



**Meeting Minutes**  
**May 6, 2011, 2011**  
**Sean Baldwin, Chair**

**Roundtable Members Attending:** Nancy Archer, Sean Baldwin, Marcella Bianco, Sean Boyle, Christine Epps, Christine Demetriades, Chris Dzadovsky, Travis Erickson, Rick Kendal, Michael Lannon, Larry Lee, David Nisivoccia, Ron Parrish, Tom Perona, Brian Reuther, Lisa von Seelen, and Wydee'a Wilson.

**Roundtable Members Absent:** Pat Alley, Linda Bartz, Karen Knapp, Mary Locke, Ken Mascara, Vern Melvin, Ellen Pruitt, and Al Rivett.

**Guests Attending:** Dave Thompson representing Ken Mascara, Glenda Matesic representing Richard Stetson, Elesabeth Jean-Baptiste, Yimell Bello, Shari Heisey, Michael Panella, John Romano, Kathryn Hensley, and Norm Penner.

**I. Welcome/Introductions and Pledge of Allegiance**

Sean Baldwin welcomed all members to the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was then conducted

**II. Presentation of Checks**

Yimell Bellow with Kids Connected by Design presented two checks - one for \$471 for Lil Feet and the other for \$500 to Garden City Early Learning Academy for a Kids at Hope field trip to the beach.

Nancy Archer presented a check from the American Legion for \$1,500 for Lil Feet. Ron Parrish explained that firefighter Fred Barbera started the program after going on a call and seeing a child with holes in their shoes. This year the need is for 600 pairs of shoes. Sean Baldwin thanked Ron Parrish for the program, and thanked Kids Connected by Design, Early Learning Coalition, and the American Legion.

**III. May Agenda/April Minutes**

*Nancy Archer made a motion to approve the May agenda and the April minutes, seconded by Sean Boyle. Motion carried unanimously.*

**IV. Chair Report/Executive Director Report**

*Sean Baldwin reported as follows:*

- Recommended that the July 1<sup>st</sup> meeting be cancelled. All members were in agreement.

*Christine Epps reported as follows:*

**KAH Update**

- Village Green Elementary is the 13<sup>th</sup> school to be trained.
- Was featured on Anthony Westbury's radio show on April 4<sup>th</sup> to give a KAH update.
- Staff at the Detention Center was trained on April 5<sup>th</sup> by Denise Sirmons and Dani Dreizehnter.
- The Spring Fling on April 9<sup>th</sup> was very successful. Over 700 people were in attendance. There was free food, face painting, a climbing wall, bounce houses, races, and contests. Calvary Chapel, Seacoast Bank, Frastrac Electric, the Education Foundation, Walmart, Total Roofing, Fort Pierce Police Dept., Harvest Foods, and Reprographic Solutions provided sponsorship to the event so that it was free to families. Plaques will be presented to the sponsors at the School Board meeting by Sean Baldwin next week.

- Garden City Early Learning Academy held a ribbon cutting ceremony on April 13<sup>th</sup> for the KAH Garden and Gates. Commissioner Dzadovsky was instrumental in getting a grant from the Cultural Affairs Council to make this dream a reality.
- Bayshore Elementary hosted a dinner and training for parents on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Nancy Brown and Sheri Reichard with the School Board trained over 35 parents of kids that attend Bayshore.
- Seven (7) people will be traveling to Phoenix for the Master's Institute on May 8<sup>th</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be three (3) principals, one (1) assistant principal, two (2) assistant superintendents, Mindi Fetterman, and Christine Epps. All are getting scholarships from headquarters.

### **Youth Leadership**

- Students presented their research and recommendations on May 3<sup>rd</sup> on the topics of Senseless Violence, Lack of Parent Involvement, Drugs and Sex, and Lack of Things to Do. They created power point presentations, a pamphlet, a skit, and a video. They did a fabulous job and all that attended were very impressed with their results and commented that we as adults value their voice. A special thanks to Nancy Archer, Sean Baldwin, Larry Lee, Vern Melvin, Tom Perona, and Dave Thompson for attending.

#### Discussion:

- Sean Baldwin - It was amazing the solutions they have come up with. This program gives them a voice in the community. You can see the leaders in them.
- Larry Lee – Surprised that there really isn't that much of a generation gap. They see the same problems that adults do, many of which we are already working on.
- Dave Thompson - They recognize the cultural issues and perceived the morality issues. The presentations done in such a matter that they were things other kids can view and understand. Very impressed with the bullying video.
- Tom Perona – Surprised about the survey results about parents. there is a perception that there is no connection between parents and kids. They surveyed about 140 kids and it showed that there is a good connection between parents and child no matter what the demographics. The other thing is that we make decisions for them all the time but never really listened to them. They spoke loudly as a group and I heard them. We all need to make sure we check in with them more often.
- Sean Baldwin – The group is available to anybody who needs their assistance.
- Nancy Archer – The lack of parent involvement really interested me as it is a concern from preschool on up. Teenagers really want to have a connection with their parents. To see that they need and want that connection really hit me. I wish they had the magic formula to make that happen.
- Christine Epps – Spoke to Mr. Lannon about the bullying presentation and she will be meeting with Janice Karst to put it on the website. Anyone who would like to meet with Youth Leadership please let her know.
- Dave Thompson – With bullying being a silent thing and them making a silent movie was very astute and a strong message.

### **Other Roundtable Business**

- The Strategic Planning Retreat for the future Roundtable operations was held on April 1<sup>st</sup> with 16 members in attendance. Results will be reported later on in this meeting.
- The Bridges out of Poverty Committee met on April 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss next steps. It was decided that a mission, vision, goals and objectives need to be established at the next meeting so that there is a plan and tracking of progression. Christine Epps, Karen Knapp, Mary Locke, Al Rivett, Donna Rivett, and Beth Ryder were in attendance.

- Sean Baldwin, Wendy Wolff and Christine Epps presented at the United Way on April 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss grant allocation for the upcoming year. A couple of business leaders on the Committee asked to be trained in KAH and would like to attend the National Board Retreat in October.

**V. March Financials**

Esperanza Morales presented the financials for March. She noted that grant revenue was received by the United Way, SARG, and Children’s Services Council in the amount of \$21,089.86. Kids at Hope revenue for training and T-shirt sales was \$3,325. Regarding revenue for the first half of the year, received about one-quarter of the income. We are below the target but by the next month will show an increase as we are transitioning from cash accounting into accrual accounting so revenues from the grants we have earned will be posted early enough to post. In expenses, we are below the target so we are spending less than 50%.

*Larry Lee made a motion to approve the April financials, seconded by Nancy Archer. Motion carried unanimously.*

**VI. Steering Committee Report**

Marcella Bianco noted the Steering Committee consists of a phenomenal group of people and she is excited to chair it. She presented the Steering Committee Report as follows:

**Academic Success Network –Eileen Storck, Chair**

- SWAT student Manny Rubio presented on flavored tobacco.
- Thanked 211 for sponsoring the printing of the truancy posters for distribution.
- Mike Hitsman is the principal at Weatherbee Elementary. They are doing a lot of great things with Kids at Hope and he is a regular attendee. He stars in a truancy video the School District is producing, highlighting Kids at Hope.
- Judge Levine has agreed to have parent Kids at Hope trainings at Truancy Court.
- Judi Miller presented on the Parent Academy.
- Revolving Kids at Hope parent trainings are being set up by Mike Hitsman and Nancy Brown.

**Delinquency Prevention Network – Jennifer Romelien, Chair**

- Continue to work on bullying. The Youth Leadership Council is producing a bullying video.
- A Nominating Committee has been formed for a new chair and vice-chair.

**Substance Abuse Coalition, Marcella Bianco**

- Kim Thomas presented the 2010 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey results.
- SWAT student Manny Rubio presented on flavored tobacco.
- Ruth DeStafney presented on Teen Court.
- Youth members discussed drugs in their school and what they can do. SRO Bill Radke will follow-up with the School Board regarding Crimestoppers posters being hung on school campuses. Mr. Lannon added that it is a great tool and 1,500 posters were distributed.

**Teen Health Network – Donna Harris, Coordinator Teen Zone**

- Members attended a Youth Leadership Council meeting where the kids asked a lot of questions regarding sex and how to talk to their parents. Donna attended the Parent Academy Curriculum Committee and the Network members decided there is a need to educate parents. At the next meeting will discuss a program on how to talk to your kids about many issues.
- Asked Youth Leadership if they had ever heard of the Get Real About AIDS curriculum. Two had heard of it but were not sure what it was. We need to find out if the School District is teaching it.

**Other Discussion**

Connie D’Antonio presented the third quarter report for CASASTART. She noted that they are in three schools serving 90 clients. Five case managers attended Module 3 Kids at Hope training. Partnership

collaboration included Kids at Hope, PAL, 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Boys & Girls Club, Parkway Community Center, Project Rock, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Castle, DFF, SRO's, Children's Services Council, IRSC Mentors, and the Center for Autism Research. The kids attended a bullying workshop at the Port St. Lucie Police Dept. She thanked all members for their contributions and requested that the Steering Committee remain as CASASTART's Advisory Board. The Steering Committee recommended approval to the Roundtable.

Discussion:

- Marcella Bianco – They are doing tremendous things in the community. The Case Managers are truly Kids at Hope Aces. They have such an involvement in kids and parent's lives that they are invited to baseball games, birthday parties, plays, etc.
- Sean Baldwin – We need to know what role does the Steering Committee play?
- Christine Epps – Because of the make-up of the Steering Committee it fits perfectly with their requirements. There is no financial responsibility.
- Dave Thompson – This would be the second year. Last year it was decided to do it for a year to feel out the process.
- Marcella Bianco – Connie comes to the Steering Committee for guidance and we have so many community activities they need to do to involve parents and students. She's coming to the Steering Committee for help. This is another opportunity for us to collaborate.
- Mike Lannon – We need to define our role with other organizations and how many other organizations would like that same privilege. He is worried about diluting the power of the Roundtable. Before we say yes he would like to have more conversation, whether one on one or an agenda item at the next meeting. Should we be a group in support of any other single organization because we are in support of all of our organizations.
- Sean Baldwin – We also do this for the Department of Juvenile Justice Regional Council in an advisory board capacity and the Juvenile Assessment Center by Statute. It makes sense because everyone is already gathered and why have another meeting? There are some organizations that get grants and have to have an Advisory Board to exist.
- Christine Epps – CASASTART is a best practice of SAMHSA and cannot exist without the Advisory Board. Vern Melvin brought it to the Roundtable.
- Dave Thompson – Both the Steering Committee and the Roundtable were comfortable with it and there have been no conflicts. Also, it's a good fit because of KAH and there's not another meeting to have to go to.
- Sean Baldwin – If there are others who have concerns please call Christine Epps in the next week. If there are enough we can put it on agenda for next month.
- Larry Lee – It sounds like the Steering Committee is happy with the relationship. We should get a presentation on the program itself. It's a good point that we don't want to steer away from our original mission. Perhaps we need a clear policy to define roles.
- Sean Baldwin – We need to be clear that they are acting in an advisory role that is not in control of the program, not responsible for it, and it is not an endorsement. Put this on the agenda for a 5-10 minute presentation at the next meeting. Anyone with concerns between now and then please notify Christine Epps.

## **VII. Parent Academy**

Michael Lannon reported on the Parent Academy as follows:

Brad Gould approached him regarding a Time Magazine article on parent academies that acknowledge the needs of parents. The Parent Academy is a 501(c)3 organization. They sent out approximately 700 surveys asking what parents need guidance in on how to successfully raise their children. The lessons will be taken to the parents, in their language, instead of them having to come to a specific building. The goal is to go where the need is. Volunteers teach the lessons. Seven out of 10 children are living in poverty in St. Lucie County. Their parents may be afraid of authority and don't trust government, which includes the school board. The School Board has a five-year, \$23 million partnership with Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing that focuses on four areas – expanding early childhood education from 3 year olds to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade; help create the Parent Academy; develop science, technology, math, and engineering curriculum; and the

digital divide. The partnership will help train teachers and provide eight (8) positions for the Parent Academy – six (6) here and two (2) in the corporate office. The jobs people in poverty used to have are not there anymore. We have to change things as a whole community. That’s why there is the Roundtable, it’s about finding all of the different pathways to change it. It is our collaboration and collective desire to get better. Nobody competes with each other here in St. Lucie County.

### **VIII. Review of Retreat**

This item was tabled until the next meeting due to time constraints.

### **IX. Announcements**

- Chris Dzadozsky - the County will be going through budget planning in June and July. We need to be prepared prior to that and tell our story. We need to get out in front of them and let them know what we are doing.
- Christine Epps – Three (3) long time members have left us and she asked members to please sign their plaques. They are Judge Burton Conner who served for 12 years; Sylvie Marceau for 13 years; and Gwenda Thompson for 8 years.
- Sean Boyle – Children’s Services Council is hosting a Red Carpet Premiere on May 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. for the first showing of their video. They are doing a weekly radio show on WIRA 1400, thanks to Larry Lee, Jr. A lot of what parents say they wanted already exists in this community. They talk about Kids at Hope on every show. They are always looking for guest speakers. Thanks to the Rave partnership there will be free movies for children and families over the summer.
- Marcella Bianco – Thanked the County Commission and Port St. Lucie City Council for passing the resolution to restrict the sale of candy flavored tobacco. SWAT presented to both of them last month.
- Chris Dzadozsky - Added his thanks to Manny and the SWAT team who presented. It shows them how to move government and it was great to see them be successful. Thanked Mike Lannon and the School Board for Art in Public Places. Thanked David Nisivoccia and the Fire District for their work with In The Image of Christ. Hazel Hoylman is working with the shelters and can expand her operation and her work with HIV/AIDS education and outreach. The Commissioners took a lot of heat to go to Washington, DC, but they have received a discretionary fund of \$4.5 million for transportation in this community for buses, wheelchair lifts, etc.
- Larry Lee – The Oral Health Project was recognized statewide and received the Children’s Innovation Award. This was due to collaboration among many organizations and was an effort by one of the School Nurses. There have been major improvements in children’s dental care.
- Tom Perona -The XE3 races are being held on May 14<sup>th</sup>. The program matches middle school students with mentors to create alternative energy carts. It is amazing what some of these kids come up with. There is a 5K race at 8:00 a.m. Races start at 12:00.
- Sean Baldwin – PAL presented a proposal before the Commission to move the program to the old YMCA building in Fort Pierce. There are 8 ½ acres and PAL will schedule organized activities. Public Works will start construction during the first of the school year. The Planning Department is putting a bus stop in.