

“FOCUS ON OUR FUTURE” COLLABORATIVE BOARD

GOOD HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
800 Moran Street, Oil City, PA 16301
August 11, 2011 – 12:00 PM

Rita Anderton
Kristin Arendash
Jessica Anna
Melissa Bensink
Richard Buzard
Amanda Callinan
Bre Chisholm
Vicki Confer
Diana Erwin

Melissa Fulton
Kathy Gonzales
Susan Goss
Susan Huffman
Hank Johnson
Stephen Kosak
Sherry Kulinski
Deanna Meehan
Trenton Moulin

Marie Plumer
Candy Reina
Terri Roberts
Richard Romigh
Mary Lou Schweizer
Patty Spence
Ward Witmer
Dustin Zitterbart

Chairperson: Vicki Confer

Invocation: Kathy Gonzales

Caring Habits: Diana Erwin

Review of the Minutes:

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

Introductions:

Mary Lou Schweizer – University of Pittsburgh Walk Works Program
Ward Witmer – Venango County CYFS/MTFC

Treasurer’s Report: Dustin Zitterbart – no activity

Collaborative Board Operations 2011 ending balance is \$4,924.93.

Old Business:

- Discussed whether to continue with a Facebook Page for the Collaborative Board. Deanna Meehan will be in charge of putting the Facebook Page on the web.
- Susan Goss asked if there is still an interest in having the Annual Forum. Stephen Kosak made a motion to continue the Planning Task Force.
- Jessica Anna passed around the Venango Family Resource Guide to check for corrections before it is printed.
- Deanna Meehan passed around a flyer for support of Venango County’s Adult Literacy Program. To donate call 677-7707.

New Business: None

Success Stories:

- Melissa Bensink – everyone that wanted a spot at Early Head Start got one this year.
- Susan Goss – someone who had not been dependable and had bad work ethics did a complete turn-around. They had lost their job at the Salvation Army; went back to work for them and have been very reliable since their return.
- Hank Johnson – reported that the Oil City Police Department has been active this month on drug busts; and there will still be more to come; mostly adults have been involved in the arrests.

Presentation: Mary Lou Schweizer, University of Pittsburgh – Walk Works Update

- The University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health (GSPH) Center for Public Health Practice and the Pennsylvania Department of Health have created WalkWorks, an effort to increase physical activity among people of all ages and abilities in Western Pennsylvania by developing community-based walking programs. The initiative will establish local walking routes and enhance social support for people who would like to increase their level of physical activity.
- The kickoff will be in September. The walking groups range from 2 to 15 people. Areas slated for immediate implementation of the WalkWorks program include Cambria, Crawford, Greene, McKean, Venango and Washington counties; these counties have been identified as among those with the greatest burden of chronic diseases in Pennsylvania. The Walkworks Packets will be available soon.

Presentation: Richard Buzard, Effective Safe Parenting

- Effective Safe Parenting (ESP) originated from Project Connect in Rhode Island. Project Connect proved that substance abuse by parents is often a significant factor in the risk of child abuse or neglect.
- To be eligible families: must be involved with Venango County CYFS (have made some exceptions with Court Supervision); have an identified substance abuse problem; have their children in their home or if in placement, reunification must be the goal; live in Venango county; have children of any age, but high risk infant cases take priority.
- There is no funding for child care so that is currently a problem.
- The staff is strength-based; all are FDC people.
- The unique components of ESP are: Parenting Education; Nursing Services; Case Conferencing; and Recreation.
- The Mission of ESP is to keep children safe by helping parents achieve a substance free lifestyle, and to promote the well-being and healthy development of the family.

Program Reports:

- **H.E.L.P.** – None
- **Early Head Start/First Families Network** – Melissa Bensink

Early Head Start: June Report

83 EHS Enrolled Families

116 of 116 EHS Slots (110 children / 6 Pregnant Woman)

0 open slots will within 30 day enrollment period

0 of 116 EHS slots were over-income (0%)

46 Slots on EHS Wait List

259 EHS Home Visits made out of 273 for 94.9%

9 out of 83 EHS enrolled families attended 1 playgroup during June for 10.8%

5 out of 83 EHS enrolled families attended 2 playgroups during June for 6.0%

21 out of 110 EHS enrolled children received Early Intervention services during June for 19.1%
56 out of 110 EHS enrolled children have a dental home during June for 50.9%

EHS Referral:

1 Early Head Start
3 Self
1 Twin Creeks Head Start
1 Venango County Doula
18 Welcome Every Child
24 Total

Nurse Home Visitor:

14 Enrolled Families
16 Slots
0 Pregnant Teen / 0 Pregnant Woman / 16 Children
67 TANF Home Visits Made

Welcome Every Child:

23 Baskets delivered
7 married / 16 single mothers (3 teen)
18 of 23 receive MA
13 of 23 considered at risk – 13 referred to EHS/NHV
127.0 Volunteer hours

S.H.I.P. – None

Announcements/Flyers/Brochures:

- Trenton Moulin – Disk Golf at Hasson Park; league night is on Thursdays at 5:00; there will be a tournament in October. Disc Golf is a game in which individual players throw a flying disc into a basket or at a target. "The object of the game is to traverse a course from beginning to end in the fewest number of throws of the disc."
- Jessica Anna – Venango Kid Connection meeting will be September 21st at 11:00 am at Kings Restaurant. Venango Kid Connection Family Engagement will be on September 14th at 11:00 am at Kings.
- Vicki Confer – Golf Tournament will be at High Level Golf Course; \$60.00 a team. For more information contact PPC or Family Services.
- Candy Reina – Road Rally and Scavenger Hunt on Saturday, September 10th; race is from 3:00 to 6:00 pm and will start and end at the Oil City YWCA. No GPS or maps allowed. 1st place \$100.00, 2nd place \$50, 3rd place \$25. The cost is \$50.00 a car; proceeds to benefit Sugar Valley Lodge. Call Anita at 676-6706 to register; deadline to register is September 3rd.
- Susan Goss – Court Supervision Class on September 6th; the class can hold up to 20 people; held at the Court House Annex. Kids do not have to be on probation to attend.
- Melissa Fulton – Big Brothers Big Sisters is expanding the advisory committee; meets every other month. If you have a passion for helping kids this may be of interest to you.
- Candy Reina – Youth Retreat at Camp Coffman on Wednesday, September 28th at 10:00 am. Need volunteers; rehearsal will be prior to the event.

Task Force Committee Reports: Odd Months

- **Fatherhood Initiative**
- **Venango Kid Connection**
- **Planning Task Force**

- **Dental**
- **Teen Pregnancy Prevention**
- **Weed & Seed**
- **SOLO – Supporting Offenders Loved Ones**
- **Walk Works**

Task Force Committee Reports: Even Months

- **Family Group Decision Making – Bre Chisholm**
 - Held 41 FGDM Conferences last fiscal year; currently have seven FGDM referrals and have three meetings scheduled for the month. The next advisory meeting will be held on September 1st. For more information call Bre, 437-3862.
- **Family Developing Credentialing – Bre Chisholm**
 - The next class starts August 30th through February 14th. Classes are held at the Child to Family Connections office in Franklin.
- **Homeless Teens – None**
- **Together We Can ATOD Prevention Council – Susan Huffman and Dustin Zitterbart**
 - Summer Programs: Susan has presented crafts, games, snacks and information at Evergreen Arbors, Laugh & Play Playground, Cooperstown Church of God's Lunch Program, South Side Weed and Seed location, Oak Hill Apartments, Dale Avenue, Century Terrace, and Pinoak. Susan has two more locations to serve, Siverly Hot Spot and Cherry Hill.
 - Community fairs: Susan attended three children's fairs. A-C Valley Fun Fair, Susan did 100 Frisbees with the youth. Oil Heritage Children's Day Fun Fair, about 100 youth participated at the game booth to win prizes and receive information. Oil Heritage Teddy Bear Picnic, about 100 youth were able to have their face painted.
 - Presentations: Susan presented tobacco and other drugs information at Adagio. She presents a Gambling Addiction Presentation at the Shelter.
 - Venango County Substance Abuse Program has been granted a Problem Gambling Grant through the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Programs (BDAP). These funds will be used for education, information dissemination, and media in various Venango County locations. Family Service & Children's Aid Society's Drug and Alcohol Program will be providing power point presentations in the community. Mini-grants in the amount of \$2,500 will also be available for community events.
- **Connect by 25 – Bre Chisholm**
 - Now gearing up for our next year of the program. Will have 10 new freshman and 10 sophomores this year. New this year; staff will be working in the Middle School two days a week to help identify future Connections Students.
- **Safe Kids Coalition – Diana Erwin**
 - Have purchased 66 baby gates for use between rooms or at the bottom of the stairs; to be donated to early Head Start.
 - Bike Rodeo – this year have distributed 52 bike helmets and all of our bicycle backpacks are gone. Had a very busy rodeo at Fern Court with very limited help; 26 bike helmets were fitted and distributed. There was a rodeo through Weed & Seed at the South Side location and a rodeo at Rocky Grove this week. The next scheduled rodeo is in Siverly with Weed & Seed is on the 16th.
 - Pool Safety – have been distributing materials through the US Product Safety Commission's Pool Safety Program. This is a national public education campaign

whose mission is to reduce child drowning, non-fatal submersions, and entrapments in public swimming pools and spas. The website is – www.poolsafely.gov.

- The end of the Fiscal Year Report for 2009-2010 – checked 75 car seats and gave away 35, distributed 68 bike helmets, 150 smoke alarms were distributed in partnership with OCFD, and 10 cribs were provided to baby's without a safe place to sleep. Our members also participated in numerous health fairs and school programs, and have distributed hundreds of pieces of literature to parents and kids as well as other safety items like reflective brackets and zipper pulls.
- **Circles Out Of Poverty** – None
- **BBCI – Budget Cut Impact** – Stephen Kosak
 - The Task Force has met; starting a survey asking about cuts.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Susan Goss; second motion made by Sherry Kulinski to adjourn the meeting.