



CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL
OF
HIGHLANDS COUNTY, INC.
Champion for Children Advocacy Center
1968 Sebring Parkway, Sebring, FL 33870

MINUTES
February 20, 2013

Members Present: Sandra Bass, Susan Buelow, Judge Angela J. Cowden, Wally Cox, Greg Harris, Nancy Hensley, Donna Howerton, Anne Lindsey, MaryAnn Lewis, Darlene Phypers, Kevin Roberts, Jeff Roth, Micah Scanga, Tealy Williams, Karen Wright, Annette Yunck.

Others Present: Gail Escobar, Nasseam James, Lt. Greg Pearlman, Gabe Read, Terri Saunders, Russ Sharp, Holly Wallace, Angel Wiggins

The meeting was called to order by Darlene Phypers, Chairman, at 7:35 AM.

Agenda Item 1: Welcome by Darlene Phypers.

Agenda Item 2: Introduction of Guests: There were self-introductions of all present. Holly Wallace, a therapist with Peace River Center, was a first time guest.

Agenda Item 3: Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance & Motivational Moment
Led by Micah Scanga with the Mason Smoak Foundation.

Agenda Item 4: Volunteer for next meeting's motivational moment: Tealy Williams will provide the motivational moment at the next meeting. The next meeting is Wednesday, March 20, 2013 – 7:30 a.m. at the Champion for Children Advocacy Center.

Agenda Item 5: Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2013. After a review of the minutes, Scott Crutchfield made a motion and Anne Lindsay seconded the motion to accept the minutes as presented. Motion approved.

Agenda Item 6: We Care Hotline Update

Anne Lindsay stated that her goal is to have a peer review done with a report to be completed at each school on the activities that have been done with the funding received from the Champion

for Children Foundation. She will request this at the next principal's meeting. She is pleased with the timely, student oriented lingo that is being used along with activities/promotions that are suggestions of the student peer groups. Anne Lindsay said that she will report again at the next Council meeting.

Agenda Item 7: Update on Pet Shelter for Sebring Safehouse

Jeff Roth stated that the Highlands County CHEFFS Homeschool group, which includes a local contractor, is interested in providing the pet shelter. If the Homeschooled group is not able to follow through, an Eagle Scout has expressed interest in taking on the pet shelter as his Eagle Scout project. Jeff Roth expressed that the shelter should be completed this year.

Agenda Item 8: Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month

Kick-off is scheduled for Tuesday, April 2, 2013. The day will begin with a program on the Courthouse lawn where Judge Angela Cowden will be master of ceremonies. The program will focus on positive messages with speakers from the "Straight Up" program, Missy Albritton, Judge Estrada, and Drug Free Highlands. After the kickoff, a proclamation will be read at the County Commissioner meeting starting at 9:00 a.m. requesting April be proclaimed "Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month." Volunteers will be needed to distribute pinwheels. A committee of Jeff Roth, Susie Buelow, Angel Wiggins, Tealy Williams, and Julia Hermelbracht will meet on Monday, February 25 to discuss the distribution and other possible events to target during the month to promote the awareness agenda.

Agenda Item 9: 1.1.1 Campaign

This campaign is spear-headed by Missy Albritton, who sits on the Heartland for Children board, and involves one family from one church organization sponsoring one child. Each church will be encourage to recruit one new foster family willing to go through the MAPPS class to be a foster parent, and the church would commit to supporting the family with things such as respite care, summer camp, school incidentals, etc. Contact through personal relationships is probably the best way in which to promote this. This emphasis will also be addressed at the sub-committee meeting on February 25, 2013.

Agenda Item 10: 2013 Priority Discussions

Anne Lindsay made a motion and Scott Crutchfield seconded the motion to approve the following two statements as 2013 year objectives for the Council:

- Recruit a minimum of 25 churches to participate in the 1.1.1. Campaign program committing to recruit one (1) new foster home within their congregation by December 31, 2013.
- Complete the construction of a kennel at the Highlands County Safehouse which would accommodate two (2) small – medium sized animals by December 31, 2013.

Motion passed.

Scott Crutchfield made a motion and Anne Lindsay seconded the motion to approve the following statement as a 2013 year objective for the Council:

- Have a student led promotion of the "We Care Hotline" in every school by December 31, 2013.

Motion passed.

Scott Crutchfield made a motion and Tealy Williams seconded the motion to approve the following statement as a 2013 year objective for the Council:

- Organize a school administrative mental health summit to address systemic student mental health needs by August 1, 2013.

Motion passed.

Agenda Item 11: New Business

None

Agenda Item 12: Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9am.

(Next meeting Wednesday, March 20, 2013 – 7:30 A.M. at the Champion for Children Advocacy Center)



Jeffrey L. Roth, Executive Director
Children's Services Council of Highlands County

Respectfully submitted: Gail Escobar