

## **Franklin County Service Providers**

April 3, 2007

### **Meeting attendees:**

Barb Berger, Jefferson County Family Support  
Cathy Covington, ALIVE  
Pam Cox Williams, Head Start  
Barb Dreier, Adult Education & Literacy Program  
Lisa Epple, East Central College  
Laurie Kelly, Jefferson Franklin Community Action  
Armin Klemme, Union Food Pantry  
Norma Klemme, Habitat for Humanity  
Sue Luedde, Adult Education & Literacy Program  
Tim Owens, HealthCare USA  
Kania Shain, The Birthday Foundation  
Becky Stieffermann, Franklin County Area United Way  
Joy Walker, Exceptional Equestrians of the Missouri Valley  
Jenny Wallach, University of Missouri Extension  
Jeff Watson, Social Security Administration

## **Franklin County Service Providers Presenter List for 2007**

January 2, 2007	Linda Metcalf – Mid East Area Agency on Aging
February 6, 2007	Polly Watson – Jefferson/Franklin Community Action
March 6, 2007	Michael Cundiff – Family Wellness
April 3, 2007	Armin Klemme – Union Food Pantry
May 1, 2007	Carey Curran & Sherry Huxol–Probation & Parole (Franklin County Drug Court)
June 5, 2007	Melinda Ohlemiller – St. Louis Arc Prevention Project
July 2007	<u>NO MEETING SCHEDULED</u>
August 7, 2007	Jake Capps - Crossroads
September 4, 2007	Laura Jensen – Exceptional Equestrians
October 2, 2007	Verna Woodson – Recovery, Inc.
November 6, 2007	<u><i>Tentative Field Trip</i></u> – Willow Brooke Assisted Living
December 4, 2007	Daphne Terrill – HealthCare USA

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Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Lisa Epple with East Central College. Introductions and the following announcements were made:

**East Central College:**

Lisa Epple announced that there would be a Holistic Health Education Expo on Saturday, April 14. The event is free to the public and will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Training Center on the ECC campus in Union. Participants will have an opportunity to learn about healthcare and wellness options and experience reflexology, healing touch, aromatherapy, and much more. For more information please contact Sharon Witte at 636-583-5195, Ext. 2410.

**University of Missouri Extension:**

Sandra McKinnon was unable to attend the meeting; Lisa Epple made announcements and provided handout material from the agency. A Get Checking workshop will be held on April 12 and 19 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Scenic Regional Library in Union. The registration deadline is April 5. The class will cover basic money management, credit, and checking accounts. A Building Strong Families workshop will be held on May 1, 8, and 15 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at East Central College. This program is for the whole family; parents with children 5 to 12 years old. It will be an interactive event and lots of fun. Please share this information with your clients and post flyers at your agencies.

**The Birthday Foundation:**

Kania Shain discussed that they're a non profit organization that works to provide birthday parties to children in need. They provide a birthday cake, gift, party favors, decorations, balloons, paper goods, and a disposable camera for each party. Please visit their website at [www.thebirthdayfoundation.org](http://www.thebirthdayfoundation.org) for more information.

**Adult Education & Literacy Program:**

Barb Dreier presented a DVD that promotes literacy. A copy of the DVD was given to everyone in attendance. Barb discussed that they've worked in collaboration with United Way, Charter Communications, and the Washington Rotary Club to produce the DVD. The promotional information is also being shown on public cable channels. In the video Senator John Greisheimer states that an estimated 1 in 3 people in the state of Missouri are considered to be functionally illiterate. The video also features several students who talk about their life experiences after receiving their GED. To volunteer for or receive more information about the East Central College GED/Literacy Program, please call the literacy hotline at 866-511-READ (7323).

Sue Luedde announced that there'll be a Literacy Tutor Training held at East Central on April 24. Please plan to attend if you'd like to help and have the opportunity to give back to your community. The amount of time you volunteer is up to you and what works best with your schedule. The English as a Second Language (ESL) classes are on hold right now. There will be a literacy meeting at noon on April 10.

**Jefferson County Family Support:**

Barb Berger provided brochures about their free mammograms and pap testing for residents who qualify in Jefferson and Franklin counties.

**Head Start:**

Pam Cox Williams stated that their round ups start next week. Children need to be three years old by the end of July to be eligible. They are also currently taking applications for next year.

**HealthCare USA:**

Tim Owens stated they started a new program last December. If an expecting mother makes a minimum of five visits to see her OBGYN, they she'll receive a \$30 Target gift card. If she continues to see the doctor three to six weeks after the child's birth, then the mother will receive another \$30 Target gift card. Tim will provide statistics about this at the next meeting.

**Habitat for Humanity:**

Norma Klemme stated that they've celebrated their sixth groundbreaking. A Trivia Night will be held on April 14 and every \$10 goes toward the cost of a Habitat for Humanity house. Aluminum can drives will be held on April 21, July 3, and November 3. Last year over 5,000 pounds of aluminum was donated and this allowed them to apply for a grant and they received the second highest grant of \$15,000. Norma asked if anyone knew if there was any type of assistance for a disabled man whose was having difficulty with a leaking roof. The suggestion was made to call Paraquad in St. Louis, refer them to United Way by calling 800-427-4626, or contact the Rural Development's Hillsboro office because they often offer grants to elderly and disabled.

**Social Security Administration:**

Jeff Watson stated that baby boomers will be starting to turn 62 next year. He provided a magnet and flyers with internet links to where you can go on line to fill forms out. You can apply on line for social security, retirement benefits, etc.

**ALIVE:**

Cathy Covington stated that their cell phone drive will be held until April 15. Their next meeting will be held at the Union library on April 16 at noon.

**Exceptional Equestrians of the Missouri Valley:**

Joy Walker announced that they've set new records with having 64 unduplicated clients. They're in desperate need of help. They have 1 to 20 hours of volunteer time available.

**United Way:**

Becky Stieffermann stated that helping the Exceptional Equestrian of the Missouri Valley will be their target agency for the year.

**Jefferson Franklin Community Action:**

Laurie Kelly stated that a Poverty Simulation will be held on April 11 at the Training Center on the East Central campus in Union.

**Union Food Pantry:**

Armin Klemme was our guest speaker. Armin stated that in February of 1991 there were 20 to 25 people from the community and various churches that gathered for a meeting at the Presbyterian Church to discuss community needs. From this meeting the Union Food Pantry began to be formed and they were ready to open for business in June of 1991. There were seven churches that offered to collect food on a

monthly basis and the pantry was open 1 day during the week for two hours and one hour on Saturday. Two people worked each shift, twice a week. The pantry during that time served an average of 15 families. The people who worked at the pantry volunteered their time and the shelves to store the food were built by a boy in Eagle Scouts. They were housed in the old telephone building which didn't have heat or air conditioning. Those who worked at the pantry were reluctant to spend money on anything other than food and eventually a heating system was installed free of charge by someone in the community.

Now the pantry is open Mondays and Thursdays from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and they serve approximately 70 families a month. Five of the original churches are still involved with the pantry. The First Baptist Church shares their Thanksgiving baskets with the pantry. The church usually receives 7,000 to 8,000 items during this time.

Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry Vouchers and Union Food Pantry Financial Records are filled out each time a person comes into the pantry. The Ministerial Alliance goes over the list once a year in May. Armin stressed that participants need to be in the Union school district in order to benefit from the pantry. Families can visit the pantry once a month and up to a combined total of four times. There is a guide that workers follow when people come into the pantry, which gives participants approximately 32 items of food and personal care items. The guide is based on the number of people in the family. The only time meat is ever donated to the pantry is during deer season. The meat must be donated to them in a prepared state. The Boy Scouts hold a food drive in November, the Girl Scouts hold a personal care items drive in April, the Mail Carriers hold a food drive in May, and several schools and 4-H clubs hold food drives in December. All of these help to donate items toward local pantries. There are not many food drives held during the summer months and so the pantry tends to run low during this time. There is a Festival of Sharing event held in October and this makes it possible for the pantry to secure beans and rice for quite some time. JC Penney's in Washington holds an event one weekend a year (Friday – Sunday) where if you bring in a can of food to be donated to the pantry, you received a 25% off coupon. Sometimes people in the community donate eggs and fresh vegetables. Armin discussed that a by-product of food items being donated to the pantry is that for every 1,000 labels from Best Choice cans, it allows 6 blankets to be donated towards disaster relief. The best time to bring donations by the pantry is when they are open.

Armin stated that the Union Food Pantry has been in existence for over 16 years. Some workers are in their 80's now and they need some new volunteers to help out one day a month.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Lisa Epple