dejesus, El Fargo Assembly of God Church – Sunday, May 23 10-3 p.m. outreach at Village Green. Bookbag give away will be held in August. Convention Center in Belleview available for use by the community. Call 352-615-2366.
- * Minister Calvin Brown, Pentecostal Full Gospel Worship Center – Friday/Saturday, UpAllNight camp from 6 p.m. Friday, May 14 to 9 a.m. Saturday, May 15. Call 352-622-8960.
- * Marsha Holloway, Habitat for Humanity – Informational meeting, Tuesday, May 18 6 p.m. at Holiday Inn Express on Pine Ave. Call 352-351-4663.
- * Rhoda Swonger, Guardian Ad Litem was successful in not losing funding. Volunteers are needed to be trained. The next class starts in August. The FL Advocacy Council is doing mandated oversight (taking complaints) of group homes and hospitals.

Future Meetings:

Family Violence Prevention Workgroup	Monday, May 10, 11 a.m., Sheriff’s Office
Marion County Disability Alliance	Tuesday, May 11, noon, ARC
Faith Community Network	Wednesday, May 12, noon, OPD
Safe Kids Coalition	Friday, May 14, 9 a.m., Health Dept.
Tobacco Coalition	Thursday, May 20, 4 p.m., Health Dept.
Childhood Nutrition	Monday, May 24, 9 a.m., Health Dept.
Grant Writer’s Network	Thursday, May 27, 11 a.m., OPD
	NO JUNE ALLIANCE MEETING
Mentoring Coalition	Wednesday, July 21, 11:30 Jail Admin. bldg.

The meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.