

The Okaloosa Walton Continuum of Care

Membership Meeting-FWB Chamber of Commerce Board Room

April 5, 2010 3:30 PM

Attending were Martin Fancher-Seventh Day Adventist Church, Keli Cummings-Walton County Swat, Anthony Sawyer-Sharing and Caring, Anita Ferrell-Muscogee Nation of FL, Cynthia Hall-Crestview Hope Network, Maryann Helfrich-Fresh Start, Lisa Jo Spencer-FSK and FWB Chamber, Emily Agncola, Ginny Barr-Mental Health Asso., Pat Franklin-DCF, Della Goodson, Stephanie Yelverton, Lydia Barton-Opportunity Inc., Patrick O'Neill, Butch McKay-Oasis, Carrie West-Shelter House, Carrie Ziegler-OCHD, Tom and Denise Buscavage-Community of Christ, Lynn Stephens and Monique O'Brien-OWCCS, Debbie Buchanan-Children in Crisis, Nate Smith-Continuum of Care, Jackie Pilcher-Pelican Real Estate and Krewe of Chameleons.

Nate Smith called the meeting to order at 3:30. Introductions followed. Motion was moved and seconded to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed.

Okaloosa Walton Child Care Services, Lynn Stephens, CEO. Dr. Monique O'brian is the director of services. Provide child care funding for the two counties. Their funds come from Child Care Grant that is a federal program. Services predominately pay for child care. Welfare families or very low income families are the beneficiaries. Co-payments increase with their income increases. Child's experience in the child care program will determine their success in school and in the future. This agency does screenings on children as well (eye, hearing, etc.). Does all of the payments for volunteering in kindergarten. Child must be a resident of FL. Providers are approved and then the parents choose the provider. The program is entering its fifth year. They also test all of the child care workers to make sure they are competent.

Monique works with children in the child care settings. These children are already at risk. They want to find the problem before the child enters Kindergarten. Many children spend 10-12 hours at childcare as the parents must be working full time. Quality experiences many times come from the childcare setting. They also have training on where the children can go to be alone and regroup. They emphasize age appropriate expectations and pronunciation, open communication to get children to talk and not just answer yes or no. They will help with licensing as well. They have a resource van that covers the two counties. They work to reduce biting with children. How well do the parents know their own children and how well do the providers know the children they serve. They also teach providers how to recognize different challenges that a child may have. Praise versus encouragement is also something they teach. Parents and providers need to pay attention to how much they are telling a child good job. Praise needs to be specific. Nate asked about bullying. Girls are more into the bullying thing and boys are more physical. They are working to get the childcare workers to recognize these signs.

Nate spoke with Lenore this morning and her daughter had her baby this morning. Lydia gave the report. The point in time survey shows 500 less homeless in the FWB area. Lydia introduced Della Goodson who is covering the Crestview office.

Committee reports: Cold Night opened 52 times in FWB this year. Crestview was open 101 times. Yvonne is having the last cold night meeting at First Presbyterian at 5 PM. Jackie read a letter from Ann Tucker, Chairwoman Muscogee Nation of Florida. Donations can be sent to 278 Church Road, Bruce, FL 32455.

Crestview fundraiser brought in 568.62. There are five soup kitchens in Crestview. Sunday is the only day that doesn't have an organization providing a meal. Mental Health Association has awards on May 4 at the Yacht Club. Golf Tourney April 25 for Children in Crisis. They have received the first draw for the new transitional housing for teens. Oasis has a Dining out day April 29. Several restaurants will participate.

Meeting adjourned at 4:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
By Jackie Pilcher
Secretary