

Family Strengthening/Infant Mental Health/Healthy Start Coalition Sub-Committee Meeting Report

Monday, January 27, 2014
8:15 a.m.

Brevard County Government Center, Viera
Bldg. C, Florida Room, 3rd Floor

Chairpersons:	Valerie Holmes/Sharon Tolson
Present:	Sharon Tolson, Valerie Holmes, Paula Ferrell, Janean Knight, Jennifer Schwalb-Floyd, Jeanette Ranson, Carrie Thomas, Phebe Powell, Althea Puzio, Melody Keeth, Lori Persons, Donna Skinner, Lisa Vegsor, Gayna Hansen, Michele Wiersma, Sherrie Arflin, Stacey Schneider
Staff Present:	June Horgan

Summary

Meeting called to order at 8:20 am, by Sharon Tolson

Introductions were done by going around the room.

Approval of minutes: Melody Keeth motioned to approve the minutes from November 25, 2013. Jennifer Schwalb-Floyd seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Reports

Local Planning Team Report: Phebe Powell reported the Statewide report has the County highlights removed by the state for reporting consistency factors. Ms. Powell stated the upcoming 5 Year Plan will stay in the same format as previous plans. Ms. Powell advised CBC/Brevard Family Partnership convener position with the Department of Children and Families will now be Brevard Cares. In the future, Valerie Holmes will present for the Five Protector Factors program. Valerie stated Heather Howlett is now employed at Brevard Cares and will be doing future trainings for the Five Protector Factors program. Heather recently trained Healthy Start Family Advocate staff and Education Providers.

Brevard Interfaith Coalition: No report submitted. Carrie Thomas and Phebe Powell shared information from the last meeting they attended at Celebration Tabernacle Church in Cocoa. The Pastor spoke about his progress and goals for the community, including opening businesses and hiring local people that have or had past challenges. The Church also hosted a free summer program for over 60 children.

Healthy Families: Sherrie Arflin reported Healthy Families is now fully staffed and is at 64% of capacity for services. Ms. Arflin did state they're in need of a data entry person.

Infant Mental Health: No report submitted. Donna Skinner stated there hasn't been a meeting since the holidays but she's expecting an upswing in activity during the next six months.

Healthy Start : Jennifer Schwalb-Floyd stated the Coalition Association is in final contract negotiations with ACHA. Two contracts will be moved under ACHA, one contract will stay with DOH. Ms. Schwalb-Floyd stated service provisions shouldn't change but funding changes are anticipated. Contract changes are due to the manage care roll out in August.

Member Comments/Announcements: Were done by going around the room.

Ms. Powell stated she has the Safe Sleep materials for the person who requested them. She also stated January is human trafficking awareness month. This was highlighted by a symposium hosted by Congressman Posey. Ms. Powell stated it was well attended. She has materials available regarding this subject for anyone interested. Ms. Powell advised Officer Chris Jones from Palm Bay Police Dept. received an award for his work with a Palm Bay labor trafficking case involving children

Ms. Skinner announced CHS clinical services are expanding rapidly and they are looking to hire qualified counselors. She'll be sending TIP members an email with the particulars.

Ms. Tolson advised state data for infant to age 5 years, showed another point down in the social/emotional factor, which has been an ongoing problem. The report also showed adaptive skills improved and academic skills were maintained. Ms. Skinner stated CHS referrals for children with social/emotional deficiencies are down. Althea Puzio stated Early Steps is also experiencing problems finding professionals who will work with them regarding the birth to three years of age population. Ms. Puzio stated partnering with community is important for Early Steps also. A discussion ensued regarding various factors that contribute to this problem and past trainings.

Ms. Schwalb-Floyd stated the Birth Disparity Conference which had been postponed will now be scheduled for November 2014 in more of a workshop format.

Ms. Tolson announced her upcoming retirement in May. She reminded a co-chair will have to be selected at the next meeting.

Public Comments: Jeanette Ransom requested an update on a potential meeting with community organizations who require home visits for part of their services. At the last TIP meeting it was discussed that home visits were not necessarily welcomed by clients and were a challenge. Ms. Knight stated co-worker Lisa oversees ELC grants for the teen parent program. Ms. Schwalb-Floyd stated she would like to have a longer discussion with Lisa and others, i.e. Early Steps, Healthy Families, etc., in order to determine the best way to serve families without having numerous people going through the clients home. Ms. Skinner stated a coordination of services would be helpful. After discussion it was determined to hold a special meeting on February 25, 2014 at 8:30 am to discuss this challenge further. Members will invite other community organizations to attend. The meeting will be held in the Florida Room.

It was brought to the attention of members the next TIP Sub-committee meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2014 during spring break. Co-Chairs will bring this to the attention of the TIP Board and suggest moving it to March 31st, with a secondary date of March 17th.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:56 am with no further business.