



Palm Beach County Coalition for Children

April 16, 2008

MINUTES

Introductions/Attendance:

- 22 total in attendance
- **MEMBERS:** Eva Nowakowski (Barry University); Andrea Raasch (Camelot); Jennifer Schneider (Children's Home Society); Jack Holcomb (Child Advocacy Board), Seth Bernstein, John Garbarino, and Nikole Bailey (Health Care District); Melissa Jenkins (Families First); Samantha Corrington (United Way); Margaret Bagley (Communities in Schools); Mike Van Wagoner (Kids in Distress); Sharon Tarlow (Columbia Hospital); Toby Chabon Berger (National Council of Jewish Women); Barbara Woodmore (South County Mental Health Center); Millie Barber (Youth Caregivers Project)
- **GUESTS:** Ruth Walerstein and Angela Harper (Palm Beach County Head Start); Karl Ijams (Kiwanis Clubs of Palm Beach County); Jeannie Hoban (Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence); Cassandra Wilbanks (AEYC of the Palm Beaches); Jessica Blair (Children's Home Society); Mike Pinkney (Salvation Army)
- The President welcomed guests to the table and reviewed PBCCC's mission and committee structure.
- An ice-breaker activity was initiated by the Marketing/Outreach committee.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

- There were no previously submitted corrections/revisions to March minutes so they were automatically approved.
- Members are asked to access the website to review minutes (www.childrenpbc.org) then send corrections or revisions to Araasch@camelotcommunitycare.org in advance of the following month's meeting.

General Business:

Membership

- We stand at 36 agencies and 17 individuals.
- Please note that membership dues are being accepted for FY 08-09 (7/1-6/30).

Treasurer's Report

- Our current checking account balance is \$6,601.48 but we have unpaid TAK expenses.
- There is still an outstanding \$1000 donation from PBSO for TAK.
- A copy of the month's fiscal report is kept in the PBCCC binder.

Child Advocacy Board (CAB) Follow Up

- A committee met on March 5, 2008 to review the purpose of PBCCC and CAB joining forces, the review both entities' activities, and to make recommendations for moving forward.
- The purpose of the two entities joining is to decrease fragmentation and unite to create a stronger voice for children and families in our community.

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- Some committee recommendations included reserving spots on the election ballot for CAB members to join PBCCC Board, creating an Ad Hoc committee to review any potential legal issues and/or to ensure that recommendations are followed through, and keep the PBCCC name.
- CAB met on 4/9 and unanimously voted to join PBCCC.
- PBCCC Board meets on 4/17 to discuss the potential joining. PBCCC Board will vote at that time and will then bring recommendations to the general membership for final voting during May's meeting.

Elections:

- An election interest form was distributed. Persons who are interested in running for Board positions during June meeting elections are encouraged to provide their names and contact information.
- We are in need of 1 President, 1 Treasurer, and 4 General Board Members for the July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2010 term.

Turn Around Kids:

- The luncheon was a huge success with more than 200 attendees and excellent Emcee and Keynote presentations.
- Seth read the membership two letters sent by former Presidents to acknowledge the wonderful event and to thank the membership for continuing our efforts.
- Special thanks were given to the committee for their hard work.

One Child at a Time (CAB):

- The event is scheduled for 4/24 at the Crowne Plaza and there are more than 260 registered at this time.
- There are still seats available – please contact Jack at Jholcomb@pbcgov.org.

Agency Presentation:

- Margaret Bagley presented Communities in Schools. All handouts are maintained in the PBCCC binder.
- CIS grew out of a 60's movement in New York and started as a program to get kids back in school who dropped out. In '77, the focus changed to kids who were at risk of dropping out. Palm Beach County CIS started in '84. Since that time, they have served 53,000 students
- The classroom model consists of Level I which is one service for a short duration and Level II for specific students with at risk factors
- CIS focuses on a one-on-one relationship with a caring adult, a safe place to learn and grow, a healthy start to a healthy future, a marketable skill to use upon graduation, and a chance to give back to peers and the community.
- Contact information: 561-471-9681; www.cispsc.org

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Committee Reports:

Advocacy

- The committee is moving forward with the project at the boy's group home.
- The committee is in the process of creating an issue briefing on foster care for posting on our website and hopes to have a draft available by May's meeting.
- Membership voted to endorse the Walk-A-Mile event. Samantha from United Way will send out more information to membership soon.
- Candidate Forum is being planned for September. Date and location are pending. Letters to the candidates will be ready for mailing in July. Membership should begin to identify potential kids who can speak on important topics.

Education & Training

- There will be a Systems Presentation on the Foster Care system during May's meeting. The committee is holding off planning other agency or system presentations until a new Board is elected.
- We are still planning on organizing a Speed Networking event during the summer.
- Regarding our spring Joining Hands conference, more information needs to be obtained from CSC as there has been talk that they are planning their own large-scale conference and this could greatly impact our own efforts.

Marketing

- Due to the favorable response, the committee will continue planning monthly ice-breaker activities.
- We will host a table at the August Resource Fair at High Ridge.
- We are discussing a welcome-back/kick-off breakfast during the month of September.

Announcements/Agency Time:

- Health Care District – the BHP and Primary Project are in the ongoing process of transition to Boys Town and Comp Services is in the process of transition to Parent Child Center.
- South County Mental Health Center – Will be losing the TANF program effective July 1, 2008
- Salvation Army – Has multiple programs available including music, sports, and pre-teens program for girls. It was recommended that SA do an agency presentation sometime this year for the general membership.
- UW – Sylvester Consortium United Against HIV on 4/26 at Boynton Beach H.S. Call Daniel Gibson for more information @ 355-6600.
- Child Advocacy Board (CAB) – Seats still available for the One Child at a Time Luncheon.
- Children's Home Society – Stephen Bardy has been officially announced at the new Executive Director.

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- National Council on Jewish Women – has a storeroom full of home good supplies for kids aging out of the system. Call Toby for more information @ 596-3656.
- Head Start – Looking for 3-4 year old children for registration for August. Registrations for 08-09 school year taken 3/1–5/20. Call Ruth @ 845-4674. Also announced was a Community Health Fair on 4/26 from 9-2 at Mary McLeod Bethune E.S. Volunteers are also needed provide 1-hour workshops to staff and family as part of Mental Health Month. Call 233-1610.
- Barry – The administrative office has been moved upstairs to make more room for classes on the Palm Beach campus. Barry is hosting an information session to explore classes on the West Coast. Please contact Eva @ 622-2732. They will also be looking for faculty.
- Miscellaneous – Mike VanWagoner notified everyone of potential cuts in child welfare which will have a negative impact on everyone. Please write to the Governor and express your concern.
- The raffle prize for being on-time was won by Millie Barber from Youth Caregivers Project.

Next Meeting:

- Wednesday May 21st @ 9-11 at Boys Town.