

**Family and Children's Trust Committee
December 3, 2012
Minutes of Meeting**

Members Present

Mary Kay Miller, chair, Carol Carillo, Raquel Gonzales, Marianne Gagen, Belinda Lucey, Joseph De Luca, Cathryn Freitas, Olga Jones, Debra Vinson.

Staff Present

Rhonda Smith, Elaine Burren

Call to order:

Meeting was called to order at 9:55 due to the building being evacuated for 15 minutes.

We introduced ourselves to Wanda Jones.

Review of Minutes (10/29/12)

Joe Deluca moved acceptance, Cathryn Freitas seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Membership Update

Olga Jones will be an official member as of midnight tonight.

Stakeholder Presentations

*Wanda Davis from **First Five, Contra Costa County***

The program offers early intervention for children with learning disabilities, homeless children with mental health needs, and complex family issues. Wanda's main focus is service coordination and integration dealing with wrap around services for families. She also deals with teen parents who are dealing with mental health issues and abusive relationships. The agencies that First Five works with are YMCA in West County and Crossroads in Central County.

First Five uses Triple P Parenting, a collaborative with several agencies that streamlines services to families. The parenting program is evidence based. She also supervises the Ages and Stages Questionnaire-3 (ASQ), a developmental screening program that screens across all domains: cognitive, social, emotional, fine and gross motor skills.

She recommends that we need to look at service coordination, how we support families of diversity, especially African American and Asian families, and also where agencies can leverage funds from different sources.

Site Visit Reports

- ***Jewish Family and Children Services, reported by Debra***

It was reported that the program has had exponential increases in the number of families that they serve. They have adapted the Triple P and COPE

(Counseling Options for Parent Education) programs and have trained their staff in the program. They are spending their funds on a regular basis. They will also have a staff member who will assist clients with full immigration services, including assistance obtaining green cards. They had data to show that their parenting programs are successful. They do violence prevention programs in middle schools. They are also a very flexible agency in terms of serving new groups.

- ***Crossroads Program, reported by Raquel***
Raquel reported that she met with the FACT funded Reading Specialist who is experienced in teaching secondary students. They are using the EDGE program. 2 students have passed the CAHSEE (exit exam). They do developmental screening for the children. She spoke with the students who were very positive about the effect of the program not just on them but their entire family. They have a fathers' group that averages 2-4 fathers. Their numbers have been consistent, but they have no waiting list as the girls want to stay in the comprehensive high schools to be with their boyfriends.
- ***Ujima, reported by Joe***
It was reported the program focuses on counseling support for children from families with drug and alcohol abuse issues. Children who graduate from the program tend to continue in voluntary support programs. Ujima tries to engage fathers, which is more difficult to achieve. They have program limits due to funding. They would also like more exposure for their program, without intruding on the privacy of their clients. They are working on collaborating with other agencies. They have 3 staff members who are graduates of the program.
- ***Brighter Beginnings, reported by Ruth***
It was reported FACT funds the Teen Success program. The teens go through a Teen for Success Inc program. Their numbers have exceeded their estimates. Their clientele is diverse. They lost their Cal Learn funding and have moved their offices to Bay Point where many of the clients are and they work with the Antioch First Five. They are exceeding their monthly expenses and their monthly match for FACT has doubled. They are constantly looking for new funds and new collaborations. They did receive a small grant for a health clinic in Richmond.
- ***Community Violence Solutions, reported by Carol***
It was reported that the program is pleased with the successes of the program but continue to struggle with attracting fathers. They are the only program in the county to provide safe exchange and supervised visitation to family law court families. The Fathers' Program is still in its infancy stage. The site visit team offered technical assistance on establishing new programs and outreach strategies for engaging men. The program reported that the

lack of transportation has been identified as a barrier to accessing services, as well as overburdened obligations that are mandated by the courts. 5 dads graduated the first session and the program is gearing up to host another session in the spring. The program is on target with its contractual agreements.

Stakeholder Presentation

PASSA (Promoting African-American/All Student Success and Achievement). Essence Phillips and Cardenas Shackelford

PASSA is a parent consulting firm that work with educators as well as empower parents to work with the educational system with the intent on equipping parents with the skills and resources to advocate on behalf of their children and to ensure successful navigation through the educational system. Ms. Phillips reported on the dismal statistics associated with high school drop out, suspension rates, and the oftentimes generational inability to understand parental involvement in child academics. PASSA offers a five week – one hour sessions service delivery that is intended for both parents and educational professionals. The program has the capacity to target students as well. The curriculum is structured into five levels, each addressing specific issues. The five sessions are as follows:

1. Parenting: Helping parents navigate the school system to benefit their child's academic development,
2. Attendance & Behavior: Addressing the barriers of challenged attendance and behavior issues that impede academic success,
3. Socialization: Encouraging parents to raise self-motivated life long learners,
4. Support & Motivation: Helping parents to understand that in developing their child's academic success, that every moment is a teaching moment and providing them with the skills to recognize these and to integrate them into their parenting, and
5. Ancestry & Genetics: Using history to inform parents of where they originated from and the close ties between cultures and ethnicities while dispelling the myths of disability labeling.

PASSA suggests that FACT consider exploring the barriers to academic success for children as the disparities in academic achievement is vast and will ultimately impact community well being. Such a program would include parental support and advocacy.

Survey Update

Rhonda provided the websites for the provider and parent on line surveys to the committee and updated on the deadlines for online completion (12/17). Belinda and Debra agreed to help with parent entry.

Open Discussion/Additions

Olga informed the group that she will not be present for the January meeting.

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at

NEXT MEETING:

January 7, 2013

9:30-11:30 AM

40 Douglas Drive Rm. 101/102