

Franklin County Service Providers

January 8, 2008

Meeting attendees:

Anne Bryan – First Steps

Pam Cox Williams – Head Start

Lisa Epple – East Central College

William Hector – The Freedom Project

Paulette Hensley – Jefferson Franklin Community Action

Amanda Jakob – Provident Care

Laura Jensen – Exceptional Equestrians

Armin Klemme – Union Food Pantry

Norma Klemme – Habitat for Humanity

Sandra McKinnon – University of Missouri Extension

Sandy Nappier – Office of Job Training

Darren O’Rear – Division of Youth Services

Katie Sandoval – Washington High School

Regina Sullivan – Harmony Health Plan

Sue Swisshelm – Head Start

Jean Terbrock – Exceptional Equestrians

Sandy Thilenius – Franklin County Board for Family & Children

Franklin County Service Providers Presenter List for 2008

January 8, 2008	Group Goal Setting Meeting
February 5, 2008	Annie Schulte – Crider Center (will discuss Putting Kids First program)
March 4, 2008	Norma Klemme & Mary De Jesus – Habitat for Humanity
April 1, 2008	Panel discussion by: Franklin County Sheriff’s Department, Safe Kids St. Louis, and 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	<u>NO MEETING SCHEDULED</u>
August 5, 2008	Sheria Yancey – USDA
September 2, 2008	Paulette Hensley – Jefferson Franklin Community Action
October 7, 2008	Don Covington – Sexual Assault Response Team
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 the list serv seems to be creating more communication among members between meetings. The Service Providers goal is to increase communication between providers and the list serv offers one more way to share resources. A handout regarding list serv etiquette was given out. Community Connection is no longer available to support our resource directory. There is a new 2-1-1 service being offered through United Way and we'll be sending our resource directory to them. Sandra will have promotional information about this service at the February meeting. The link to the 2-1-1 service has been added to our website. Not everyone statewide has the capability to access the service yet, but they're working on it.

At the March 2008 meeting the Service Providers will celebrate their 16 years in existence. Sandra will get in contact with the Missourian to take a photo. Lisa Epple will confirm with East Central about ordering a cake.

At the April meeting we'll have the Missouri Department of Transportation, the Franklin County Sheriff's Department, and the Safe Kids St. Louis panel here to discuss car seat safety. Each presenter will be given approximately 15 minutes to present and then we'll have time for questions and discussions after that. There was discussion on whether there would be a field trip held in April. We may not have a field trip this year. Some agency suggestions for this year or next were to visit Crider Center of the Exceptional Equestrians.

There's no scheduled meeting for July but the question was brought up if the group would like to hold a training or workshop. Topic ideas that were suggested were to have a workshop on Brochures and Flyers That Get Attention or on When Creditors are Predators. It was decided to leave July open until after the April meeting to see if there would be a need to have a car seat safety activity. If you're interested in either of the workshop topics, please let Sandra know and she can offer this at some other time.

Instead of a guest speaker today, today's meeting will be centered around goal accomplishments and discussion. Goals this group outlined and accomplished during 2006 and 2007 were to 1) Stay abreast of human needs and services, 2) To identify our group's needs, 3) To increase communication between members and the public, and 4) To increase membership to include more human services agencies and organizations. Several ways these goals were accomplished were discussed.

Head Start:

Sue Swisshelm and Pam Cox Williams discussed that Head Start will still accept applications for children to complete the program this year. They'll also be starting their new 2008-2009 campaign in August and September. To be eligible, children must be 3 by July 30 or born in 2005. If they'll be 5 by July 30, then they'll be too old for the program and ready to go into kindergarten. Head Start will hold a Round Up event sometime in February. Head Start classes are offered all day in Pacific for Sullivan children, the Robertsville location offers two sessions: for Union children in the morning and for St. Clair children in the afternoon, the Gray Summit location offers two sessions: for Gray Summit and Villa Ridge children in the morning and for Pacific children in the afternoon, and there are two home based programs.

Franklin County Board for Family & Children:

Sandy Thilenius discussed that they provide services to children ages 0-19. They're services assist with all areas of child abuse and mental health needs. Sandy will discuss the 2007 needs assessment report at the February meeting. There will be a Babies & Kids Activity Fair on Saturday, January 12 from 9:00 to noon at the Washington YMCA. Health and wellness booths will be available.

Exceptional Equestrians:

Laura Jensen announced that they served over 100 riders last year. Laura provided as a handout their fall newsletter and Christmas card that was sent out. They currently lease the facility where they're located and their hope is to some day own their own facility.

First Steps:

Anne Bryan discussed that they provide services to children age 0-3 years old. They serve a 15 county area and their system point of entry office is in Union.

Division of Youth Services:

Darren O'Rear discussed that the agency serves Franklin and a small portion of Warren County. Most of their youth are ages 11-18, but it depends on the state to determine what age they consider to be juvenile.

The Freedom Project:

William Hector explained that this project is about providing transitional housing for battered women and children. The plan for this project is currently being developed. He will send a needs assessment out to the list serv. William provided as a handout what the mission of The Freedom Project is.

Office of Job Training:

Sandy Nappier stated that the government cuts have frozen their program and there are no additional funds unless a client would be a dislocated worker.

Habitat for Humanity:

Norma Klemme announced that they've built 6 houses in Franklin County so far. They'll probably be building two more homes in Leslie this year.

Union Food Pantry:

Armin Klemme stated that they've been in existence for 16 years. The pantry recently moved to 115 East Locust Street in Union. Eligible participants must live within the school district of Union and meet certain standards of low income. Participants are required to fill out income scale form; participants are taken at their word in regard to this information. For a 1 person family, they can't make over \$1,000 a month and for a family of more than 1 they can't make over \$1,500 a month. The pantry serves approximately 75 families each month. Families are allowed to visit the pantry once a month for up to 4 months; it's not an ongoing handout. The Boy Scouts food drive donated 9,000 items this past year. At Christmastime there are several groups that donate food to the pantry. The pantry now has plenty of peas, corn, and beans.

Provident Care:

Amanda Jakob stated that their agency is owned by Provident Counseling. They assist Medicaid clients and also provide tools to get kids back on track in life. Their Sullivan office is moving to Washington, MO.

Jefferson Franklin Community Action:

Paulette Hensley announced that they're taking application for energy assistance, but are not taking housing assistance applications right now. Their agency serves low income families, many of who are working families. Paulette provided as a handout a flyer on Pay Day Loans and steps to consider all your options. They are predatory lending agencies out there preying on families and community. To help educate those who you work with, please post and share these flyers. Another flyer was provided on home ownership financial help, which gives phone numbers of places that can help refinance and offer counseling. Missouri is the 14th leading state in foreclosures. They're hoping to have a Poverty Simulation in Franklin County before September of 2008. One in Jefferson County was recently held during a Family Violence Conference. These one hour simulations help agencies to understand their client's situations. If you've gone to one already, you can still attend again or volunteer to be a part of this very real experience.

Harmony Health Plan:

Regina Sullivan stated that the Missouri Health Net was called the MC+ plan. In 2006 they were given a new contract with 0 members and they now have 10,000 members.

Respectfully submitted by,
Lisa Epple