

**Marion County Children's Alliance**  
**Board of Directors**  
**September 2, 2009**  
**11:30 a.m.**

**Board Members present:** Jim Bullock, Bill D' Aiuto, Ed Dean, Scott Hackmyer, Maureen Quinlan, Mary Sue Rich, Jeff Shealy, Sam Williams, Jim Yancey and Judi Zanetti

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

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

**2008 Audit Report:** Patsy Lancaster from Duggan, Joiner & Company thanked Dr. Jordan and his staff for their cooperation. In all material respects, the financial position of Marion County Children's Alliance, Inc. as of December 31, 2008, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended were in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the U.S. Ms. Lancaster introduced Julie Poole, Lead Auditor. Ms. Lancaster stated that there are new auditor standards and that the Alliance received a clean opinion. Sheriff Dean called for comments or questions and asked if there were any changes needed in doing business? There were none and Mrs. Poole stated, "No."

**Alliance Monthly Meeting Chairman:** Scott Hackmyer stated that 80-100 people continue to participate in the monthly meetings and two excellent presentations were recently made by Connie King, EYA Mentoring and Tracey Sapp, Tobacco Prevention Specialist, Marion County Health Department. Scott said that the "Break the Silence on Family Violence, Let's Talk About It" website is now up and running. The Back-To-School events held in August were a great success! It is a possibility that Gerry Brent may write a grant on Racial Harmony. DCF Secretary Sheldon attends many meetings around the state and ranked the Marion County Children's Alliance in the top two or three within the state. Mr. Hackmyer shared that "The Alliance is you!" and this is recognized at the state level.

**Coordinators Report:** Dr. Jordan said that the Summer Enrichment Programs were a success thanks to the help from KCI. 800 children at 16 sites were served during the summer months.

The main Back-To-School event, along with four other sites, was impacted positively.

The Health Department is working on educating everyone on the H1N1 Swine Flu.

The Quarterly Financial statement shows that \$568,000 passed through the Alliance during the first 8 months of this year. Mike cautioned the Board that while we are okay for salaries this school year the Alliance has 2 grants that will be ending soon.

The Board was asked to vote on an addition to the Bylaws – Distribution of Assets. After the reading it was asked if it was fully understood, a motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

The monthly meeting in October will not be a formal meeting but hosting of a provider fair. This will be a great opportunity to network, meet other providers and share what your organization is doing. Remember this is the main reason the Alliance was started. If you would like to sign up for a table, please see Gail after the meeting.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's First Breakfast will be held on Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. There will be a change of venue to the Holiday Inn near Sam's Club. The Keynote speaker will be Dr. Wil Blechman. A copy of his bio is in the Board packet. His topic is: "Investing in Children is Investing in Economic Success."

The Alliance is coming up on the 4<sup>th</sup> year of funding for the Children's Medical & Dental fund. This fund supplied \$777.45 in medical assistance for the 2008-2009 school year. It gives school nurses another option to get needed medication and equipment to a needy segment of our population.

An Alliance Retreat was held with the Board of Director and Margaret Spontak in May. It was an opportunity for improvement and to hash out a new Mission statement, Vision statement and proposed Goals so that they are all in alignment.

The Vision statement is as follows:

*"All of Marion County's children have a safe, healthy and nurturing environment in which to grow."*

The Mission statement is as follows:

*"The Marion County Children's Alliance identifies needs, gathers resources and coordinates efforts among children's organizations, parents and caregivers to ensure a safe, healthy and nurturing environment for the children of Marion County."*

The next meeting will follow with objectives and action plans. Sheriff Dean asked the Board for discussion.

Scott Hackmyer – measurable goals and a path to follow and he fully supports it.

Bill D'Aiuto – defines who we are and where we are going.

A motion was made for approval of the Mission & Vision statements and proposed Goals. It was seconded and approved unanimously. Sheriff Dean stated they could not be posted on the wall.

Dr. Jordan told the audience that the Alliance had statements but these would be more appropriate as we go along and help with drafting objectives and dealing with goals. Sheriff Dean asked Mike to narrow down some dates and a timetable to proceed within the next 30 days. Members of the organizations will be invited to attend. It should be accomplished in a 4 hours session.

### **Organization Reports:**

Kids Central – Dr. Jordan stated that case numbers have gone from 4,000 down to 1,800 in the 5 county area. Bill D'Aiuto stated that the contract managers are leading performance to improve services and keep families together.

Family Violence Prevention Workgroup – Monica Bryant reported they are working on a "Know the Law" book for Marion County. The Domestic Violence Prevention website is up: [www.breakthesilenceonviolence.org](http://www.breakthesilenceonviolence.org). It has a blog for giving input and feedback on the site. She thanked Kids Central for the grant funding for this website and Michael Castillo for designing the site and promo material and donating some of his services. October is Domestic Violence Prevention month and a flyer with some of the events was distributed.

Childhood Nutrition – Nancy Castillo reported that the workgroup has taken a break, but will reconvene on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. at the Health Department.

Autism & Other Disabilities Workgroup - Sylvia Miller reported that they had the most amazing summer with 44 autistic and other disabled children being able to participate in camp. Some with the help of Parks & Recreation staff were able to switch over to the regular camp. It went for 10 weeks and had many hard working, dedicated volunteers. Their plans are to continue programs reaching out to teenagers in Marion County with afterschool programs.

Howard Moon reminded everyone that October is also Disability Awareness month and they are partnering with Parks & Recreation again. **Ocala Recreation & Parks** in conjunction with Florida Disabled Outdoors Association is sponsoring 2 all-day SportsAbility premier events: Friday, October 2, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Ed Croskey Center, Hampton Aquatic Center, MLK Recreation Complex, 1510 NW 4th St., Ocala AND Saturday, October 3, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Carney Island Recreation & Conservation Area, 13275 SE 115th Ave., Ocklawaha, FL. Call 850-201-2944 for information, sponsorship opportunities or to reserve a booth. Pyramid Players will again be attending. Thank you to KCI and Parks & Recreation (especially Diane & Ire) for their partnering and support. Reminder that the workgroup now meets at 1028 E. Silver Springs Boulevard but still the New England Financial building.

Safe Kids – Donna McCroan reported that they are very active promoting swimming and drowning prevention, bike and helmet safety and brain injury prevention. Their next meeting is September 9 at 9:30 a.m. at the Health Department. Numbers are down for drowning of infants. Last year there were 3, but 3 is still too many. SIDS is now the leading cause of death for ages 0-1.

Scott Hackmyer stated that the Kiwanis has offered scholarship for the \$15 fee needed to attend the OPD carseat safety course if anyone can't afford it. Call 369-7000.

Mentoring/Faith Community Network – Rev. Jim Bullock reported that his mentee, Patrick recently passed his GED. Mentoring gives a boost at any age. They now have ads on billboards and buses. Please consider being a support person for someone even if it is for grandparents needing a little help raising a child.

Fatherhood Initiative – Kelvin Richardson reported that they had a busy summer with graduates and encouraging them to get back involved with their kids. Connie King presented a great program. Mr. Richardson said it is a good collaborating effort and he is glad to be a part of it.

H1N1 Swine Flu virus update given by Micki Middleton, MCHD. They are working on a mass vaccination campaign. It is completely on a volunteer basis and is free. It still has not been decided how many doses will be sufficient for prevention. They expect to get 3 shipments with the first around the middle of September. Different private sectors, church and civic groups can place orders. Please contact Micki (629-0137) if you can donate space for distribution for people not part of any organization. Testing is no longer done, only treatment. It is felt it would be a waste of taxpayer dollars because people don't normally get the flu during the summer months. Nate Grossman has been very involved with this since 2006. All hands will be on deck at the health department for presentations and education. Contact Liz Crews 629-0137 x2261. Brochures are on the table if anyone wants to be a volunteer or to offer a facility.

A parent suggested considering that an alternative entrance is needed at the Health Department to lessen exposure from ill patients.

## **Roundtable:**

Judi Zanetti – Tools 4 Teaching offers free supplies to teachers for their classrooms. It began last March and is continuing. They will now be open routinely on Tu and Th. Mrs. Zanetti will bring brochures to the January meeting.

Jim Yancey – School opening was successful! Slightly less students than projected. It is expected to level at around 42,000 in November. If a child has a fever, they will be considered to have the flu and will be sent home until the fever is broken and not masked by medication. The school homeless office has two portables full of supplies and clothing. \$1,000 each of donated money has been given to each school for immediate necessary needs. The first point of contact should be the guidance counselor.

Scott Hackmyer – The Grant Advisory Workgroup has had some wonderful guest speakers. You can find out how to get a letter of support and what it should say.

Jim Bullock - The Mentoring Workgroup is looking at apprentice mentoring to promote skills for 18-25 year olds.

Bill D’Aiuto – Secretary Sheldon at the last Board meeting compared Marion County’s Alliance to Miami which was a great testament. He was very impressed.

Mr. D’Aiuto introduced Judy Johnston and publically recognized other staff.

Drug Abuse is still out there and food stamp applications are up 134%.

Maureen Quinlan – This is United Way campaign time. 46 partners have been funded since July. Prosperity campaigns to give away resources include: Workshops, Family Wise prescription card, Tax preparation and Earned Income Tax Credit education.

Mrs. Quinlan thanked Gerry Brent for her help on the IRS grant which is to obtain a mobile site for Marion County. They should hear in October.

10,000 Care Guides were printed and 300 are left. Half went to schools. Three schools were identified where every child received one. Another printing is being worked on.

Mary Sue Rich – One Ocala One America prayer breakfast will be held on October 6<sup>th</sup>. The 7<sup>th</sup> Kids social will be held at the Croskey Center on Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>, call 401-3920. TBA West Port High musical. Cultural Festival, Downtown Square on October 10<sup>th</sup> from 1-8 p.m. The City of Ocala also has 20% off drug prescription cards to give out to residents.

Kim Sandstrom, Arnette House - A public unveiling was held yesterday for the kids group homes. Rock on the Square will be October 3 from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Howlin’ Halloween will be held October 4<sup>th</sup>. Simon malls across the United States are considering being Safe Places for kids!

Marion County Literacy Council will hold the Altrusa International Read In at elementary schools.

The Centers – consider being a mentor with Take Stock with Children. It is a wonderful experience.

Mental Wellness Coalition will hold a Healing Heart Art event in October.

Red Ribbon Week coming up. A full schedule of events will be forthcoming.

Joanne Robinson is the new Coordinator for Take Stock in Children. 24 new students starting in September. Still need mentors at Vanguard, Forest and North Marion High.

Brandi Nettles, KCI – a support group for adoption meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Haley Creasey, The Vines - The Jason Foundation opening of a new affiliate office will be September 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. at the Hilton, 3600 SW 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ocala. Guest Speaker: Clark Flatt, President/CEO.

Lorelei Loudis – New website address: [www.youthreachflorida.com](http://www.youthreachflorida.com) and e-mail: [loreleiloudis@youthreachflorida.com](mailto:loreleiloudis@youthreachflorida.com)

Lorri Silvera, PACE is an alternative school for girls 12-17 years of age and they are accepting applications by referral.

Sylvia Miller – Parents Helping Parents is having a charity ball on October 3 at 7 p.m. Call 624-1360 for more information.

Ken Nelson, Interfaith funding is down and needs are up.

Ed Dean, Sheriff – The wisest words are found in Scripture: “Let us not become weary in doing good for at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

#### **Future Meetings:**

Autism & Other Disabilities	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, Sept. 8, 11:00 a.m., 1028 E. SS Blvd.
Safe Kids Coalition	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, Sept. 9, 9:30 a.m., Health Dept.
Faith Community Network	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday Sept. 9, noon, OPD
Family Violence Prevention	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday, Sept. 14, 11:00 a.m., Sheriff’s Office
Mentoring Workgroup	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, Sept. 16, 11:30 a.m., Jail Adm. Conf. Rm.
Childhood Nutrition	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs., Sept. 17, 9:00 p.m., Health Dept.
Grant Writers Network	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday, Sept. 24, 11:00 a.m., OPD
9 <sup>th</sup> Annual “ <b>Children First Breakfast</b> ”	Tuesday, November 17, 2009
Alliance Monthly Meeting- <b>PROVIDER FAIR</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday, Oct. 7, 11:30 a.m., Jail Adm. Bldg.
<b>Next</b> Board Meeting	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2010, 11:30 a.m., Jail Adm. Bldg.

The meeting adjourned at 1:17 p.m.