


Regular Meeting 10/11/01

TO: Juvenile Welfare Board Members

FROM: James E. Mills, Executive Director 
H. Browning Spence, Director, Strategic & Community Planning #BS

Children's Service Committees Annual Report, October 2000 – September 2001

The (CSC) Children's Service Committees are self-defined, self-directed groups composed primarily of human service professionals. Membership also includes youth and lay community members. The groups are organized broadly around specialized interests. These committees were established as part of JWB's expansion of Community Involvement. CSCs facilitate the exchange of program information, identify and communicate service strategies and undertake special projects. They identify available and needed resources, share research findings and other published information, engage in networking, and are designed to improve the coordination and delivery of services to families and children. There are currently five committees with 199 members.

A meeting of the executive committees of the CSCs was held on February 13, 2001 at JWB with representation from each committee. The committees decided to redesign their logo, implement a quarterly newsletter and develop a process for working together on common issues. Dorthy Whitlock coordinates the committees.

The following is a summary of the current activities of the CSCs:

ABUSE, NEGLECT and DEPENDENCY COMMITTEE (AND)

The Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency Committee of Juvenile Welfare Board has approximately 15 members with broad community and agency representation. The primary focus of this committee's work is to promote the prevention of maltreatment in children. The essential activities associated with this endeavor include advocacy, networking, planning, and recommendations for program development and training. The committee undertook a special project for Child Abuse Prevention Month and held a local vigil on April 28 to coincide with the National Shaken Baby Awareness Candlelight Vigil which was held on the steps of the Capitol in Washington, DC. AND committee member, Janet Goree, is chair of the National Shaken Baby Awareness Candlelight Vigil. The Candlelight Vigil was held on the grounds of Family Service Centers. County Commission Chair Calvin Harris, Commissioner John Morroni, and other dignitaries attended. The Exchangettes from St. Petersburg High performed vignettes on the lives cut short by Shaken Baby Syndrome. The local and national media covered the events.

The committee also commissioned a quilt commemorating the more than 3,700 confirmed instances of child abuse and neglect in Pinellas County in one fiscal year, 1999-2000. Seven children died that year, five from neglect and two from physical abuse. The quilt was displayed in several locations within the county during the month of April and will be available throughout the year for display in community venues. Actual names of abused Pinellas children are embroidered on the quilt, color coded to explain the type of abuses the child suffered. Posters

accompanying the quilt explain its meaning. Broken hearts, each one damaged somewhat differently surrounds the children's names. It is a powerful piece of art. The quilt is available for display at special event by contacting Cindy Ehrenzeller.

The committee continued to request Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamations from the municipalities and County Commission. Proclamations were displayed in the lobby of JWB. This year the committee asked that the last week of April be proclaimed Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week. The AND Committee, through The Exchange Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse, also purchased blue ribbon pins for members to distribute when the proclamations were accepted.

The AND committee meets on the second Wednesday of the month, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at Help A Child. Suzie McAree and Linda Jimenez, Co Chair this committee and Cindi Ehrenzeller is the Secretary. Mike Stone is the staff liaison.

ChildCare Advocacy Committee (CCAC)

The mission of CCAC is to identify issues and provide opportunities that promote the provision of quality childcare for children and their families through education, advocacy and legislation.

Highlights of accomplishments for the past six months include the following:

- Grant Writing Proposal/Survey: Janet Clement and Linda Rollins developed a proposal to address the need for funding for the services of Development Specialist for early education and care and school age providers. They followed up with the development of a survey to the community. With the assistance of the PCLB Licensing Specialists and Coordinated Child Care of Pinellas Provider Consultants, surveys were distributed to the community. The survey provided data that resulted in support for the need for this proposal. Wendy Antonio from JWB provided technical assistance for this project.
- Legislative visits and delivery of the Children's Week One Voice for Children Position Paper were January and February highlights. Committee members met with legislators again in Tallahassee during Children's Week.
- Children's Week was celebrated locally with a rally held at the Pinellas County Courthouse on March 15. A brochure was designed by Mona Jackson and mailed to all licensed sites requesting children's handprints for this rally. These creative designs were delivered to Tallahassee and hung in the Rotunda of the State Capitol. The Pinellas County School Readiness Coalition members and County Commissioners were on hand at the rally to receive the handprints from the many children attending the rally. Peace Memorial Child Development Center hosted a reception, and media coverage was excellent with several TV stations covering both the rally and reception.
- Tallahassee Bus Trip: Child Care advocates boarded a bus at 4:30 a.m. to be part of the Tallahassee events on Children's Day, March 20. Participants received professional training and were part of the legislative visits.
- Caregiver's Celebration – The seventh annual celebration honoring childcare professionals in our community was held at the Suncoast Association of Realtors in St. Petersburg on May 18. The event was sponsored by the Incentives Team of the Child Care Advocacy

Committee. A flyer was mailed to all licensed family childcare homes and centers and over 200 caregivers and supporters attended the event. Corporate and community sponsors provided donations and door prizes providing many opportunities to show appreciation to the caregivers for their commitment and support to children and families.

Goals for the next six months are:

- To continue working on the Provider Resource Development Project.
- To follow up on developing preliminary plans to work with other community organizations to host a Readiness Forum.
- To continue the development of a position statement regarding ratios for family child care homes in Pinellas County.

This committee meets on the third Wednesday of the month, 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Meetings are held at JWB. Mona Jackson and Sharon Carie Co-Chair this committee. Celeste Horn is the secretary. Wendy Antonio is the staff liaison.

The CCAC has 110 members.

Essential Needs Committee (EN)

The EN actively identifies and communicates service strategies, undertakes special projects, identifies available and needed resources, and networks to improve coordination and delivery of services to families and children.

Last year, the committee developed an eighteen-month appointment book and resource guide, which included: child safety tips, Helpline resource pages, school and holiday dates, resume and job information, parenting tips, waiting room survival skills, Kidcare and Healthy Kids insurance information. The books were distributed throughout the County by local community service agencies. The calendar has been so popular with parents that the committee has already exhausted the initial supply of 5,000. The committee approved a request from R'Club to reprint the calendar for their use at their own expense. The committee plans to continue the calendar project.

A projected budget for 2001-02 and a special budget request to fund a second printing of a revised edition of our 'Monthly Planning Calendar for Parents' have been prepared. The 'Know Your Rights' brochure for Department of Children and Families assistance (Food Stamps, cash assistance, Medicaid) applicants, developed by the EN has been printed. The committee is now focusing on plans for a workshop or a series of workshops to be presented in the fall regarding client self-advocacy in the current context of constantly changing benefit requirements.

Paul Lackey is the JWB liaison. The committee decided to reorganize its structure and elected Mary Ann Hauckes and Sonia Rollins as Co-Chairpersons.. The Essential Needs committee meets on the last Friday of the month at Healthy Families from 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. The EN committee has *14 members*.

Sexual Minority Youth

Sexual Minority Youth committee discusses and plans proactive steps that will lead toward establishing safe and supportive environments for sexual minority and questioning youth. Efforts are directed to assist in the development of a healthy community for all of our youth and families.

Following are some of the highlights of the past year for the Children's Service Committee on Sexual Minority Youth:

- Committee education by speakers in the areas of gender identity, local LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning) resources and issues facing parents of LGBTQ youth.
- Committee workgroups established in the areas of outreach, community education and research.

OUTREACH

- Development and distribution of resource bookmarks to youth participating in the National Conference for Community and Justice Camp Anytown program.
- Development and distribution of committee brochure and area resource list through community education events.
- Participated in filming JWB TV for airing during June 2001.
- Letter to editor in St. Petersburg Times. (May 15th)
- Display in lobby of JWB during week of June 11-15.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

- Identification of committee members to facilitate and participate in community education events.
- Public education events at Raymond James Financial, Pinellas County Schools Catalogue of Choice Day, and Boca Ciega High School teacher in-service.
- Presentation at statewide conference for Marriage and Family Therapists. (May 18th in Orlando)
- Presentation at JWB Meet Eat and Learn event (June 12).
- Purchase of resource materials to disseminate to agencies participating in committee survey and for education events.

RESEARCH

- Coordination with area high school Gay/Straight Alliances and Pinellas Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network (GLSEN) to support four high schools administering climate surveys to teachers and students.
- Supervision of USF intern to assist with data compilation of school climate surveys.
- Development and piloting surveys to identify issues and needs of local youth serving agencies working with local LGBTQ youth and their families. Four agencies have volunteered to pilot the surveys.
- Developed a survey for JWB staff regarding issues and needs among funded agencies and general community around LGBTQ youth issues.

The Sexual Minority Youth Committee meets of the first Wednesday from 3:00 p.m. -5:00 p.m.

at JWB. Gary Sanford is the Chairperson. Dorthy Whitlock is the staff liaison. The Sexual Minority Youth Committee has *29 members*.

Youth On The Move (YOM)

YOM was established in September 1994. The purpose of the YOM committee is to enhance the community's awareness of our children and youth as a valuable resource in Pinellas County. Members of the committee are actively involved in promoting youth volunteerism in the African American community of St. Petersburg. During this year, the committee undertook several projects including:

- Beacon House Project; the youth prepare and serve dinner twice a month for the homeless, feeding nearly one hundred individuals each time.
- Thanksgiving Day Dinner: The committee provided baskets to families in the community, prepared and served dinners.
- Beacon House Christmas Gifts: the committee received a special request from the program to adopt the center for the holiday. Youth collected donations and were able to donate 91 gifts.
- Two of the YOM committee members currently serve on the Youth As Resources Board of Directors.
- The committee also distributes promotional information throughout the community to promote youth volunteerism and YOM membership.

Upcoming projects include their first youth volunteer appreciation program, a violence prevention workshop and leadership development training in the areas of planning and budgeting.

This committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at 20th Street Church of Christ in St. Petersburg.

Andy Bryant and Robert Smith are the Co-Chairpersons, and Lydia Brown & Densyl Joefield serves as their advisors. Dorthy Whitlock is the staff liaison.

The YOM committee has *31 members*.

Staff Resource Person: Dorthy Whitlock