



Palm Beach County Coalition for Children

Year in Review &
Activity Planning 2008-2009



PBCCC

Board of Directors

President:

Jennifer Schneider

Vice President:

Jennifer Melvin

Secretary:

Andrea Raasch

Treasurer:

Angela Harper

General Board Members:

Maggie Bagley

Samantha Corrington

Ruth Walerstein

Cassandra Wilbanks

President Emeritus:

Eva Nowakowski



PBCCC Mission

- The mission of the Palm Beach County Coalition for Children is to enhance the quality of life and safety for children and families in Palm Beach County through education, advocacy, and collaboration.
 - Membership for the 2007-2008 year:
 - Individual: 17
 - Agency: 36



PBCCC

Annual Report 2007-2008

- 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 Committee

- Chair: Jennifer Melvin
- Goal: To plan and implement ongoing educational or training programs.
- Developed an annual education training plan to include monthly agency presentations & quarterly system presentations
- Reported monthly updates regarding training opportunities
- Planned and delivered Speed Networking event



Advocacy Committee

- Chair: Jennifer Schneider
- Goal: To educate coalition members about local, state and federal policy initiatives affecting families.
- 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.



Marketing Committee

- Chair: Melissa Jenkins
- Goal: To sustain the coalition by continuously reexamining membership, structure, activities and marketing.
- Bought promotional materials
- 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.



2008-2009 Activity Planning

- During the August meeting, members shared what activities they would like to participate in during the 2008-2009 year. The activities are listed under the 3 areas of focus for the Coalition: Education, Advocacy, & Collaboration.

EDUCATION

- Conference: 11 interested members
- CEU Series/Lunch & Learn: 7 interested members
- Quarterly Systems Training: 4 interested members
- Monthly Agency Presentation: 3 interested members
- Articles (DJJ board newsletter): 2 interested members



2008-2009 Activity Planning

ADVOCACY

- Foster Care Mentoring/Sponsorships: 12 interested members
- Angel Tree Project: 11 interested members
- Candidate Forum
- Speaker's Bureau

COLLABORATION

- Social Networking: 14 interested members
- WebPage: 4 interested members
- Parent Outreach: 2 interested members



2008-2009 Activity Planning

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Youth Scholarships: 7 interested members
- New Leader Reception: 7 interested members
- Turn Around Kids Lunch: 6 interested members
- One Child at a Time Lunch: 3 interested members
- Presidents Award, community recog.: 4 interested members



2008-2009 Action Plan

- **The plan is to create task groups to support the activities identified by members at the activity planning session. The membership expressed the most interest in the following tasks and we will begin the year with task groups to support these activities.**
- **Candidate Forum**
- **Foster Care Mentoring/Sponsorship**
- **Networking**
- **Angel Tree**
- **Education and Training**

Candidate Forum



Candidate Forum



Candidate Forum





Candidate Forum

Youth from Palm Beach County will ask questions representing issues they face in our community today such as Education, Homelessness, Teen Pregnancy, Substance Abuse and others.

Candidate RSVP's as of 8/14/08: Joseph Abruzzo, Dave Aronberg, Linda Bird, Mary Brandenburg, Carl Domino, Maria Sachs



Candidate Forum

Thursday September 25, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.

Wattenberger Conference Center on the Lake
Worth campus of Palm Beach Community
College

Moderator: AnEta Sewell of the South Florida
Water Management District



Candidate Forum

Sponsored by:

- Palm Beach County Coalition for Children
- Palm Beach Community College
- League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County
- American Association of University Women, Northern Palm Beach County
- Hispanic Human Resources Council
- Child and Family Connections
- Kids in Distress
- Palm Beach County Youth Affairs Division
- Communities In Schools of Palm Beach County
- Planned Parenthood of Greater Miami, Palm Beach & Treasure Coast
- Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County
- Caregiving Youth Project of Volunteers for the Homebound and Family Caregivers
- AEYC of the Palm Beaches
- National Council of Jewish Women, Palm Beach Section
- Governor's Council for Community Health Partnerships
- Barry University –School of Social Work
- Children's Home Society of Florida
- Boys Town South Florida



Foster Care Mentoring Sponsorship Task Group

As a result of issues raised by foster children at the 2006 Candidate Forum, the Child Advocacy Board and the Palm Beach County Coalition for Children "adopted" a foster group home.

We pulled together our networks and brought together as many support services and activities as possible into the home.



Foster Care Mentoring Sponsorship Task Group

Some of our activities included:

- a mentor for each foster youth
- birthday parties for each child
- outings, including bowling and picnics
- an increase in the clothing allowance
- "angel tree" with gifts for the holidays



Foster Care Mentoring Sponsorship Task Group

Over the past two years, we have learned from these youths' first hand experiences with the foster care system. They revealed to us that some activities and items (“extras”) are not covered by the State.

The Coalition's goal this year is to educate the community on the needs of foster care youth and provide organizations, companies, and individuals an opportunity to help by sponsoring one or more of these “extras.”



Foster Care Mentoring Sponsorship Task Group

- Some of the "extras" are:
 - \$ 25 - year book, middle school
 - \$ 75 - year book, high school
 - \$ 45 - prom ticket
 - \$150 - tux with deposit
 - \$45-\$80 - most school trips
 - \$50 - physical exam to play sports
 - \$200 - school band fees (uniform rental, transportation, etc.)
 - \$100 - track and football uniform fees and cost of shoe

Networking Task Group Speed Networking



Networking Task Group Speed Networking



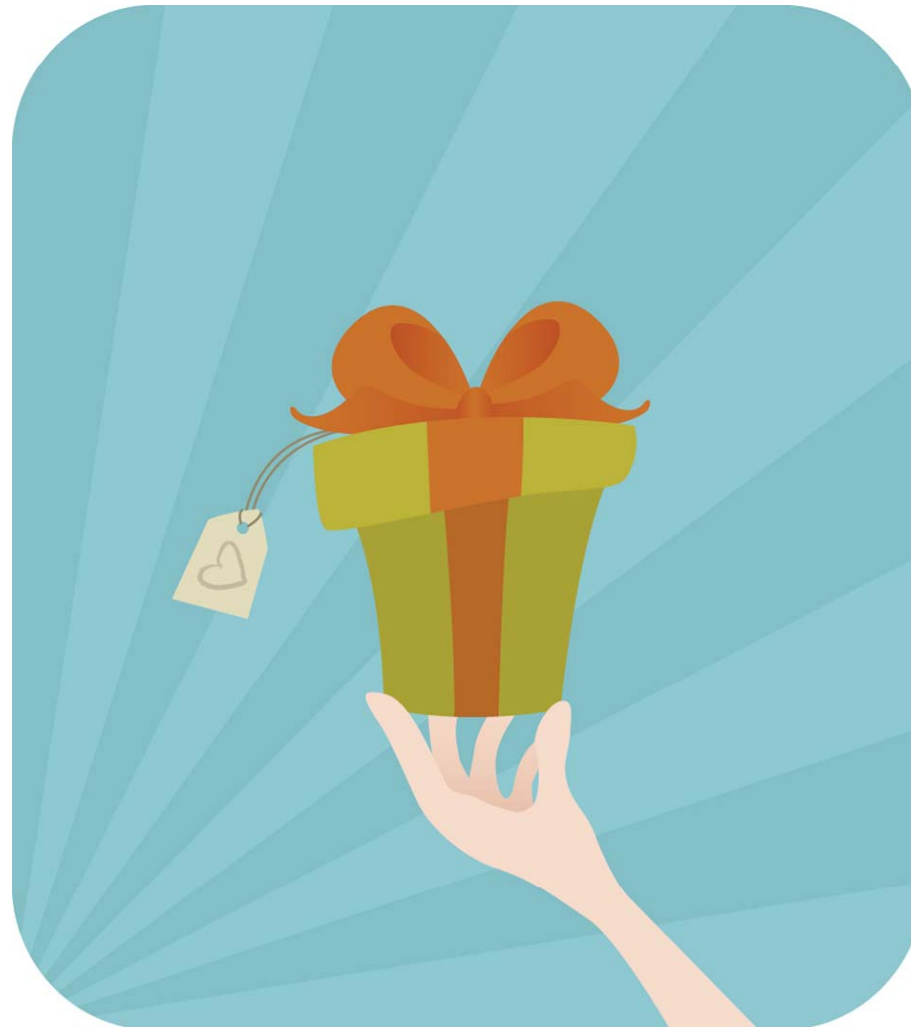


Networking Task Group Speed Networking

Using the concept of speed dating's seating and time arrangement, we've created speed networking- a fun and exciting way to get to know your community!

Last year, we had more than 20 agencies participate and all felt it was a huge success.

Angel Tree Task Group





Education and Training Task Group





Education and Training Task Group

To achieve our mission of education, the Coalition offers the community trainings that provide its participants with practical, skill building, and interactive opportunities to enhance their work with children and families.

Kids, Kids, Kids

Joining Hands

Quarterly Systems Trainings

Monthly Agency Presentations

Lunch and Learn

CEU series





How to get involved

Join a task group or create your own!

In addition to the task groups already identified, task groups can be created around the following activities:

- **A Speaker's Bureau**
- **The WebPage**
- **Parent Outreach**
- **Youth Scholarships**
- **New Leader Reception**
- **Turn Around Kids Luncheon**
- **One Child at a Time Lunch**
- **Articles for the DJJ board newsletter**
- **President's Award, community recognitions**