

Franklin County Service Providers

October 3, 2006

Meeting attendees:

Brenda Abegg, Head Start
Ronald Caradine, Harmony Health Plan
Cathy Covington, ALIVE
Pam Cox Williams, Head Start
Lisa Epple, East Central College
Terri Hatter, Harmony Health Plan
Roselyn Hazard, ALIVE
Maureen Heidbreder, BJC Home Care Services
Jane Held, BJC Home Care Services
Armin Klemme, Union Food Pantry
Sandra McKinnon, University of Missouri Extension
Sandy Nappier, Office of Job Training
Brian Nieves, Missouri House of Representatives
Tim Owens, HealthCare USA
Doris Petsch, Agape
Karen Rothschild, Division of Family Services
Julia Schaffner, St. Louis Arc
Kris Stark, Willow Brooke Assisted Living

Franklin County Service Providers Presenter List for 2006

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| January 3, 2006 | Sandra McKinnon – University of MO Extension |
| February 7, 2006 | Sue Swisshelm – Head Start |
| March 7, 2006 | Kris Stark – Willow Brooke Assisted Living |
| April 4, 2006 | Terri Hatter – HealthCare USA |
| May 2, 2006 | Maria Killian – St. Vincent de Paul Society |
| June 6, 2006 | Sandra McKinnon – <i>Revisit Goals & Resource Guide</i> |
| July 2006 | <u>No Meeting Scheduled</u> |
| August 1, 2006 | Jennifer Bennett – CenterPoint Financial Solutions |
| September 5, 2006 | Jeannette Hale – Franklin County Health Department |
| October 3, 2006 | Cathy Covington – ALIVE |
| November 7, 2006 | Sandra McKinnon – <i>Statistical Overview of Franklin County</i> |
| December 5, 2006 | Carol Beahan - CLAIM |

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Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Sandra McKinnon with the University of Missouri Extension. Introductions and the following announcements were made:

Franklin County Service Providers:

Sandra McKinnon passed around the Service Provider list serv sign up sheet. The Service Providers share ideas and information on this site. Please remember that the site should not be used to promote personal products or services. Service Provider promotion slips were given out; please share these by inviting agencies not already attending our meetings. Sandra will lead the November meeting which will focus on a statistical overview of Franklin County.

University of Missouri Extension Center:

Sandra McKinnon announced that a GrandFamily Informational Gathering will be held on Saturday, October 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Coleman Elementary School in Villa Ridge. Brochures were passed out; please share these with clients or other service providers who are working with clients who fit this target group. The next Women's Financial Education Series will be held on Thursdays, October 5 through November 2, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force brochures were available. The Task Force will meet next month on November 2 at the Union Library at 10:00 a.m. HOPE support group brochures were also available. Sandra stated that this has been a saving grace program that is designed for grandparents, relatives and others who find themselves parenting again.

Willow Brooke Assisted Living:

Kris Stark announced that they've completed the addition to their facility. A date for the open house will be provided at our next meeting in November.

BJC Home Care Services:

Jane Held provided information brochures.

Head Start:

Brenda Abegg stated that they're always looking for more applications. Pam Cox Williams announced that this is 4-H week and provided Franklin County 4-H brochures.

AGAPE:

Doris Petsch stated that they're trying to meet the daily needs of the low income and elderly population.

St. Louis ARC:

Julia Schaffner explained that their agency receives grant money to provide community education. Her primary goal is to provide direct presentations to students and professionals. Julia will be giving a presentation to the Union High School health and consumer classes next month.

Union Food Pantry:

Armin Klemme announced that the Crop Walk will be held this weekend. The two mile walk will begin at the Presbyterian Church at 9:30 a.m. One fourth of the money raised stays here in our community. A Rock-A-Thon to help raise funds for the Crop Walk will be held this Friday at Wal-Mart.

Habitat for Humanity:

Armin Klemme announced that if you have any free time this afternoon to volunteer to sweep, vacuum, or help with painting touch ups at the Habitat house in St. Clair, please let him know. The Habitat house project in Sullivan is currently on hold.

Office of Job Training:

Sandy Nappier provided flyers from the Missouri Career Center on the free Pathways training program; please contact the Washington Career Center for more information. Their agency has been given a youth skills shortage grant which will allow them to offer a hands-on workshop for those interested in a career in the health field.

Missouri Coalition for Lifesaving Cures:

A representative from the agency was unable to attend the meeting. Informational folders were available to anyone interesting in learning more about the agency and their programs.

ALIVE:

Cathy Covington and Roselyn Hazard were our guest speakers. Cathy announced that the Trivia Night scheduled for Friday, October 13 would need to be cancelled. The HUD housing list has reopened; this information will be posted on the Service Providers list serv. Please let those you know who are interested that they need to reapply soon before the list builds up again. ALIVE has been in existence since 1983 at the home base in St. Louis. The facility in Union has been open since 1999. The agency provides a 24-hour 7 days a week hotline; with one person working on call and two people staffed as backup. The hotline receives an average of 200 to 250 calls a month. Cathy stated that 60%-75% of adult clients and children need counseling services and 85% or more deal with emotional abuse issues. ALIVE has received United Way funding through VOCA funds and a stop grant has allowed them to hire an additional therapist. There is no domestic violence shelter in Franklin County; it would cost 2 million dollars a year to run the facility.

ALIVE is seeing more teen dating violence. Cathy has written an article titled "Teens Falling through the Cracks." ALIVE is working with grades kindergarten through high school to give educational presentations on this topic. Kids are dating earlier now, by middle school age so it's never too early to talk to them about this issue.

A video titled The War at Home was shown. Each year there are over 6 million people who are severely abused by a family member. A woman is in 9 times more danger of abuse in her own home than on the street. A man beats a woman every 12 seconds in this country. Battery is the cause behind half the number of attempted suicides in African American women. Abuse usually accelerates when the victim tries to leave. Several women talked in the video about previous abuse that they'd been through. The question was asked why they didn't leave their spouse when the abuse was taking place. One woman stated it was almost impossible to leave, that the abuse became much more dangerous. Just think too about the terror a child goes through when they see abuse taking place or are involved with it themselves. The message in the video is that if you can't get out of an abusive relationship, then please get help any way you can. You can't heal if you don't talk about the abuse. Talking is the best weapon; please don't try to hide it. The community needs to step in and help with this issue because abuse reaches out and affects everyone. Intervention is how change is brought about and laws and attitudes need to change about abuse. A batterer should have to be held accountable for what they've done and be required to receive mandatory counseling. The ALIVE motto is that "If you want to have peace in the world, you've got to have peace in the home." The Nights of Safety program can provide only a 5 to 7 day stay until they can be moved to a shelter or their own apartment. Nearest shelters are in Warrenton and Rolla.

Roselyn is a licensed therapist who works with families who are dealing with abusive lives. All the children she works with have emotional consequences to deal with. The physical abuse can be seen, but emotional abuse is harder to detect and prosecute for. Because the ALIVE agency has a confidential location, Roselyn can usually only work with children after the mothers leave the house where the abusive fathers are. In working with children in sessions many affects of emotional abuse are seen such as depression, headaches, stomach aches, sibling fighting, tantrums, and regression back to bed wetting or thumb sucking. Younger children are less able to talk their problems out and relieve stress through play therapy. Roselyn stated though that it's difficult to generalize because it's all up to the child's age, personality, gender, etc. She tries to help the children work around their confusion. Children identify with their parents and she tries to help them separate the person from the abusive behavior. For example, explaining to them that though daddy does bad things, he's not a bad person. Roselyn also works closely with the mothers. Children are sponges to their mother's emotions and it's important for the mothers to get help and be healthy. She talks with the mothers about disciplining the children as well since most of the time the fathers would have undermined their authority. She works with the mothers and helps them to come up disciplines so that they children aren't tempted to repeat the behaviors they've seen during the abuse and think it's acceptable. It's easy for kids to be confused and feel caught in the middle when they go back to visit with the father. It's important to teach children to think critically and to be aware that they're being pulled back and forth between the two parents. The Division of Family Services also works closely with the children as well to serve as a voice and advocate for the children in family court.

Respectfully submitted by,
Lisa Epple