

Franklin County Service Providers

August 5, 2008

Meeting attendees:

Jon Althausser – Legal Services of Eastern Missouri
Alyce Carpenter – Franklin County Children’s Division
Jon Domachowski – Family Resource Center
Lisa Epple – East Central College
John Falcone – HealthCare USA
Don Francis – Division of Workforce Development
Marie Gumpenberger – Heartland Independent Living
Diana Halmick – SIMV
Phyllis Hicks – United Way 2-1-1
Vicki Hughes – St. John’s Mercy Hospital
Armin Klemme – Union Food Pantry
Norma Klemme – Habitat for Humanity
Sandra McKinnon – University of Missouri Extension
Idalia McNulty – Mercy Care Plus
Dee Restrepo – Lutheran Family & Children’s Services
Stephanie Rohlfs-Young – Alzheimer’s Association
Karen Rothschild – Division of Family Services
Becky Stieffermann – Franklin County Area United Way
Regina Sullivan – Harmony Health Plan
Verna Woodson – Recovery, Inc.
Sheria Yancey – Farm Service Agency

Franklin County Service Providers Presenter List for 2008

January 8, 2008	Group Goal Setting Meeting (Sandra McKinnon)
February 5, 2008	Annie Schulte & Carla Poepsel – Crider Center (will discuss Putting Kids First program)
March 4, 2008	CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER (Norma Klemme & Mary De Jesus – Habitat for Humanity)
April 1, 2008	Panel discussion by: Franklin County Sheriff's Department, Safe Kids St. Louis, & the Missouri Department of Transportation (will discuss Car Seat Safety Awareness)
May 6, 2008	Maria Killian – St. Vincent de Paul Society (will discuss Community Outreach programs)
June 3, 2008	Jennifer Derner – St. John's Mercy Hospice
July 1, 2008	Free workshop: Brochures & Flyers That Get Attention Instructor: Sandra McKinnon
August 5, 2008	Sheria Yancey – USDA
September 2, 2008	Paulette Hensley – Jefferson Franklin Community Action
October 7, 2008	Don Covington – Sexual Assault Response Team & Cathy Covington – ALIVE
November 4, 2008	Becky Stieffermann – United Way
December 2, 2008	Sue Luedde – Adult Education & Literacy Program

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Minutes

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

Franklin County Service Providers:

Sandra discussed that there are currently 94 people on the listserv. A sign-up sheet was sent around for anyone new wishing to add their contact information for this email group. Listserv etiquette was briefly discussed.

The car seat technician training and check up day has been cancelled due to lack of involvement. On a positive note though, Cynthia Eckelkamp with the Pregnancy Assistance Center is now a trained technician in our area. The training has been moved to the Arnold area. Sandra encouraged and challenged the group to try this again after the first of the year in the spring. Becky Steifferrmann stated that the Four Rivers Career Center is more than willing to provide their site for training. Alyce Carpenter suggested holding it during spring break. More recruiting can be done in the meantime; there's still a concern and interest to have this in Franklin County.

Nominations will be needed in November for the chair, vice-chair, and secretary positions.

University of Missouri Extension:

Sandra McKinnon announced that a Home Works course will be held on Saturday, August 23 from 9:00 am to noon at the Zion United Church of Christ in Union. The fee is \$25; register please call 636-583-5141 or visit their website at <http://extension.missouri.edu/franklin>. A Women's Financial Education series will be held on Thursdays in October from the 2-30 from 6:30-9:00 p.m. Speakers are still tentative and they're working on sponsors for this series.

Alzheimer's Association: Stephanie Rophlfs-Young provided 24 hour helpline number magnets. They've expanded their support group locations and they're now in Union, Washington, Sullivan, and Pacific. They're planning their 12th annual Memory Walk on September 20; walks will be held throughout Missouri in St. Peters, Cape Girardeau, and Washington.

Recovery, Inc.: Verna Woodson discussed that they have support groups that meet at the Zion United Church of Christ on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Heartland Independent Living Center: Marie Gumpenberger provided handouts of their agency brochures and newsletter. Their agency serves Franklin, Gasconade, and Maries counties.

Legal Services of Eastern Missouri: Jon Althausser discussed that their offices handles debt collection cases. Debt can be a big burden on people and many times these types of cases aren't legally collectible because they're out of statue. Please phone their main intake line at 800-444-0514 for more information. Their agency covers 21 counties in eastern Missouri.

Franklin County Area United Way:

Becky Stiefferrmann announced that they held their first rally today and their video is completed. Their goal for this year will be announced on August 14. This Friday from 3:00-7:00 p.m. the Crider Dental Clinic will offer children's check-ups and sealants free of charge.

Union Food Pantry:

Armin Klemme discussed that the pantry has seen an increase in usage and a decrease in donations this summer. They always have new people applying for assistance and especially now with more people with job loss. Their current facility may be sold; if this happens they'll be looking for a new and free facility.

Habitat for Humanity:

Norma Klemme stated that the dedication for the two homes in Leslie will be on Saturday, August 16.

HealthCare USA: John Falcone announced that their Back to School Fair will be held on Saturday, August 9 from 10:00 am to 2:00 p.m. at the Salvation Army Gateway Citadel. There is no cost to the general public to attend; for more information call 800-566-6444.

Family Wellness:

A representative from the agency was unable to attend the meeting. Lisa Epple with East Central College announced for them that the Anger Management Group will meet for 6 weekly Tuesday sessions beginning on August 26. Sessions will be from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Family Wellness Office in Union and the cost is \$25.

Farm Service Agency:

Sheria Yancey was our guest speaker. When there's an agricultural disaster their agency provides a flash report within 24. If a declaration of disaster is issued, Sheria is part of the group that assists with that. The disaster declaration is helpful to farmers who've had low yields or pasture loss. The Emergency Program assists after tornadoes or floods to assist farmers with putting up fences or terraces and removing debris.

According to the US Census of Agriculture, Franklin County is the second largest in the state for farmland acreage. We have 590,000 square acres and the average size farm is 164 acres. We raise 20,000 acres of corn, 32,000 acres of soybean, 12,000 acres of milo, 5,100 acres of wheat, 59,000 acres of hay, and 48,500 head of cattle. We also have orchards for production of grapes, cantaloupe, pumpkins, blueberries, etc. Franklin County is ranked 9th in the state for hogs/pigs, 19th in the state for milk cows, and 16th in the state for hay production. A recent market for many farmers is in raising grasses for horses. The average age of a farmer in 1997 was 54 years old and in 2002 it was 56.

The USDA administers the Federal Farm Program and the Conservation Reserve Program. These programs provide practices where producers and put crops or trees in the ground to prevent soil erosion and to promote wildlife. There are 5,000 acres in Franklin County that are used for this purpose. The Commodity Program provides a regular annual farm program where the producer is given an annual direct payment. The requirement is that they report all their crops and usage to the USDA. There are approximately 1,000 farms that are involved with this program each year. Facility Loans have a low interest rate and have been used for putting up grain bins and flat storage, which help market grains. To be eligible for these loans, crop and bin insurance is necessary; loans have a seven year pay off period. Many farmers are dealing with rental cost of land going up. The Defense Program keeps track of all the food, feed, and seed locations in the county. In case there was a disaster and the people in the community needed food the USDA office would be able to help locate food sources. They work with the Emergency Preparedness Response Team so that if all the interstates were shut down they'd know where all the farmer's crops and animals were. Their Loan Program serves as a farm loan manager and loans to people who can't get credit elsewhere. They also have youth, fixed, and beginning farmer loans.

Because of the high fuel costs, more farmers are going back to using "horse power". Due to urban sprawl more farms are being sold in Franklin County because ground cost is so high. Understandably, if they can sell 100 acres here and afford to buy 300 acres somewhere else, then they have to do that.

The Women in Agriculture program is just getting started in Missouri. The first event was held last year and this year it's been tentatively set for November 6th. Speakers will be available to teach women more about agriculture and have fun with it.

Respectfully submitted by,
Lisa Epple