

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

Monday, September 23, 2013
8:15 a.m.

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

Chairpersons:	Valerie Holmes/Sharon Tolson
Present:	Sharon Tolson, Paula Ferrell, Rita Elkins, Jennifer Schwalb-Floyd, Lori Parsons, Althea Puzio, Phebe Powell, Kim DelGaudio, Michele Wiersma
Staff Present:	June Horgan

Summary

Meeting called to order at 8:17 am, by Sharon Tolson

Introductions were done by going around the room.

Approval of minutes: Jennifer Schwalb-Floyd motioned to approve the minutes from July 22, 2013. Lori Parsons seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Reports

Local Planning Team Report: Phebe Powell stated the 5 year plan annual report is due October 15, 2013 capturing TIP and CAPTF activities along with this sub-committee activity. The annual report has been reformatted; going back to the original indicators, with a particular focus on reducing family violence and substance abuse. A state wide survey was previously sent to TIP members. Ms. Powell stated she hoped all members participated in the survey. The Research and Evaluation Committee of TIP developed a survey to be sent community wide. Ms. Powell reviewed the survey with attendees and requested their input. Children's health was added to the community sector topic. Early childhood education category was added to the top three priorities section of the survey. Ms. Powell stated the goal is to finalize the survey and send it out to the community this week. The results will be shared with this committee in order to address the priorities, identify outcomes, and determine strategies to meet the goals.

Brevard Interfaith Coalition: Phebe Powell reported the next BIC meeting is scheduled for September 26, 2013 at the YMCA in Viera. Ms. Powell stated at the last meeting an APD representative shared information on a state camping facility located in the Panhandle. Also, BIC needs foster parents in the North and Beachside areas of the county. There will be a state-wide faith based symposium in November in Orlando focusing on how foster parenting is supported and how to prevent children from entering care. Northland Church and The Children's Alliance for Orphans are also hosting a conference focusing on foster parenting.

Healthy Families: no report submitted

Infant Mental Health: no report submitted

Healthy Start : Jennifer Schwalb Floyd shared information on the Bunco for Babies fundraiser on September 27, 2013. A flyer on the fundraiser was distributed. Sharon Tolson questioned Healthy Start enrollment levels at the hospitals. Ms. Schwalb-Floyd stated the statistics are low; the coalition will be trying to entice new mothers to participate in the screening process by offering them an educational "care" package for the baby. Ms. Schwalb-Floyd also stated feedback received indicates new mothers don't want to be bothered by Healthy Start Care Coordination visits. She is hoping the initial "care" package and diapers given at each home visit will increase the participation level. Also, there has been an increase of drug abuse mothers either leaving the infants at the hospital or dropping the infants off and not returning. Ms. Tolson asked Ms. Schwalb-Floyd to refresh her memory on the reasoning of doctors to not see new patients until after 12 weeks of pregnancy. Ms. Schwalb-Floyd stated

her assumption, based on word of mouth, is doctors assume a patient will miscarry (if they are going to miscarry) prior to 12 weeks gestation. So, they'll wait until then to see a new client. Ms. Schwalb-Floyd stated Healthy Start is encouraging interconceptional care and healthy living in order to reduce the chance of miscarriage.

Member Comments/Announcements: Were done by going around the room. Paula Ferrell mentioned the Parenting in Today's World workshop. A half day training scheduled for October 5, 2013 at the School Board building in Viera. Registration is through Ginny Gleason at 633-1000.

Rita Elkins advised members of the annual Walk For Love being held on November 16, 2013 at the Church of Viera. The walk is an event for adoption awareness/fundraising. A 5k run is also being held on the same morning.

Public Comments: none

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:50 am with no further business.