

# **Franklin County Service Providers**

May 5, 2009

Meeting minutes are also posted on the website:

<http://extension.missouri.edu/franklin/ServiceProviders/Index>

## **Meeting attendees:**

Jon Althausser – Legal Services of Eastern Missouri  
Don Bertram – East Central College  
Alyce Carpenter – Franklin County Children’s Division  
Dawn Corbett – Sullivan Residential Care Center  
John Falcone – HealthCare USA  
Diana Halmick – SIMV  
Melissa Hampton – Franklin County CASA  
Paulette Hensley – Jefferson Franklin Community Action  
Phyllis Hicks – United Way of Greater St. Louis  
Melissa Hildebrandt – Mid-East Area Agency on Aging  
Armin Klemme – Union Food Pantry  
Norma Klemme – Habitat for Humanity  
Sue Luedde – East Central College - Adult Education and Literacy Program  
Connie McDonald – CenterPointe Hospital  
Capt. Ed Menefee – Washington Police Department  
Rachel Owens – Heartland Center  
Elizabeth Poston – Social Security Administration  
Holly Schmitt – Embracing Change, Inc.  
Annie Schulte – Crider Center  
Debbie Skasick – Heartland Center  
Becky Stieffermann – Franklin County Area United Way  
Tracy Stone – ClearPoint Financial Solutions  
Sue Swisshelm – Head Start  
Glenda Volmert – Franklin County CASA

## **Franklin County Service Providers Presenter List for 2009**

January 6, 2009	Make It a Quick Click – Kyle Quick
February 3, 2009	Alzheimer’s Association – Stephanie Rohlfs-Young
March 3, 2009	United Way 2-1-1 – Phyllis Hicks
April 7, 2009	Legal Services of Eastern MO – Jon Althausser
May 5, 2009	Lutheran Family & Children’s Services – Dee Restrepo
June 2, 2009	Franklin County Sheriff’s Department - Deputy Scott Duck
July 2009	<b>No meeting held in July</b>
August 4, 2009	Division of Children’s Services – Alyce Carpenter
September 1, 2009	St. John’s Mercy Hospital Auxiliary – Deanna Coppeans
October 6, 2009	Harmony Health Plan – Regina Sullivan
November 3, 2009	Habitat for Humanity – Norma Klemme & Mary Ann DeJesus
December 1, 2009	Americare – Julie Willman

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Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Becky Stieffermann with the Franklin County Area United Way. Introductions and the following announcements were made:

**Franklin County Children's Division:** Alyce announced that May is Foster Parent Recognition month. A banquet will be held in June to celebrate this event.

**Franklin County Area United Way:** Becky discussed that they're ready to kick off their new campaign. The theme this year will be "Together We Can" and the logo will be a puzzle piece with two hands held together. Becky also announced that the Family Violence Council will be dissolving. Many of their members were also a part of the Franklin County Service Providers; all members have been invited to attend our monthly meetings.

**East Central College:** Don provided Summer Youth Job Program handouts; feel free to make additional copies as needed. There's an additional million dollars of economic stimulus funds being put into this program. Please encourage all youth to apply. Starting salary for high school students is \$7.50 and for college students it's \$8.50. Youth can apply on line and must be between the ages of 14 and 24. The program will run through September of 2009. A Job Seekers Information Workshop will be held at the East Central Training Center on Friday, May 15 from 8:00 a.m. to Noon. Sessions will include resume writing/interview skills, health insurance, 401k/retirement/pension, ECC programs, and Career Center information. Please call Don at 636-583-5195, ext. 2409 to register.

**Heartland Center:** Debbie announced that they'll have an Open House and Health Fair on July 8 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**ALIVE:** Cathy Covington was unable to attend the meeting, but passed on flyers about the Franklin County Family Violence Council training to be held at the Washington Police Department on June 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Though the event is free of charge, please RSVP by emailing Cathy at [cathycovington@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cathycovington@sbcglobal.net) or calling 636-583-9863.

**Social Security Administration:** Elizabeth discussed their agency's Temporary Summer Employment Program. To qualify the applicant must be a high school or college student, maintaining a 2.0 GPA, and meet financial need criteria. To apply, please email [Elizabeth.poston@ssa.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.poston@ssa.gov) or for more information call 636-583-1628. For specific individuals receiving social security, supplemental security income (SSI), railroad retirement, or veteran's benefits their one-time \$250 economic recovery payment should be sent out in May.

**Habitats for Humanity:** Norma stated they'll be building 2 houses in Sullivan this year.

**Healthcare USA:** John stated they're co-hosting with Jefferson Franklin Community Action to hold a Back to School Fair on July 24. The event will take place at Skaters in Union; participants will be able to skate free of charge. They're looking for vendors to participate in the event. Please call John or Paulette for more information.

**Legal Services of Eastern Missouri:** Jon stated they'll be hiring a full time attorney soon.

**Adult Education and Literacy Program:** Sue discussed that singer Gretchen Wilson will be traveling to Washington, DC to hand deliver 10,000 letters from Tennessee residents in hopes to increase funding for adult education. She will testify before the subcommittee about her experiences in obtaining her GED. She'll discuss how important and established the structure of services and size of the programs are on a state and national level through programs such as WIA and Title II.

**Union Food Pantry:** Armin reminded everyone to please put their food donations by their mailboxes this Saturday for the annual Mail Carriers Food Drive. This is being done in most towns since it's a national program. If you by chance don't have it in your town, you can always bring donations to your local pantry.

**Head Start:** Sue stated they're taking applications for fall; programs will begin in August 2009.

**Washington Police Department:** Captain Menefee discussed that any downturn in the economy affects the community. They're seeing more local people homeless and they're looking to assist them as much as possible.

**Crider Center:** Annie provided handouts about the 2009 Franklin County Heroes event on May 29 at the Washington KC Hall starting at 7:00 p.m. Honorees will be Chris Jensen, Marie Killian, Carolyn Houttuin, the Putting Kids First Campaign Team, Sandy Thilenius, and Carla Poepsel. On June 1 they will have a new Executive Director for the Franklin County Community Resource Board.

**Putting Kids First:** The RFP's are currently out and due by June 30. Awards will be sent in August and funding begins in October. There will be a meeting to discuss all of this on June 4 at 3:30, the location will be determined at a later date and will be sent out via email. All agencies interested in funding are welcome to attend. The selection and review committee will be attending the meeting.

**CASA:** Glenda and Melissa were our guest speakers. CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocate. The agency has been around since the 70's and they've been in Franklin County for 3 years. Their goal is to reduce the cycle of violence and abuse and provide a positive influence in a child's life. They try to find permanency in a timely manner, generally within 22-24 months, for children age 0-21 who are in foster care. A community member over the age of 21, has a High School diploma or GED, and wishing to volunteer with CASA goes through an intense screening process and background check. Once accepted, they're then provided with 30 hours of training on topics such as family dynamics, substance abuse, and domestic violence in order to become a CASA volunteer. CASA cases come from a Juvenile Court Judge and then a volunteer advocate is assigned to the child (not their parents). The CASA volunteer will serve to be the child's voice and represent their best interest in the court. The volunteer will meet with the school counselor and spend time with the child to get to know them better. The volunteer and social worker gather information to put in the court report and present to the judge. They also work with the parents on how to be a successful family. Permanency for the child can come in the form of adoption, guardianship, independent living, or being reunited with their biological parents.

The Franklin County CASA agency has 30 volunteers right now. They're looking for more volunteers; individuals who can give an 18 month commitment. Volunteers are also welcome to help with fundraisers and community events. There will be a CASA volunteer orientation meeting on Thursday, May 28 from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. at their office at 301 East State Street in Union. There will be a CASA fall gala held on December 5, 2009.

April was Child Abuse Prevention month. The Keep Kids Safe campaign hosted a Family Fun Day and 200 people attended the event.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Lisa Epple  
East Central College