



**Steering Committee Meeting
February 15, 2011
9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Marcella Bianco, Chair**

Members Attending: Tonya Andreacchio, Melodee Benton, Sean Boyle, Michele Bratina, Jacqueline Copeland, Connie D'Antonio, Dani Dreizehnter, Christine Epps, Donna Harris, Shari Heisey, Marcia Miller, David Thompson, Page Woodward, and Kim Thomas.

Guests Attending: Kimberly Eardley and Hector Ramirez, Planned Parenthood.

I. Welcome and Introductions

David Thompson, Vice Chair, welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

II. Approval of February Agenda and January Minutes

Dani Dreizehnter made a motion to approve the February agenda and January minutes. Marcia Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Network Updates

Academic Success Network –Eileen Storck, Chair

- DVD's of the Positive Truancy Poster were distributed for members to post on their websites.
- Ed Lacey from the Drop Back In Academy presented on the program, which is a drop-out recovery program. It's considered a public school and provides the same education, only individually.

Motion was made by Dani Dreizehnter to have Drop Back In present at the next meeting. Connie D'Antonio seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Delinquency Prevention Network – Jennifer Romelien, Chair

- Continue to work on producing a bullying pamphlet. Will ask the Youth Leadership Council for their input – is the pamphlet the best way to raise awareness? Would they be willing to design and present a skit?

Kids at Hope – Christine Epps

- Has trained 11 schools now and Westwood will be the first high school.
- A presentation is being given to all principals on February 10th.
- Rick Miller will be here in March to do a Train the Trainers two-day conference.
- Calvary Chapel is shifting all of their scheduled events to be KAH events and will be focused on KAH schools.

Substance Abuse Coalition, Marcella Bianco

- Coalition did not meet in February.
- Next meeting is Wednesday, March 9th at 4:00 p.m.

Teen Health Network – Donna Harris, Coordinator Teen Zone

- There were 23 clients at the last Teen Zone Clinic.
- Looking for a grant for \$5,000 to hire an ARNP.

- Christine Epps met with Mr. Lannon on doing a sex education curriculum evaluation in the schools.
- Continue to work on a resource guide for teens.
- Shantarra Houston from WE R G.E.M.S. presented on this new program that empowers girls.

Dani Dreizehnter asked about the sex education curriculum in the schools and is it being taught. Christine Epps noted that she has been meeting with Mr. Lannon, Dr. Roberts, and Karlette Peck regarding evaluating the curriculum.

Motion was made by Donna Harris to have We R G.E.M.S. present at the next meeting. Dani Dreizehnter seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Youth Leadership Council – Christine Epps

- Working on four (4) topics: drugs/alcohol, lack of parental support, pointless violence, and not enough to do. There is a disconnect between parents and their kids.
- One member is working on a book drive as their school does not have enough books for each student.

IV. LaPromesa Program

Hector Ramirez and Kimberly Eardley presented on Planned Parenthood’s LaPromesa Program (which stands for the promise in Spanish). This is a teen pregnancy prevention program for Spanish teens. It also teaches responsible sexual behavior, and provides reproductive health screenings. 20% of Spanish students fail because of the language barrier. This is the fastest growing rate of teen pregnancy. They have seen more and more lately sexual orientation being used in bullying. This program empowers parents as well.

Dani Dreizehnter made a motion to have Planned Parenthood present on Teen Time After School at the next meeting, seconded by Sean Boyle. Motion carried unanimously.

V. MODEL Program

Shari Heisey and Beatrice Gaviria presented on the MODEL (Mentors Opening Doors Enriching Lives) Program. This is a mentoring program for children 4-18 who has an incarcerated parent. They need mentors as well as referrals. They are funded by a Federal grant.

VI. Announcements

- Melodee Bianco – Americore funding may be cut. That means 36 members in three counties with 10 kids each or 360 kids without reading tutoring. Legislation is voting on this cut on March 1st. Please contact your legislature.
- Sean Boyle – They are talking about cutting Healthy Start, Healthy Families.
- Sean Boyle – Children’s Services Council is conducting community forums called the Listening Tour. They have been to 21 of the school SACs. Parents state their greatest need is after school care and transportation.
- Dani Dreizehnter – We are losing Judge Conner as he has been appointed to the 4th District Court of Appeals by Governor Rick Scott.
- Dave Thompson – Legislation on Spice or K-2 has made it illegal to sell it, although there are still a number of stores selling it in St. Lucie. The Sheriff’s Office is drafting a letter to the DEA listing those that refused to remove it from their shelves. Local law enforcement cannot enforce it.