

“FOCUS ON OUR FUTURE” COLLABORATIVE BOARD

GOOD HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
800 Moran Street, Oil City, PA 16301
January 13, 2010 – 12:00 PM

Rita Anderton	Diana Erwin	Brandi Owens
Kristin Arendash	Barb Feroz	Carmella Parris
Melany Barber	Jaclyn Fike	Sharon Peterson
Sara Bell	Melissa Fulton	Marie Plumer
Melissa Bensink	Kathy Gonzales	Nichole Rehberg
Heather Beshaw	Susan Huffman	Candy Reina
Josh Botts	Hank Johnson	Terri Roberts
Brenda Carll	Debb Kapp	Richard Romigh
Bre Chisholm	Nick King	Kerri Smayda
Vicki Confer	Stephen Kosak	Ladona Strouse
Cindy Curran	Sherry Kulinski	RT Yates
Mareeta Durney	Deanna Meehan	Dustin Zitterbart

Chairperson: Vicki Confer

Invocation: Sharon Peterson

Caring Habits: Barb Feroz

Review of the Minutes:

Motion made by Kristin Arendash and was duly seconded to approve the corrected minutes as recorded.

Introductions:

Nick King – Senior at Oil City High School
Carmella Parris – AmeriCorps/Heart 2 Heart
Melany Barber – AmeriCorps/Heart 2 Heart
Kerri Smayda – UPMC Northwest

Announcements/Flyers/Brochures:

- Barb Feroz – State Needs Assessment to expand or start programs. PA received a grant of 1.5 billion dollars; a five year commitment for the ten most at risk in PA. Venango, Crawford, and Clarion Counties are one group. The goal is to look at the needs and to provide these services. Community Services is sending a letter of intent to take the lead with this project; Bonnie Summers has agreed to be the facilitator. Stephen Kosak made the motion of support; Ladona Strouse made the second motion.
- Youth Alternatives Annual Fundraiser to benefit their Children’s Camping Program. Valentine’s Day Dance at the Oil City Eagles Club on Saturday, February 12th, 2011; doors open at 7:00 pm, the band, Southern Knights, will play from 8:30 to 12:30. Tickets are \$10.00; they can be purchased at Youth Alternatives, the Eagles Club, and Mulligan’s. Must be 21 to attend. Any questions please call Youth Alternatives, 676-5785.

- Connection for Our Children's Future – January 18th at 9:30 am at Kings Restaurant in Reno. Sponsored by Venango Kid Connection. Your help is greatly needed to promote a strong future for all young children of Venango County and their families. RSVP's are required; please contact Sara Bell, 678-7766, ext 142 by January 14th.
- Kerri Smayda – UPMC Northwest will have a smoking cessation class next Wednesday, January 19th.
- Deanna Meehan – Lifelong Learning Programs will have a Fundraiser Open House on January 18th from 5:00 to 7:00, 679 Colbert Avenue, Suite 101, Oil City.
- Venango Fatherhood Initiative is having a Family Sled Riding Party on January 22nd at 1:00 pm at the Pioneer Flats pavilion at Two Mile Run County Park. The event is free; please call to register by January 20th, 676-9940, ext. 12.
- Free Bowling and Lunch at Masterson's Family Bowling on Buffalo Street in Franklin on Saturday, January 15th from noon to 2:00 pm. Sponsored by Venango County SAP and Family Service and Children's Aid Society.
- Siverly Hot Spot at the Free Methodist Fellowship Hall; corner of Plum and Willow Street in Oil City, Free Wireless Internet Access every Tuesday and Thursday from 4:00 to 8:00 pm. Also computers for public use, access to community services, special guests, activities, and programs. Sponsored by Oil City Weed and Seed. For more information call 516-0335.
- Vicki Confer reported for Nancy Morrow that Parenting Classes have been changed from the week of January 17th to the week of the 24th.
- Ladona Strouse reported that the Franklin Salvation Army building looks good for the new location for Heart 2 Heart

Treasurer's Report: No activity on the account, the balance remains at \$4,899.93

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Evaluation of Task Force Committees continuation.
 - Family Finding is out; Ladona Strouse made the motion; seconded by RT Yates.
 - Caring Habits is currently inactive; Candy Reina.
 - Diabetes Task Force; Brenda Carll made the motion to temporarily remove the Diabetes Task Force; second motion was made by Diana Erwin.
 - Planning Task Force; Stephen Kosak made the motion to remove the Planning Task Force subcommittees; Ladona Strouse made the second motion.
- Candy Reina made the motion for a letter of support for the Franklin Area School District; Heather Beshaw made the second motion.
- Heather Beshaw made a suggestion to use Face Book as an advertising tool for events such as the Free Bowling and Lunch event that will be offered this weekend.

Success Stories:

- Josh Botts – Papa Program ninth grade health classes; the Papa Program is a voluntary program that all students have to attend; it is what your life will look like if you become an 18 year old parent.
- Heather Beshaw – FGDM is putting together a focus group; key things that are making changes in their lives, i.e. the Dental Clinic; a key part with having success in Family Group.
- Deanna Meehan – Nine people for G.E.D.

Presentation: Oil City Weed and Seed – Kristin Arendash and Hank Johnson

- The Purpose of Weed and Seed is to enrich the quality of life and create a safe environment for persons residing in the Weed & Seed Target Area by implementing community-based comprehensive multi-agency strategies to "weed" out violence and drugs, and "seed" the area with educational, recreational, social, residential, and economic opportunities. The target area includes Siverly, Northside residential area and the East End neighborhoods of Oil City. Weeding efforts include saturation patrols and crime suppression activities which put more officers on the streets in these neighborhoods to stop crime and build relationships with the residents. Seeding efforts work to bring needed programs and services to the residents of the neighborhoods helping them to feel safer and take ownership of their neighborhoods again. These efforts include neighborhood restoration, community policing, and prevention intervention, and treatment. We have one "hot-spot" open in the Siverly neighborhood two nights per week where people (all ages) can come to access the internet, use public computers, attend educational programming, or just meet and talk with neighbors. A second spot will be opening soon on the East End. Upcoming projects include a series of home-improvement workshops, a citizen's police academy, poison prevention programming, health fairs, and bike rodeos. More information, contact Kristin Arendash, 814-516-0335.

Presentation: WIA – Jaclyn Fike

- Workforce Investment Act -- Adults and Dislocated Workers Program
- Program Description - The Adult and Dislocated Worker Program, under Title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, is designed to provide quality employment and training services to assist eligible individuals in finding and qualifying for meaningful employment and to help employers find the skilled workers they need to compete and succeed in business.
- Goals:
 - To increase employment, as measured by entry into unsubsidized employment.
 - To increase retention in unsubsidized employment six months after entry into employment.
 - To increase earnings received in unsubsidized employment for dislocated workers.
 - To enhance customer satisfaction for participants and for employers.
- Services are provided through One-Stop Career Centers. There are three levels of service:
 - Core services - includes outreach, job search and placement assistance, and labor market information available to all job seekers.
 - Intensive services - Includes more comprehensive assessments, development of individual employment plans and counseling and career planning.
 - Training services - Customers are linked to job opportunities in their communities, including both occupational training and training in basic skills. Participants use an "individual training account" to select an appropriate training program from a qualified training provider.
- Additional Services
 - "Supportive" services such as transportation, childcare, dependent care; housing and needs-related payments are provided under certain circumstances to allow an individual to participate in the program.
 - "Rapid Response" services at the employment site for employers and workers who are expected to lose their jobs as a result of company closings and mass layoffs are also available.

Program Reports:

- H.E.L.P. – Nichole Rehberg – There has been fewer calls maybe due to the colder weather. A question was asked regarding if lice can cause a health problem. Nichole replied that it could be a health problem; possibly causing open sores which could become infected.
- Early Head Start/First Families Network – Melissa Bensink
 - Early Head Start: 83 EHS Enrolled Families, 115 of 116 EHS Slots (105 children / 10 Pregnant Woman), 1 open slot will within 30 day enrollment period, 0 of 116 EHS slots were over-income (0%), 37 Slots on EHS Wait List, 233 EHS Home Visits made out of 256 for 91.0%, 11 out of 83 EHS enrolled families attended 1 playgroup during November for 13.3%, 3 out of 83 EHS enrolled families attended 2 playgroups during November for 3.6%, 19 out of 105 EHS enrolled children received Early Intervention services during November for 18.0%
 - EHS Referral: Catholic Charities, 1, Children & Youth Services, 2, Community Services, 1, Self, 1, Welcome Every Child, 6 for a total of 11.
 - Nurse Home Visitor: 13 Enrolled Families, 13 Slots, 0 Pregnant Teen / 1 Pregnant Woman / 12 Children, 51 TANF Home Visits Made.
 - Welcome Every Child: 19 Baskets delivered, 11 married / 8 single mothers (1 teen), 8 of 19 receive MA, 6 of 19 considered at risk – 6 referred to EHS/NHV, 108.25 Volunteer hours.
- S.H.I.P. – Sharon Peterson, no update

Task Force Committee Reports: Odd Months

- **Fatherhood Initiative** – Josh Botts
 - 24/7 had the largest turnout yet; 9 men and 6 women.
 - Children’s Roundtable Subcommittee; three different barriers engaging fathers.
 - Trouble understanding domestic relations.
 - Custody arrangements.
 - If the dad shows up for the Permanency/Custody hearing and he has warrants against him, he is arrested.
 - January 20th is the next meeting at the Child to Family Connections office; contact Heather Beshaw.
 - Sled Riding Party is next Saturday, January 22nd.
- **Venango Kid Connection** – Sara Bell
 - Community Engagement Group Report – At the most recent meeting on the 5th Elana Shively, Executive Director of the NW regional Key, did a presentation on Pathways and Partnerships for Child Care Excellence. There is a national push to increase the standards for quality child care through the building of the Quality Rating Improvement Systems (QRIS). Along with this is the continued movement for helping more low-income children to have access to high-quality care. Through PA we have the Keystone STARS Program which offers a rating scale for a number of standards in child care. Venango Kids Connection (VKC) discussed a need to have more outreach and supports for our home providers; looking at short and long term goals.
- **Planning Task Force** – Bre Chisholm
 - There is no keynote Speaker at this time. The focus for the forum is “Celebrate the Community.”
- **Dental** – Brenda Carll
 - The Oil City Salvation Army Dental Center, under the leadership of Emilee Langer, continues to change the lives of those they serve. Positive outcomes have been shared

by many individuals who have received services as well as agency representatives. Emilee will attend a FOOF meeting in the near future to share additional information.

- The Divisional Headquarters of The Salvation Army submitted the DOH \$200,000 Community Challenge Grant for expansion of services. This effort further demonstrates The Salvation Army's commitment to serve those most in need.
- Brenda Carll, Emilee Langer, and Dr. Doug Hutchinson met with Dr. Carrico, OCASD Superintendent, and Mr. Scott Stahl, OCHS Principal, to discuss possibilities for preventive services to be offered at the high school. Dr. Carrico has identified an area near the nurse's office that could serve as a dental services site. Emilee will continue to explore potential possibilities toward establishing these services.
- Give Kids A Smile (GKAS) Day, a national oral health event, will be celebrated by The Dental Center. Emilee is coordinating the event with the assistance of the Task Force. There are plenty of opportunities to participate for a portion, or all of the day. Agencies interested in providing an interactive, educational activity for the children during this event are asked to contact Emilee at the Dental Center.
- **Teen Pregnancy Prevention** – Candy Reina reported that the Task Force will meet in February.
- **Weed & Seed** – Kristen Arendash
 - The next meeting will be January 24th at the City hall in Oil City; this meeting is open to the public.
- **Support for Families of Incarcerated Individuals** – Kristen Arendash
 - There is a list of tasks including finding a shorter name for this task force. Individuals to be included in the group include someone from the schools, jail, and someone who has been incarcerated or a family member of someone who has been incarcerated. The next meeting will be on February 3rd at 9:30 am at City Hall in Oil City on the second floor.
- **Walk Works** – Terri Roberts
 - Will be holding a partner meeting in February; the kick-off will be in April. Looking at an approximate one mile walk which will start and end at the Oil City YMCA. The pre-requisite for the place to start is parking, rest room facilities, etc.

Task Force Committee Reports: Even Months

- **Family Group Decision Making**
- **Family Developing Credentialing**
- **Homeless Teens**
- **Building Strong Families Together**
- **Together We Can ATOD Prevention Council**
 - **Tobacco Prevention**
 - **Youth Philanthropy**
 - **Underage Drinking**
 - **Youth Retreat**
- **Connect by 25**
- **Safe Kids Coalition**
- **Circles Out Of Poverty**

Adjourn: A motion was made by Ladona Strouse and duly seconded by RT Yates to adjourn the meeting.