

Project Unity's Community Partnership Board Meeting



Wednesday, March 30, 2016

Center for Regional Services
3991 East 29th Street

MINUTES

WELCOME!

Welcome: Karaoke provided by Missee Mora, Firehouse Karaoke.

Jeannie McGuire welcomed everyone and introduced Levi Garrett, Project Unity's new Program's Assistant. He is now running the CPB. Levi introduced Judy LeUnes, Director of Development and Communications for Project Unity. The day is all about GRATITUDE. Missee Mora is going to spike things up with Karaoke. We will have 4th graders from Pebble Creek Elementary sing during our lunch hour. Also, I would like to recognize Dave Ruesink, our community's new Jefferson Award Winner. We want you to have fun. We are going to talk about child abuse prevention as well as celebrate and make everyone feel good in your job.

Jeannie gave flowers to Miriam Roman who is retiring from Early Childhood Intervention. Miriam has been on the CPB since the beginning in 1993. I hope that during the day you will go up to Miriam and tell her how important she has been in all our lives.

Jeannie: April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. For Project Unity, we are celebrating and creating awareness for our prevention program. We are celebrating because we are doing the work that is preventing children from being abused in our community.

LET'S TALK ABOUT CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

Jeannie McGuire, MS, LBSW-IPR-Project Unity.

We are going to show you a demonstration of Parenting Wisely. It is a program that can benefit every employee, not just a parent with children. We have handouts that will go along with the topic of today's Parenting Wisely lesson: There is a handout on your table called: Search Beneath the Surface for Hidden Meaning. When we communicate with our parents, we are only seeing a small part of who they are. We may assume we can see more; that when that person comes in the door we may label them or judge them according to the issues they present which is "above the surface". We do not know what is below the surface and part of our job is to find out what interests exists below the surface. Jeannie played a video, "I'm Not Black, You are Not White. These Labels Were Meant To Divide Us.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0qD2K2RWkc>.

The next activity was to watch Parenting Wisely's teen video: School, Homework and Friends.

All four Family Support Facilitators introduced themselves. Diana Guytan, Judith Banos, Michelle Bouldin, and Maggie Gray. If you have a place where we can come to direct classes, we would love to come to you. We have our Beck street location that offers classes as well. Our goal is to serve 400 families. We offer classes for parents of young children and for parents of teens. Contact us at 979-775-6788. Or call Levi at 979-595-2900.

COALITIONS PANEL

Burleson County CRCG

Albert Ramirez

Albert is the Executive Director of the Burleson County Health Resource Commission. We have Health Resource Centers in Caldwell and Somerville. In 2002, a Resource Health Center started in Madison County. In 2003, Texas A&M School of Rural Public Health received funding to establish Health Resource Centers in Grimes, Madison, Leon and Burleson counties. Project Unity provided service coordination. The Health Resource Centers (2003-2006) were operational through grant funds under HCAP Healthy Communities program. Transportation was provided throughout the Centers. In providing service coordination, Albert was hired as a Service Coordinator in 2004 by Project Unity for Burleson County. The leadership in Burleson, namely, the County Judge and the Commissioner's Court, were behind what we were trying to do and they willingly gave of their resources. When the grant funds ended in 2006, there were resources in Burleson County and they were dedicated to continue funding for the Burleson County Health Resource Center. Each county is different based upon what is important to

them and what resources are available. The primary approach in Burleson County was that Service Coordination would continue to be the HUB, the core of what we do. The Burleson County Health Resource Center is the center of activity within the county, linking to everyone. We get referrals from the schools, the court system, the probation officers, the churches, as well as nonprofits and state funded agencies in the county. In 2005 Burleson Health Resource Commission became the chair of the Community Resource Coordination Group (CRCG). CRCG was established as a forum that was mandated in 1987 by the state of Texas saying each county needs a CRCG to help families to find solutions with a multi-disciplinary approach to service planning. The CRCG provides a forum for an agency or a family saying we need to come together as a team to find a solution. In rural counties CRCG's tended not to exist or if they did exist they were not functional. While attending a regional meeting in 2007, Albert found out that the CRCG had not met in over a year. When it did meet it served more as a "rubber stamp" for juvenile probation department to put children in residential treatment which is a function of the CRCG but not the only one. Albert brought people together who agreed we will have a place in which agencies active in Burleson County can come together to share information, know who our partners are AND it will be a place where a difficult case can be brought forward and staffed. That is a more formal function in which we report to the state on those functions i.e., when we meet, who comes and what information is being shared. When we have a formal staffing of a case, for example, last week we had MHMR and Juvenile Probation working together to staff a case of a child that we believe needs to be treated at the Waco Center for Youth. We played an important role as the CRCG ensuring all resources had been exhausted prior to sending the youth to Waco Center for Youth. We were able to report all of the efforts that had been done with this child and supported the application for the child to be placed. The more informal role of the CRCG is the Inter-agency forum. When we first started we depended on people we knew, but as time has gone on, we have been recognized as a rural county who is active in pulling partners together. We meet four times a year. We focus on getting school counselors, faith based entities, and others together. We learn which resources are available.

Brazos Valley Health Coalition

Sara Mendez

Sara is the Health Education Director for Brazos County Health Department. This group is a fairly new group. We had our first meeting in January. The Brazos County Health Department is going forward to become accredited as a public health department. As part of that we have some requirements that we need to do before we can move forward with accreditation. One of the things is to have a coalition. We feel like it is going to be a very important group in our community. In 2004 there was a health assessment conducted. Since 2004, we have seen certain issues in the community, i.e. transportation, mental health. Many of these issues are

still relevant as needs. Brazos Valley Health Coalition's goal is to act as a coordinated group in our community to look at those issues. Mission: The Brazos Valley Health Coalition's is a collaboration transforming people, places, and communities for a stronger healthier Brazos Valley. What we would like to do is start with a health assessment which is going on right now. The Center for Community Health Development is doing community discussion groups, looking at secondary data to create our health assessment. Once we are done with our health assessment we would like to move forward and create a Community Health Improvement Plan. Whatever issues we are seeing, the Brazos Valley Health Coalition can bring their expertise to the table and come up with solutions for our community to address those issues. In January, we tried to get the word out to as many people as possible; community development through the cities, parks and recreation departments, any special service agencies, the county. We are taking a holistic approach looking at our community and how we can move forward addressing issues. Our next official meeting will be **May 17th. We meet at 11:30 a.m.** I will send an email out to CPB in order for you to be included. In three years when we do our health assessment we will already have our coalition. It would be beneficial for your agency as your agency does strategic planning to include the health assessment. There is a steering committee with the Coalition that began meeting in the fall. There are around 12 people on the steering committee.

Decent, Affordable, Safe Housing (D.A.S.H.)

Lindsey LeBlanc

Lindsey is Vice President of Community Impact with United Way of the Brazos Valley. The intent behind D.A.S.H. (a facilitative collaborative group) is to bring solutions to housing in the area. Housing is something that we know is a major issue in our community as well as the Brazos Valley region. It would take a lot of money to actually solve the housing issues so we decided to get behind it in a different way by bringing people to the table that is with housing, Karla from Housing Choice Voucher program, David from City of College Station, Habitat, etc. We talk about the issues in the community and how we might overcome them. We met a few times and our next meeting is **Tuesday April 12th at 2:00 p.m.** and it will be at United Way on Southwest Parkway. If you are in housing or have housing as a common problem we would really like to have you at that meeting. We are trying to grow the attendee list. We have had really good response to attendance at meetings. One of the issues brought up is how do we get more landlords to accept Section 8 Housing? We are hoping that landlords will come onboard, attend meetings and hear the service provider side of the issue and possibly come up with solutions to whatever issues landlords have with renting to Section 8 clients.

Karla Flanagan, Program Manager for Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8) answered several questions regarding the housing crisis. There is a Bryan/College Station Apartment Association. The challenge is to getting them to speak with us. A lot of landlords will not

entertain the idea of having a Section 8 client in their property so the challenge is getting them to speak with you.

Brazos County Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Alison Pourteau

Alison is the Co-Chair of the Brazos County Coalition Against Domestic Violence and also a counselor at Twin City Domestic Violence Services. The Coalition is a voluntary group made up of different professionals in the community. We meet once a month. The goal of the coalition is to be a support system for domestic violence services in the area as well as providing education and outreach to some of the ongoing projects that we have. We go to high schools and do presentations about health and unhealthy dating relationships; teaching kids about dating violence; red flags to look for; how to handle the situation if someone you know is in a dating relationship that is becoming unhealthy. We give presentations to teachers about how to handle it if they see students that seem to be in an unhealthy situation. It's a group of people who can be called on at any time to go out and give talks to educate the community; about recognizing the signs and what to do to get help. We also do fundraising events i.e. work with groups having kickball tournaments with police departments, fire departments, and other agencies. We support other agencies in the community such as donating to Every Victim Every Time Conference. Another example is that we have had male victims in the past that cannot stay at Phoebe's Home, which is an emergency women's shelter, the coalition has been able to use their funds to help that victim by paying for a motel room. We provide funding when other agencies like Twin City do not have the funding. I am the Counselor at Twin City Domestic Violence Services and I may have a client that needs an HIV test; I may have a client that need services for her children. Having the coalition that I can call on is a real help. We are always open to having new members. We meet at Twin City Mission on College Ave. the **third Wednesday of every month at 11:00a.m.** Twin City Domestic Services is in the Twin City Administration Building on College Ave. We do the Candlelight Vigil every October. Email: alipourteau@gmail.com

Brazos County Tobacco Free Together

Alton Burton

Alton is the Tobacco Prevention Control Coordinator for Brazos Valley Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse. Alton showed a power point (attached). 77 Texans die daily from tobacco use. We have a serious issue. Sarah Mendez is Brazos County Tobacco Free Together coalition chair. The coalition began in 2008. BVCASA received grant funding in 2013. The purpose is to educate and heighten awareness around the dangers of tobacco usage. This includes e-cigarettes. Brazos County Health Department is our main funder in this endeavor. We do a lot of things. We have grant funding so outside of the volunteers, we have paid staff. In addition to Alton, there is a Tobacco Specialist who goes into the schools to provide education for our

youth. Last year, we taught every sixth grader in Bryan ISD about the dangers of tobacco. In addition to that, we have a youth coalition. They are called Vikings Kicking Out Tobacco (VKOT) and they are housed out of Bryan High School. They do an awesome job of community projects and working at their school to create awareness and making changes. We have 26 active members of our VKOT club. They meet weekly. They are motivated and driven to foster change, not only within their school but within their community. This past Saturday we had a cigarette butt pick up at Sue Haswell Park. In a little over an hour, we accumulated over 700 cigarette butts. Out athletic complexes ban tobacco use but our parks do not. One of the things we are working toward is for the City of Bryan to ban tobacco products in parks. We show ads at the movie theaters. We meet the **first Thursday of every month at BVCASA at 4:00 p.m.** We have a lot of resources that we can get you if you want to do tobacco prevention activities.

Brazos Valley Coalition for the Homeless

Ella McGruder

Ella is Director of Programs for Project Unity and Chair of the Brazos Valley Coalition for Homeless. The mission of the BVHC is to end HOMELESSNESS IN THE BRAZOS VALLEY. We have our hands full. Who can pay monthly payment for rent and be able to pay three month's rent to qualify? That is the reality today. BVHC is comprised of the cities of Bryan and College Station, Family Promise, Twin City Mission, Housing Choice Voucher program, Health for All, Health Department, etc. We are all at the table. We are meeting quarterly to look at what we can do to end homelessness. We network; we bring resources to the table but at the end of the day we have a problem. Our definition of homelessness is not the same definition that HUD uses. HUD says that you have to actually be homeless, on the street, under a tree, in a ditch, in a shack to be homeless. We have a lot of people who are living with other family members. They are homeless because they don't have anywhere to go, they move around a lot. But HUD does not consider them homeless. We invite anyone to come to the table that has an interest in solving these issues. We meet quarterly. We **will meet May 10th at 11:30 at Twin City Mission on 2505 S. College Ave.** We work with Twin City Mission. If someone comes to us and is homeless, the first thing we do is refer them to Twin City Mission. But as you know, they are generally full. And then the job begins. Phoebe with Family Promise is full. We need more people to help figure this out.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WEEK CELEBRATION

The cities of Bryan and College Station Community Development offices are celebrating Community Development Week. In honor of all of the community partners that help play a role by partnering with the cities, the City staff showcased all of their partnerships through a video.

Here is a link to the video presentation - <https://prezi.com/r9tnot6q2jcz/cdbg-partnership/>

Submitted,

Jeannie McGuire, MS, LBSW-IPR
Project Unity

CPB Meeting Sign-In Names		
3/30/2016		
1	Vonda Morrison, Program Specialist	Brazos Valley Council of Governments
2	Kate Powell, CHIMES Navigator	Brazos Valley Council of Governments
3	Anna Perkinson	PCC
4	Brittany Johnson, Case Manager	Project Unity
5	Kim Hodge, EHS OP MGR	College Station ISD
6	Sonia Roberts, Case Manager	Project Unity
7	Margaret Samarrippas, Case Manager	Project Unity
8	Shazia Cultan, Marketplace Navigator	Brazos Valley Council of Governments
9	Steve Godby, CEO	Rebuilding Together - Bryan/College Station
10	Eric Roberts, Transition Coordinator	College Station ISD
11	Brynn Biggs, Transition Specialist	Bryan ISD
12	Lindsey LeBlanc, VP Community Impact	United Way
13	Miriam Roman, ECI Retired Director	Early Childhood Intervention
14	Amy Tutoki, ECI Director	Early Childhood Intervention
15	Stephanie Henson, Community Liason	3rd Day Treatment Center
16	Kathy Chapman, Program Director	Voices for Children Inc.
17	Lacey Murphy, UP Program Coordinator	Voices for Children Inc.
18	Jerry Dougherty, Branch Director	Big Brothers Big Sisters
19	Lucy Monarrez, Home Base Director	Brazos Valley Community Action Agency Head Start
20	Terri Hay, Service Delivery Coordinator	Big Brothers Big Sisters
21	Liz Dickey, Executive Director	Health for All
22	Stacie Stefka, Program Director	Brazos Valley Community Action Agency Head Start
23	Lara Meece, Executive Director	Grimes Health Resource Center
24	Nancy Franck, Office Manager	Grimes Health Resource Center
25	Melanie Rogers, Student Intervention Coordinator	Bryan ISD
26	Diana Gaytan, FSF	Project Unity
27	Judith Banos, FSF	Project Unity
28	Michelle Bouldin, FSF	Project Unity
29	Andrew Morse, Program Specialist	Workforce Board
30	Stephen Galvin, CHIMES Navigator	Area Agency on Aging
31	Byron Haney, Director	Brazos Valley Affordable Housing Corporation
32	Albert Ramirez, Executive Director	Burleson County Health Resource Center

33	Brian Piscacek, Community Development Analyst	City of College Station
34	Charles Michalewicz, Community Development Analyst	City of College Station
35	Marcy Bartula, Family Services Coordinator	Scotty's House
36	Amanda Schumann, Victim's Assistance Coordinator	Burleson & Washington County District Attorney's Office
37	Erica Morgan, Assistant DA	Burleson & Washington County District Attorney's Office
38	Robert Payne	Brazos Valley Chapter BACA
39	Aaron Kitchens, Mobile Pantry Coordinator	Brazos Valley Food Bank
40	Jose Reyes, FSS Coordinator	Brazos Valley Council of Governments
41	Shannon Avila, Programs Manager	Brazos Valley Food Bank
42	David Brower	City of College Station
43	Heather Huhnke, Vet Resource Coordinator	Texas Workforce Commission
44	T.J. Robie, Rural Veteran Career Advisor	Texas Workforce Commission
45	Ella McGruder, Director of Programs	Project Unity
46	Debbie Ellis, Director of Community Services	City of College Station
47	Alsie Bond, Community Development Manager	City of Bryan
48	Levi Garrett, Administrative Programs Assistant	Project Unity
49	Blanca Nava, Program Analyst	City of Bryan
50	Judy LeUnes, Director of Development & Communications	Project Unity
51	Vicki Mack-Carr, Housing Specialist	City of Bryan
52	Yao Akpalu, Epidemiologist	Brazos County Health Department
53	Magan Smith, Heath, Nutrition, & Safety Specialist	College Station ISD - Head Start
54	Ken Bost, Director	Brazos County Health Department
55	Raschel York, Director	St. Joseph Health
56	Sara Mendez, Health Education Director	Brazos County Health Department
57	Brenda Machado, Support Service BCHD	Brazos County Health Department
58	Nicole Vargas, Health Educator	Brazos County Health Department
59	Shanasia Billinger, BCHD - Health	Brazos County Health Department

	Education Intern	
60	Krissy Johnson, BCHD - Health Education Intern	Brazos County Health Department
61	Jessica Paul, Environmental Health Specialist	Brazos County Health Department
62	Fawn Preuss, Coordinator	St. Joseph Health
63	Linda Bailey, Community Outreach	United Healthcare
64	Lety Corpes, Asst. Homeless Liason	Bryan ISD
65	Tara Dupper, Homeless Liaison	Bryan ISD
66	Joyce Jones, Home Instruction	Bryan ISD
67	Phebe Simmons, Director	Family Promise
68	Debbie Muesse, Director	Brazos Valley Care Coordination
69	Alison Pourteau, LPC	Brazos County Coalition Against Domestic Violence
70	Emily Yount, Intern	Bryan ISD
71	Jeannie McGuire, President	PU
72	Missee Mora	United Way 2-1-1
73	Karla Flanagan, Program Manager	Housing Choice Voucher Program Brazos Valley Council of Governments