

Partners for an Enriched Community (P.E.C.) Minutes - March 10, 2010

In attendance: BENNU Legal Services: Andrew Sagartz, Benton Township: Jan Suthard, Childserv: Samantha Freeman, Compass Christian Counseling: Kelsie Newbrough, Kay Swatkowski, CREW, Inc.: Maggie Maxwell, Martha Palmer, Lake County Community Development: Peter Duggan, Joel Williams, Lake County Health Department: Irma Acosta, Susan Metzger, Lake County Workforce Development: Eva Locke, LOVE INC: Marlene Compton, Jacqui Franclemont, Maristella: Sonia Mares, Teen MOPS: Jean Studebaker, YouthBuild Lake County: Zandra Genous, YWCA: Joy Bah, Elizabeth Rosiles, Zion-Benton Public Library: Nann Hilyard, Zion-Benton Township High School: Jenny Hoy, Zion Park District: Karen McElyea, Zion Township: Eunice Bridges, Cheri Ditzig, Adriana Ortiz

Maggie Maxwell, Facilitator, called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM and welcomed guests.

February Minutes: Motion from Jacqui Franclemont to approve the minutes from February 17, 2010. Samantha Freeman seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote of members present.

Introductions: This month we had two guests attend Sonia Mares from Maristella and Joel Williams from Lake County Community Development.

Zion-Benton Latino Initiative/2010 Census: Cheri opened the conversation by asking what agencies are doing to promote completion of the Census forms. She explained that it is important for everyone to understand the importance of the Census as it is crucial that underrepresented residents be counted. Nann mentioned that representatives from the Census Bureau will be at Zion-Benton Public Library on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays to answer questions. For more information, call the library at 847-872-4680. Joel explained that the Census Bureau does not consider legal status and all Census form submissions are confidential. It was suggested that case managers ask clients during their intakes whether they have completed their Census forms. Nann and Andrew mentioned creating stickers or buttons that say, "I filled out the Census."

Book of the Month Club: Cheri has purchased copies of *Whale Done* both in book form and on audio book for anyone interested. Adriana recommended reading *Rose's Story* by Wanda "Rose" Bibb next. This is an autobiography of a woman's firsthand experience in the social welfare system and the damage that can be caused when people slip through its cracks. Copies of the book will be made available to share for anyone interested.

CCI Update: Cheri explained that we have put MPOWR on hold until we can determine the best next steps for implementing a countywide collaborative case management system. Cheri, as well as a number of other PEC member agencies, is a part of a workgroup The Lake County Community Foundation has put together to examine social services and community need across Lake County.

PEC Membership: There are still a number of member agencies that have yet to pay their membership dues for 2010. If you have questions or concerns, Cheri or Maggie would be happy to talk with you or your agency's executive director. Cheri and Maggie can be reached by phone at 847-872-2811 or e-mail cherid@ziontownship.org or maggiem@crewinc.org.

Announcements are attached. Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

March 2010 PEC Announcements

CREW: The annual Mama's Run/Walk, which was initially started by Coalition for Healthy Communities and CREW, has now been developed into a series of runs to benefit specific agencies. Funds raised at the Mama's Run on Saturday, May 8th will now go to Coalition for Healthy Communities. To register online, go to: <http://zbths.revtrak.net/tek9.asp> and click on "Mama's Run." CREW will host a Full Moon Run on October 5th to raise money for its programs. Martha announced that the Alcoholics Anonymous beginners co-ed group still meets each Friday from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. at Pearce Campus in Valor Faith Ministries' space. She hopes to start an AA group for teens in the future. For more information, contact Martha at 847-872-2830.

Maristella: Sonia Mares introduced herself and explained Maristella's services. Maristella provides outreach for homeless women, men and children. They are able to provide hotel vouchers (with a two week limit) in some cases. The agency also has a rental assistance program to assist with half the rent. However, they are currently low on funds. Clients are encouraged to attend a monthly "Moms Meeting" which educates parents on how they can become self-sufficient. For more information, call 847-367-5360.

LOVE, INC: LOVE, INC's finance class will be offered for ten weeks at Grace Missionary Church every Monday starting March 15th. The class is free and will cover budgeting and banking basics. For more information, contact Marlene marlenec@loveinclakecty.net or 847-731-0526 x112.

Zion Township: The eighth annual Senior Resource Day will be held at Zion Park District's Leisure Center on Wednesday, April 28th from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Approximately 45 vendors will be there that day to talk with Zion seniors about their programs and services. The Summer Work Program hotline has been open since February 1 and has taken calls for youth ages 14-15 who live in Zion Township and would like to participate in the program this summer. The number is 847-377-3443. Zion youth ages 14-15 who are interested in participating may pick up an application on April 1 at Zion Township. Eunice announced that Circuit Breaker applications are available to seniors or persons with disabilities. The Circuit Breaker program can assist individuals with prescriptions as well as license plate stickers for a reduced cost. If you have questions about Circuit Breaker, call Zion Township 847-872-2811.

Zion-Benton Township High School: Jenny announced that the High School now has a new life skills program from 18-21-year-olds who struggle cognitively. She is looking for professional opportunities for students in this program to get job experience. Students are able to do repetitive projects such as paper shredding. If you are in need of volunteers, contact Jenny at hoj@zbths.org or 847-731-9597.

TeenMOPS: TeenMOPS meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at the ZB Library at 6:30 p.m. Childcare is provided. There are currently 9-12 girls who regularly attend the group. If you know someone who might be interested in joining, please contact Jean Studebaker at gramastu@comcast.net or Darci Green at dgreen@rdtraining.com.

Benton Township: Jan announced that the Lake Forest Care Coach will be at Benton Township on April 8th from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Coalition for Healthy Communities will be sponsoring Footsteps for Families on June 12th. The funds will go toward assisting families who are receiving care at CTCA with other non-medical related costs. Registration will start at 3:00 p.m. The event will be held at Zion-Benton Township High School until 10:00 a.m.

Compass Christian Counseling: Kelsie will be offering a workshop for couples on April 17th at North Point Church called "Soul Healing Love." Kay is offering a workshop about coaching kids through anger on April

19th at North Point Church from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. For more information about these workshops and to register, contact Kelsie or Kay at 847-746-5524.

Zion Benton Public Library: Nann distributed copies for the ZBPL newsletter. To access library information and programs online, visit <http://zblibrary.org/>.

BENNU Legal Services: BENNU has been working with ZBPL to provide free legal consultations. Andrew invited members to attend BENNU's educational seminars and round table discussions. Upcoming events include: Round Table Discussions - Weds. 3/17 Multicultural Marketing & Immigration Demystified Saturday March 20 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. All events will be held at BENNU Legal 28835 N. Herky Dr., Suite 104 Lake Bluff. For more information and to RSVP call 847-478-8200 x 208.

Lake County Workforce Development: Eva announced that due to a high volume of traffic, WIA funding (Workforce Investment Act) for the Lake County area is currently limited. There has been an increase in job listings across the board. Jobseekers who are interested in WIA funding are welcome to attend an information session. However, be advised that there is a significant waiting list for new applicants. Please take advantage of their additional resources for jobseekers including workshops, resume preparation sessions and onsite recruitment. A schedule of all events can be found at www.lakecountyjobcenter.com. Also visit their blog for additional job search tips <http://lccareerstoday.blogspot.com>.

Lake County Community Development: Peter spoke briefly about the county's ServicePoint system, which is also a collaborative case management tool. He explained three ways that ServicePoint can benefit social service collaboration countywide:

1. Case management information referral application.
2. Reporting
3. Define, document and adhere to best practices for each agency/group

YWCA: The Come Sign with Me program will be offered in Spanish on Thursday April 8 and 15 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. To register call 847-662-4247 as space is limited. YWCA Lake County offers free educational presentations and free or low cost mammograms. For information call 847-662-4247. The Annual Child Care Conference will be Saturday, April 17, at Abbott Conference Center, Abbott Park. For more information, visit <http://www.ywca.org/site/pp.asp?c=6dKIIWNtEnG&b=303883>.

YouthBuild Lake County: YouthBuild is prepping students to find jobs. Individuals interested in the program are encouraged to apply. YouthBuild offers a GED program for 18-24-year-olds and a union work program for 18-26-year-olds who already have their GED. Staff members are in need of volunteers to assist with their job readiness mock interview and live speaker series on 4/9 and 5/14 from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Contact Zandra zgenous@youthbuildlakecounty.org for more information or to assist with either series.