



Palm Beach County Coalition for Children, Inc.

Annual Report June 2007-June 2008

President: Eva Nowakowski

Vice Presidents: Jennifer Melvin, Jennifer Schneider

Secretary: Andrea Raasch

Treasurer: Jack Holcomb

General Board Members: Christine Koehn, Melissa Jenkins, Mike Van Wagoner, Tamika Williams

- Our greatest accomplishment this year was our joining with Child Advocacy Board.
- Created a new membership packet and obtained promotional materials (i.e. lapel pins, travel mugs, balloons & napkins)
- We moved a bulk of our monies to CD's to ensure we would gain interest on the balance.
- Created a paypal account so that members could pay for membership, conference, awards luncheon by credit card
- Initiated agency time so that all members could share a little about what's happening at their agency
- Invited all past presidents to the awards luncheon and recognized them for their commitment to children's issues
- The three committee structures were busy developing and carrying out their own action plans for the year. The highlights included:
 - Speed Networking with 20 agencies
 - Advocacy training
 - Adopting the Children's Place as a foster care project
 - 20th Turn Around Kids awards luncheon

Education & Training Committee

Chair: Jennifer Melvin

Education and Training Committee Goal: To plan and implement ongoing educational or training programs.

Task I: Development of an annual education training plan

Task II: Investigate PBCCC options for becoming a CEU broker

Task III: Designate a member to attend CSC training advisory committee

Task IV: Report monthly updates regarding training opportunities

Task V: Plan and deliver bi-annual conference

Task I: Development of an annual education training plan

- Utilized membership feedback to determine presenters and systems trainings.
- Committee continued to coordinate agency presentations and system trainings.

- Calendar continued to be utilized for scheduling 3 months at a time.
- Definition of training was developed to more clearly be defined as “system training” with clear goals of *providing an overview of a system in PBCounty and *to assist members with utilizing system to benefit children of PBCounty.
- Training presentation request form was modified.
- Thank you’s were mailed by Committee Chair
- 5 agency presentations & 5 system trainings were scheduled. Outcome- 4 agency presentations & 2 system trainings completed.
- Created “Speed Networking” event –held Sept. 07
- Began development of plan for 08 Speed Networking

Task II: Investigate PBCCC options for becoming a CEU broker- N/A (determined in 06)

Task III: Designate a member to attend CSC training advisory committee

- Andrea attended meetings and gave feedback
- John Garbarino attended meetings and gave feedback

Task IV: Report monthly updates regarding training opportunities

- The spreadsheet of resources “Community Training and Workshop Guide” was continued to be utilized
- 20 entries were placed on the Community Training and Workshop Guide
- Andrea Raasch was designated as point person to acquire new resources and then forwarded to website.
- Specific trainings of possible interest were also forwarded to Andrea Raasch by members and then forwarded to secretary and to all members.
- During committee reports during PBCCC meeting, these specific upcoming trainings were announced as a reminder.
- **there was continual effort on the committee’s part to increase interest and usage of the guide, however very little involvement from the members occurred.

Task V: Plan and deliver bi-annual conference

- Brainstorming regarding the conference took place

Child Advocacy Committee

Chair: Jennifer Schneider

Child Advocacy Committee Goal: To educate coalition members about local, state and federal policy initiatives affecting families

The Advocacy committee began the year with three identified tasks:

Task I: Bring the issues of children in foster care, particularly teens in group homes, to the attention of the public

Task II: Begin the production of a series of teen discussion videos with an expert panel

Task III: Begin preparations for the September '08 Children’s Candidate Forum

- The committee primarily focused on Task I during the 07-08 year. Our advocacy efforts over the past year resulted in a new mentoring program for teens in licensed foster care and the initiation of a marketing campaign to link sponsors to teens in foster care group homes to support their participation in “normal” teen activities such as prom and school sports.
- The Coalition endorsed the Walk-A-Mile project in May 2008.
- The committee began the planning for the September 2008 Children’s Candidate Forum.

Membership Outreach Committee

Chair: Melissa Jenkins

Membership Outreach Committee Goal: To sustain the coalition by continuously reexamining membership, structure, activities and marketing.

Despite some exciting things being achieved on this committee, participation has been decreasing and makes it challenging to reach goals.

- This committee assisted with getting agency presentations on the website
- This committee acquired promotional items for all events such as “Speed Networking” and The Turn Around Kids Luncheon”
- This committee explored and came up with questions for family focus groups; however, this idea was tabled for a later time
- This committee was involved with ensuring updates on the coalition’s newsletter were in place; however, the newsletter has been dismantled.
- This committee disseminated Turn Around Kids Luncheon information through email, mailings, and networking contacts
- Focused on ways to sustain, increase, and diversify membership
- This committee facilitates ice breakers at the start of the meetings to energize and motivate current membership
- The Board voted to revise the committee name to “Membership Outreach” in hopes to draft more members and more accurately reflect its goals.

Secretary Report

Andrea Raasch

- Andrea Raasch was elected as Secretary for term July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2009.
- In the fiscal year, the following achievements were made.
 - All minutes are now posted on the PBCCC website within 7 days after meetings and available for member review. Corrections are emailed to Andrea in advance of the next month’s meeting so that there can be an automatic approval of minutes, saving meeting time.
 - A binder with all general and Board meeting agendas, sign-in sheets, minutes, presentation and/or handout materials has been maintained in the FY 07-08 binder.
 - Membership for the year:

- Individual: 17
- Agency: 36