

**CIRCUIT 7  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

**COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF VOLUSIA, FLAGLER, PUTNAM & ST. JOHNS COUNTIES**

**Calvin Martin, Chair**

**Government Services Building  
1769 East Moody Boulevard  
Building 2  
Bunnell, Florida**

**June 8, 2016**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**Mary Garcia  
Joe Theobald  
Lois Berardi  
Arnold Anderson  
Deb Reith  
Calvin Martin  
Carl Coalson  
Diane Martin-Morgan  
Claudia Roth  
Shirley Holland  
Robin King  
Dawn Allicock  
LT. James Day**

**GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT:**

**Linda Mandizha - DCF  
James Lynam - DCF  
SueAnne Sheedy – DCF  
Dixie Morgese – Healthy Start  
Daniel Antoine – CPC  
Clay LaRoche – DCF  
Judy Palaia - DCF  
Shawna Novak - FIP  
Lynn Kennedy – One Voice  
Julie Barrow – One Voice  
D J Lebo - ELCFV  
J Logan - NAACP  
Evelyn Lynam - DCF  
Dawn Green - DCF**

*The mission of the department is to protect the vulnerable, promote strong and economically self-sufficient families, and advance personal and family recovery and resiliency*

*in conjunction with*

*The mission of the Community Alliance is to support a comprehensive continuum of services to strengthen children and families through advocacy, education assessment and forging community collaboration with organizations and individuals that share the vision and mission of the Community Alliance.*

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. Roll call did establish a quorum.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of January 2016 and April 2016 minutes was motioned and approved.

### **III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

#### **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND ADOPTION PLAN**

Dixie Morgese reported:

➤ Ms. Morgese provided an update on the Circuit 7 Five Year Plan for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Adoption Promotion. She outlined the three priorities the plan addresses. Ms. Morgese went on to detail specific actions that have been taken in the circuit as a result of the plan.

### **IV. ONE VOICE FOR VOLUSIA**

Julie Barrow reported:

➤ Ms. Barrow reported on working with the hospitals in Volusia County and the Volusia County Health Department to complete the Community Health Needs Assessment. This assessment begins a three year cycle to address identified needs. She detailed the priorities that will be focused on: Adult Behavioral Health, Barriers to Accessing Health Care Services and Chronic Disease (Diabetes and Heart Disease).

➤ Ms. Barrow went on to discuss the One Voice work on the annual Community Agenda Snapshot. She introduced Lynn Kennedy to provide further information on this project.

➤ Ms. Kennedy stated that the last Snapshot came out in September of 2015 and that the Alliance can expect the next edition of the Snapshot to come out in less than six months.

➤ Ms. Kennedy stated that of the key indicators reviewed in the Snapshot more were moving in positive directions than in a negative direction which is good news for both Volusia and Flagler counties. She went on to discuss some of the specific indicators and the positive and negative results that were being found.

➤ Member King asked if the Snapshot was tracking trends in racial disparities. Ms. Kennedy responded that the Snapshot does not track that data but the groups that are using the Snapshot data do use racial disparity data as they analyze the issues. It has been used in the Community Health Needs Assessment.

➤ Chair Martin asked about the indicator for domestic violence which is trending in the wrong direction and if that is a large component of why more children are coming into foster care. Ms. Kennedy stated that they do not track that information but that it is her understanding that such is the case. Ms. Morgese added that according to the data they keep for the Child Abuse Prevention Plan that domestic violence is the second highest reason for children coming into foster care after drug abuse. Member Holland added that this is the experience of the Guardian ad Litem Program also and that a change in the law where often both parents are jailed as a result of a domestic abuse incident may also be contributing to this trend.

### **V. COMMUNITY ALLIANCE TOURS**

Calvin Martin reported:

➤ Chair Martin discussed the fourth Alliance tour which just concluded in Putnam County. Two issues were highlighted during this tour with the Heart of Putnam. First is that there is a fiscal issue in this area. The second is that there is still a sort of silo system in Putnam County when the call goes out to the community to address an issue. Providers need to be able to work closer together. The presentation during the tour was excellent.

- Member Anderson echoed Chair Martin's observations and went on to say that it appeared to him that communications, especially timely communications, was the biggest issue between providers serving that area.
- Member Garcia stated that Putnam County is serviced by many providers from outside Putnam County and it is difficult to get all those providers to come to the table to address issues. She suggested that if there were a central "Hub" for providers to work out of it would help. She stated all the providers work hard but they work hard individually.
- Member King stated she has the perception that there are entities that are using Putnam needs as a means to secure funds but that those funds are not being poured back into Putnam County. She stated that she recognizes that Putnam is too small to justify a full local operation by some providers so that is some of the reason for this and she is not sure how to resolve that issue. She did state that she had recently heard of a project for a central hub for providers in Jacksonville and maybe this is a model that should be considered.
- Chair Martin stated that the Executive Committee is proposing that the next year cycle of tours be focused on engaging all four county commission boards and providing each board a presentation. If the Alliance is in agreement then we plan to do one county quarterly and would like the membership to attend and Chair Martin will give the presentation. No member disagreed.
- Member Coalson asked that the providers in Putnam be aware of the tele-psychiatry services grant for counseling at the schools. 7 schools ~~are now~~ will be connected to this system and the schools could become the hub for services as has been discussed. Chair Martin asked if this service has been marketed to the community. Member Coalson responded not as of yet. (Minutes correction noted at the November meeting)

## **VI. MANAGING ENTITY – SAMH**

No one to report

- Chair Martin recommend to the members of the Alliance to review the Managing Entity budget sheet for Circuit 7 that was emailed to them. He felt that they would find some very interesting information in the data.

## **VII. COMMUNITY BASED CARE**

**COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN (CPC)** – Danielle Antoine reported:

- Chair Martin thanked CPC for a very good report. He noted that he was very glad to see that CPC would be receiving additional equity dollars for their budget to cover their shortage. He also noted that the overhead expense was very low and the second lowest for CBCs in the state.
- Chair Martin also noted CPC's commendable effort in holding steady on the number of children in care. Ms. Antoine agreed that it has stabilized and that there has been a reduction in the number of children coming into care for the past two months.
- Member King noted the request for recruiting foster parents and asked what outreach is being conducted to this end. She also asked if there was anything the Alliance could do to assist with the reunification event being held tomorrow. Ms. Antoine responded by detailing several efforts that are underway in their service area. She discussed information concerning the reunification event including Member Holland speaking to the gathering.

**FAMILY INTEGRITY PROGRAM** – Shawna Novak reported:

- Chair Martin noted that the report reflects no vacancies. He stated that is the first time in a long time that statement could be made.
- Chair Martin noted that there is a fiscal issue for FIP due to the increase in the number of children in foster care. This is an issue that the legislative committee may take up.
- Chair Martin asked for an explanation of the report statement discussing doing adoption support activities in other counties. Ms. Novak responded usually when we have a child placed out of circuit, the courtesy worker gets credit for the adoption. We have had several occasions lately that we have asked the courtesy circuit to let us supervise our own placement and they have agreed.
- Ms. Novak stated that she had hired an Operations Manager, Michael Forester, and that she would be introducing him at the next Alliance meeting.

**VIII. PROGRAM UPDATES**

**ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY** – Dawn Green reported:

- Chair Martin stated that he noted the excellent management proficiency training and the hurricane preparedness training. Both seem like ESS is being well prepared.
- Chair Martin asked about the new ABAWD program and noted from the last Alliance meeting that quite a few people had been sanctioned as a result of the program. He asked for a description of the challenges that are presenting to ESS as a result of ABAWD. Ms. Green responded that the policy is somewhat difficult to understand. There are many different exceptions so we have been doing additional case reviews to make sure the cases are processed correctly.
- Member King spoke to some of the actions Career Source has taken in regards to ABAWD such as assigning additional workers and holding joint training with ESS. Chair Martin suggested that unless something significant were to occur, then the Alliance should wait 9 to 12 months from process inception to be briefed on this program again so that true trends could be identified. Member King suggested that perhaps a representative from First Harvest or some other major food pantry could brief the Alliance on impact to the food banks in the October or January meetings.

**ADULT SERVICES** – Judy Palaia reported:

- Ms. Palaia introduced Michaelyn Pitts, a new Adult Services Specialist, who will represent Adult Services when Judy is not available.
- Member King noted that Adult Services reported an indicator discussing cases that had not been worked on for at least 10 days and that it was not at goal. Ms. Palaia stated that the indicator had improved since the writing of the report. She went on to say that the real issue is client safety. She stated that it is important that the case not lay dormant just because new cases are coming in so there needs to be activity on the case noted at least every 10 days. The corrective actions taken were the result of a Certified Public Manager's project and so far is working well.
- Chair Martin noted that the report reflects a lack of cooperation with the hospitals and wanted to know if this has been an historical issue. Ms. Palaia responded that it appears to come in waves. She went on to say

that she has met with several hospitals and talked with management and staff and was assured that everything was fine. They know they can call me direct if there is a problem and yet just this past week they refused to accept one of our clients. Each hospital is unique and the problems we have with them are unique. She went on to provide several examples. Basically, it impacts Adult Services ability to place their clients when needed. Member Holland asked how frequently this occurs. Ms. Palaia responded that it is difficult to provide exact data for this but that it probably averages one a month. Lately it has been higher. Chair Martin stated that this sounds like something the Alliance should be able to help with in some fashion and suggested that this be moved to the Executive Committee to discuss potential actions.

**FAMILY SAFETY** – Linda Mandizha reported:

- Chair Martin congratulated Ms. Mandizha on having an excellent report. He went on to say that he noticed shelters in Putnam County were down. Ms. Mandizha stated that is true and that this past month was just three when they had been running 12 to 15 a month in the prior month. She provided examples of the actions taken to reduce this number.
- Chair Martin noted that the reports reflect all our lead agencies are at full staff for the first time in a long time. Ms. Mandizha responded that she has actually over hired staff for available positions. She went on to note that you cannot predict your attrition rate so she is putting new hires in every class. We have had a reduced rate of attrition from the past year or so. She provided a number of examples of actions taken to reinforce retention.
- Ms. Mandizha reminded the Alliance of the community event for the Chadwick Project and invited the Alliance to attend.

**IX. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Arnold Anderson reported:

- Mr. Anderson discussed the “Stay Interview” project underway in the Northeast Region. He discussed the purpose in regards to providing an optimum work environment and retaining employees. He went on to briefly outline how the project worked.
- Mr. Anderson discussed the current push in Circuit 7 on swim safety. He provided several examples of the actions taken recently to promote swim safety as well some planned efforts for the near future.
- Mr. Anderson detailed several examples of the Community Development office connecting DCF staff or provider staff with resources in the community to assist in their efforts to serve the clients. He invited DCF staff to continue to seek assistance from Community Development.
- Mr. Anderson discussed the Circuit 7 Local Review Team (LRT). He reviewed their purpose and how to access LRT.
- Mr. Anderson outlined several projects that are underway with Putnam County and the Holly Hill Police Department and Community Development’s involvement in those projects.
- Mr. Anderson discussed the “A Game Camp” which is a collaborative effort in Flagler County to counter act racial disparity in the failure rate of minority students at Flagler County schools. It is targeted at middle school pupils that are truly struggling. It should be a great effort on behalf of our minority students. We are hoping to replicate this in other counties next year.

## **X. COMMUNITY ALLIANCE SUBCOMMITTEES**

Chair Martin reported:

➤ Chair Martin addressed the forming of various subcommittees to handle business the Alliance covers. He went on to describe the committees that will be created and their tasks. He stated that he would develop a member assignment list for the committees and he will be in touch with the members to secure their commitment.

## **XI. MEMBER COMMENTS:**

➤ Chair Martin recognized Ms. Shirley Olson from Court Administration in the audience. Chair Martin went on to say that he would be talking to Court Administration regarding Ms. Olson becoming an Alliance member.

➤ Chair Martin wanted thank all the contributors to the reports provided the Alliance. He stated this process has done nothing but improve over the last year.

## **I. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There were none.

## **II. ADJOURN**

With nothing further to come before the Alliance, Chair Martin adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.