



Palm Beach County Coalition for Children
February 18, 2009
MINUTES

Introductions/Attendance:

- President welcomed members and reviewed the mission of PBCCC
- 32 total in attendance
- **MEMBERS:** Eva Nowakowski (Barry University); Andrea Raasch (Camelot); Jennifer Schneider, Melissa Neeley, John Sherman, Solange Solis, and Ricky Petty (Children's Home Society); Jack Holcomb; Seth Bernstein, Jessie Lavalenet, and Nancy Medina (Boys Town); Samantha Corrington (United Way); Angela Harper (Carpe Diem Counseling & Wellness Service); Christine Koehn (Quantum); Cassandra Wilbanks (AEYC – PBCC); Mary Dobson (Maxim Healthcare); Jeannie Hoban (Home Safe/Safety Net); Feirmon Johnson (DJJ); Ruth Wallerstein (PBC Head Start); Crystal Nasser and Amanda Gibbons (All Bout Children); Jennifer Ray (AVDA); Nora Collins-Mandeville and Nyasha Nedd-Wright (Child & Family Connections); Hazel Lucas (FL Rural Legal Services); Jennifer Melvin (Hearts & Hope); Michael Pinkney (Salvation Army); Barbara Woodmore (South County MHC); Millie Barber (Youth Caregivers)
- **GUESTS:** Bennie Drain (Prime Time); Marla Berger (Parent Child Center); and Tanya Normil (Florida Youth Shines)

Review and Approval of Minutes:

- There were no corrections submitted to January 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

- There have been no changes in membership. We stand at 17 individual and 31 agency memberships.
- Dues for the new Fiscal Year will begin to be collected in June.

Treasurer's Report

- Our current checking account balance is \$7,591.91 and our CD balance is \$15,557.75
- All financial documents are kept on file in the PBCCC binder

Presentations:

Web Site

- PBCCC Web master, Melissa Neeley, gave a presentation on the updated PBCCC website. She is asking for feedback and suggestions. Email them to Melissa.neeley@chsfl.org

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- The welcome page will have current activities and notable information on the left margin.
- Members discussed suggestions for additions and revisions to the site.
- Task groups should submit information to Melissa that they would like to see on their cover page.
- It was suggested to add a separate link for Scholarship where we can upload documents and applications.
- There is a place to register on the website for the upcoming Tourette Conference. Seats are limited, register early.

Florida Youth Shines

- A youth representative attended to discuss Florida Youth Shines
- FYS consists of youth members 18-27 years of age who were former foster children. The youth advocate on foster care issues from the youth perspective, including open dialog with DCF and legislators.
- PBCCC Board approved sponsoring a youth to attend Children's Week in Tallahassee in March. It was suggested that the youth present results of the trip to the membership during April's general meeting. Additional idea included having a link on our website to the FYS blog so that members can review the youth's experience during the trip.

Task Group Presentations:

Foster Care Mentoring / Sponsorship

- Boys Group Home: Members discussed a Birthday Club activity including planning 4 events during the year at times when the kids are on breaks from school. This will be an opportunity for members to sign-on for hands-on advocacy and participation.
- Group is looking into getting sponsors to donate or pay for items and activities that are not reimbursed by the state. This will include possible grant applications.
- They are looking into after school activities for the boys and also transition assistance including “starter kits” for boys who age out and move into independent settings.

Speed Networking

- Event scheduled on March 27 from 1:45 – 4 at United Way. Deadline for registration will be 3/17. They are working on finalizing the flyer. Snacks and refreshments will be served.

Education & Training

- Group is working on a half-day workshop to be scheduled June 12th or 19th. Looking into free locations. The event will be free and refreshments will be served. The title has not been finalized but the topic deals with defining “at risk” youth with a focus on developmental assets and resiliency factors.

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One Child at a Time Luncheon

- Event being scheduled April 23 from 12-2 at the Crowne Plaza. It is an opportunity for agencies to honor youth advocates.
- They are capping presentations to 20.
- Group is looking for someone to spearhead the sale of children's art.
- They are looking into entertainment through the School of the Arts.
- Prime Time after school group is working on the centerpieces that will be auctioned off with proceeds going toward PBCCC advocacy efforts.

Turn Toward the Future Scholarship

- Scholarships are available to clients of member PBCCC agencies. The cutoff for applications is March 9th and the committee will be reviewing applications on April 6th. Scholarships will be awarded during the One Child award luncheon.
- There is 1 for \$1,000 and 2 for \$750.
- Contact Chris Koehn @ 832-7497 with questions
- General members asked if we have approached anyone to sponsor the scholarships. This is something that will be looked into for the future.

Other Coalition Business:

- President reviewed with members that the Board has been looking at the financials and making decisions about spending. There are two primary areas of spending including funds for task group activities and funds for bigger events that go on annually. The Coalition brings in about \$1,000 in dues annually and spends roughly \$2,500. It is important to look at ways we can sustain over the long-term.
- President announced her resignation due to personal reasons. She thanked the Board and general members for their support and participation. Jennifer will be taking a break from the Coalition but plans to be back in the future.
- Jennifer Melvin, current Vice President, will take over President duties until elections take place in June. All requests for financial support or PBCCC business should be referred to Jennifer M. Jenniferm@heartsandhope.org 832-1913.
- June elections will be for a President, Vice President, and Secretary positions. A Nominations Committee will need to be developed in the coming months to organize the election process.

Announcements/Agency Time:

- It is VITA season. Taxes are done free of charge for anyone making under \$42K annually. Call 211 or 375-6600 for locations.
- Call United Way if your agency will be going to Children's Week. Comcast is looking to interview attendees and play results on Video on Demand. Call 375-6659.
- CFC's Independent Living Stakeholder's group meets the 3rd Friday of each month from 10-12 at CFC. It is a group of agencies that are working together to improve IL services in our county. Call Nora at 670-0389 for more information.

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- There will be a Train the Trainer event on 3/20 at CSC to teach parents to talk to kids about sex.
- Street outreach at CHS – call John 868-4301 if you are interested
- Barry University is having an information sessions for Saturday Master's program on 2/26 from 6-8. Call 622-2732 for more information.
- Tourette Conference is on the website. The conference is funded in part by Quantum. The cost is free, there are CEU's, and lunch.
- AEYC is hosting Activities that Build the Young Child's Brain on 3/18 from 9-1. Call 868-3676 for more information.
- Unified Family Court Youth Summit on 4/24 at Kravis center that deals with family violence. Call Jeannie at 779-9453 for more information.
- Salvation Army is having its 8th annual College Tour the week of March 30th. They need kids, chaperones, and sponsors. Call Mike @ 833-6767

Raffle: Prize won by Melissa Neely from Children's Home Society

Next Meeting: Wednesday March 18 @ 9-11 at Boys Town.