



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

MINUTES
May 15, 2013

Members Present: Sandra Bass, Susan Buelow, Judge Angela Cowden, Scott Crutchfield, Ruth Handley, Donna Howerton, MaryAnn Lewis, Marlen Martinez, Jeff Roth, Micah Scanga, Tealy Williams, Karen Wright, Annette Yunck

Others Present: Gail Escobar, Brenda Heston, Nasseam James, Lt. Greg Pearlman, Gabe Read, Terri Saunders, Sammy Telesco, Dana Telesco

The meeting was called to order by Karen Wright, Vice-Chairman, at 7:30 AM.

Agenda Item 1: Welcome by Karen Wright

Agenda Item 2: Introduction of Guests: Brenda Heston with Champion for Children Circle Theater, Gabe Read, and Sammy and Dana Telesco with STR8UP Youth Ministry

Agenda Item 3: Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance & Motivational Moment

Pledge was led by Karen Wright and the prayer was led by Jeffrey Roth. Motivational moment was given by Donna Howerton.

Agenda Item 4: Volunteer for next meeting's motivational moment: Ruth Handley will provide the motivational moment at the August 21st meeting, and Judge Angela Cowden will provide the motivational moment for the October 16th meeting. The next meeting is Wednesday, August 21, 2013 – 7:30 a.m. at the Champion for Children Advocacy Center.

Agenda Item 5: Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of April 17, 2013. After a review of the minutes, Micah Scanga made a motion and Susan Buelow seconded the motion to accept the minutes as presented. Motion approved.

Agenda Item 6: Healthy Families Advisory Committee

Jeff Roth stated that this committee needs to be prepared to meet sometime during the summer since there are some grant issues that may have to be addressed. Jeannie DuBenion is no longer the Program Director for Healthy Families Highlands, and the County has this position posted. The advisory committee will schedule a meeting date when it is needed. Committee members are Marlen Martinez, Micah Scanga, MaryAnn Lewis, Susie Buelow, Scott Crutchfield, Tealy Williams, and Nasseam James.

Agenda Item 7: 2013 Objectives Update:

- **We Care Hotline** – no new information at this time
- **1.1.1 Project** – The next reception date will be on Friday, June 28, 2013 at an Avon Park meeting location that will have to be determined. The pastors list was passed around for any updates.
- **Pet Shelter for Sebring Safehouse**

Jeff Roth presented a copy of the Red Rover Project grant that was submitted along with a copy of the The MOU between the Safehouse and the County that was approved by the County Commission on May 7, 2013. The kennel project will provide for an area for sheltering cats on the porch, and the dog kennels will be built in the yard area separated from the children's play area. This project should be completed soon.

- **School Administrative Mental Health Summit**

Jeff Roth summarized the general questions/thoughts from the panel discussion.

1. What services are available for the physically and mentally disabled populations who have a concern for abuse in the home? (a service gap)
2. Who do I call first?
3. Are there any alternatives to the Baker Act?
4. Does the data show an increase in Baker Acts from Highlands County?
5. Possibly match a counselor with a law enforcement officer when confronting a child in crisis. Our present professionals in the school district who are credentialed to make mental health decisions are 2 psychologists, 1 counselor, and 2 social workers for 60 schools in the entire district. A request for possible funding would be to the Circuit 10 Regional Council. In some counties, a mental health position is part of the crisis team, which Highlands County does not have at this time.
6. Behavioral Health Transport Team options - w/o handcuffs

Circuit 10 Regional Council – there needs to be a person to attend the meetings of this Council who would act as an advocate on behalf of the mental health needs in Highlands County. This is an important aspect that we cannot afford to not be a part of. Funding is a large part of the solutions to the mental health needs and concerns of the school district and our community.

Agenda Item 8: Nominations for 2014-2017 term

The terms of Annette Yunck, Darlene Phipers, and Anne Lindsay will expire the end of this year. The Nominating Committee will need to meet over the summer in order to be prepared to

present names for consideration to the Council by the next meeting in August. The committee members are Karen Wright, MaryAnn Lewis, Judge Angela Cowden, Darlene Phypers, and Kevin Roberts. A meeting date will be set after the conclusion of today's meeting.

Agenda Item 9: Champion for Children Foundation

- Circle Theatre dedication - Sunday, June 2, 2013 at 1pm. This dedication is an event only for the Foundation and Council Members. This date marks the 90th anniversary of the Theatre's original opening.
- Circle Theatre Grand Opening – Thursday, July 18, 2013 at 6pm. This is an invitation only event.
- Champion for Children GALA Nominations – nomination forms were passed out to all members.

Agenda Item 10: STR8UP Youth Ministry

Sammy and Dana Telesco officially opened this ministry to 6th through 12th graders in Lake Placid in June of 2012 by converting the 2100 sq. ft. former Foster Paints. It is open on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 3 – 8pm, with hours to change in the summer. They are seeking volunteer clergymen to help with teaching/instruction. Everyone is invited to an open house on May 25, 11am -3pm where there will be food, and activities. A video presentation was shown of the activities of the ministry.

Agenda Item 11: Blood Mobile

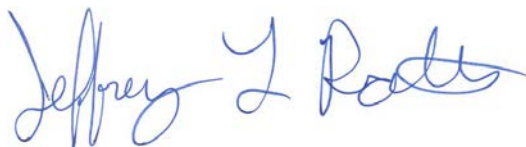
The RED BUS blood mobile is at the CAC this morning from 9:00 am until 12 noon. Everyone is welcome to donate.

Agenda Item 12: New Business – no new business was presented.

Agenda Item 13: Adjournment – 9:00 am

Meeting adjourned at 9am.

(Next meeting Wednesday, August 21, 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