

“FOCUS ON OUR FUTURE” COLLABORATIVE BOARD

GOOD HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
800 Moran Street, Oil City, PA 16301  
September 8, 2011 – 12:00 PM

Jessica Anna  
Rita Anderton  
Kristin Arendash  
Debbie Ashbaugh  
Josh Botts  
Brenda Carll  
Vicki Confer  
Diana Erwin  
Jaclyn Fike

Melissa Fulton  
Debbie Gifford  
Kathy Gonzales  
Susan Huffman  
Sherry Kulinski  
Deanna Meehan  
Robyn Ohmer  
Sharon Peterson  
Lara Plumlee

Candy Reina  
Jennifer Richards  
Richard Romigh  
Dot Shaffer  
Kathy Smerker  
Ward Witmer  
Corrina Woods  
Dustin Zitterbart

**Chairperson:** Vicki Confer

**Invocation:** Sharon Peterson

**Caring Habits:** Kathy Smerker

**Review of the Minutes:**

Motion made by Josh Botts and was duly seconded by Kathy Smerker to approve the minutes as recorded.

**Introductions:**

Jennifer Richards – Venango County CYFS  
Lara Plumlee – Pro-Life Missionary Project

**Treasurer’s Report:** Dustin Zitterbart – no activity  
Collaborative Board Operations balance is \$4,924.93.

**Old Business:**

- Deanna Meehan has Facebook up and running on the web.

**New Business:** None

**Success Stories:**

- Deanna Meehan – program tutoring received a small grant
- Candy Reina – a single mom on cash assistance went to Dubois Business College; the Salvation Army Dental Center hired her and she is now on her own.

**Presentation:** Jenny Richards – InfoNet Website and Networking Resource Fair

- Venango County CYFS is engaging in a Continuous Quality Improvement Process. As part of the process, focus groups, key stakeholder interviews, and case reviews were conducted to gather information regarding the strengths and areas for improvement in the child and family serving

system in the county. The feedback indicated that there was a lack of knowledge of what services were available in the community and there was a lack of clarity among private and public entities about the roles and responsibilities of the other groups.

- The work team is being established to develop outreach and engagement strategies through establishing, disseminating, and updating resource and referral information throughout the county system.
- The goals are:
  - To develop strategies to gather information, update it, and disseminate information to the community using Venango InfoNet as a platform, [www.venangoinfonet.org](http://www.venangoinfonet.org).
  - Include specific definitions and roles of all community resources in the product, including contact information.
  - Explore funding for the project; materials, education plan, regular updates to the system, etc.
- A Networking Resource Fair to introduce Venango InfoNet to the county agencies is in the planning stages. The completion date for the project is December 1, 2011; the first meeting was held on July 15, 2011.

**Presentation:** Candy Reina – Child Care Information Services

- Candy received a letter from the state requesting information on ways to reduce agencies across the state.
- Venango and Butler County will be a combined CCIS; these two counties will be joined with the main office in Butler and a satellite office in Venango County; Venango County will probably only have one employee if/when these changes are made.
- Candy requested a letter from the Collaborative stating that this solution is not logical and would harm the families. Vicki Confer made a motion for a support letter, and Dot Shaffer made the second motion.

**Program Reports:**

- **H.E.L.P.** – Corrina Woods
- **Early Head Start/First Families Network** – None
- **S.H.I.P.** – None

**Announcements/Flyers/Brochures:**

- Vicki Confer – October is Domestic Violence Month; on October 1<sup>st</sup> there will be a 5K race at 10:00 am at Two Mile Run Park.
- Candy Reina – Road Rally and Scavenger Hunt on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>; race is from 3:00 to 6:00 pm and will start and end at the Oil City YWCA. No GPS or maps allowed. 1<sup>st</sup> place \$100.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> place \$50, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Candy Reina – The Youth Forum will be September 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Friday, October 21, 2011 Frank Kros presents two sessions; “Rethinking AD/HD: What Works, What Doesn’t, and Why” and “Change Your Language, Change Your Lives”. The location will be Schultz Hall, Allegheny College in Meadville, PA from 8:15 to 3:15. Registration Closes October 12<sup>th</sup>. For more information call Thurston House (814) 712-6768.

### **Task Force Committee Reports: Odd Months**

- **Fatherhood Initiative** – Josh Botts
  - Have been very busy; the directive is to recruit more volunteers.
  - Jail groups have started; over 20 people will be attending.
  - 24/7 Dad will start on September 26<sup>th</sup>; 12 men, 8 women, and 8 kids.
  - Geo Get It will be on September 24<sup>th</sup> at Bandstand Park in Franklin.
  - The Papa Program will be starting tomorrow, September 9<sup>th</sup>.
- **Venango Kid Connection** – Jessica Anna
  - September 21<sup>st</sup> will be the regular VKC meeting at 11:00 at King's Restaurant; the speaker will be Wendy Kinnear.
- **Planning Task Force** – Vicki Confer
  - The next meeting will be on September 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 at the Human Services Complex in the MH/DR Conference Room.
- **Dental** – Brenda Carll
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- **Teen Pregnancy Prevention** – Candy Reina
  - Have not met yet for a meeting; in the process of re-grouping, and will be getting back on track soon. Currently there are seven pregnant and one is on house arrest.
- **Weed & Seed** – Kristin Arendash
  - September 17<sup>th</sup> there will be an anti-drug rally from 3:00 to 7:00 at Justus Park.
  - Weed and Seed saturation patrols are still in operation.
  - The Talent Show was a success; parents that had never showed up before attended the show.
  - Fall Festival will be in Siverly in November. There will be a hayride through Siverly.
  - Kristin passed around flyers for a Spaghetti Dinner at the Free Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 206 Wilson Ave., Oil City; it will be Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 8:00. All proceeds benefit Oil City Weed and Seed. Also a flyer for a Health, Wellness, and Fun Fair on Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> from 4:00 to 7:00 at the Free Methodist Church (East End Hot Spot.)
- **SOLO – Supporting Offenders Loved Ones** – Kristin Arendash
  - The group met last night, September 7<sup>th</sup>; slow at getting people aware of the task force. Cindy Cochran is leading the support group. The people that have attended have found value in it.
- **Walk Works** - none

### **Task Force Committee Reports: Even Months**

- **Family Group Decision Making**
- **Family Developing Credentialing**
- **Homeless Teens**
- **Together We Can ATOD Prevention Council**
- **Circles Out Of Poverty**
- **BBCI – Budget Cut Impact**

**Adjourn:** A motion was made by Dot Shaffer; second motion made by Candy Reina to adjourn the meeting.