

Partners for an Enriched Community (P.E.C.) Minutes - June 9, 2010

A big thank you to Zion-Benton Public Library for hosting us this month!

In attendance: **A Safe Place:** Concie Fowler, Caprice Killingsworth, **BENNU Legal Services:** Berenice Uribe, **Benton Township:** Jan Suthard, **CareNet Family Resource Center:** Leah LaBelle, **Catholic Charities:** David Nicholson-Klingerman, **Compass Christian Counseling:** Kelsie Newbrough, Kay Swatkowski, **CREW, Inc.:** Maggie Maxwell, **Lake County Community Development:** Peter Duggan, **Lake County Workforce Development:** Eva Locke, **LOVE INC:** Marlene Compton, Jacqui Franclemont, **Nicasa:** Mary Henderson, **Salvation Army:** Rebecca Friede, Captain William Holman, **SER Fair Housing Center:** Megan Harrington, **Star Hospice:** Barb Bailey, **YouthBuild Lake County:** Zandra Genous, **Zion-Benton Public Library:** Nann Blaine-Hilyard, Susan Clark, **Zion-Benton Township High School:** Jenny Hoy, **Zion Park District:** Karen McElyea, **Zion Township:** Eunice Bridges, Cheri Ditzig

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

May Minutes: Motion from Jan Suthard to approve the minutes from May 12, 2010. Eunice Bridges seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote of members present.

Introductions: This month we had three guests attend: Mary Henderson from **Nicasa**, Concie Fowler from **A Safe Place** and Barb Bailey from **Star Hospice**.

Maximizing Opportunities: Cheri shared the value of being strategic for the two-hour meeting in planning, prior to the meeting, who to sit next to and who to network with in regards to situations that come up during the month for each person's clients. The goal of the meeting is to make each member's job easier with having a wider network of solutions to draw from.

Lake County Service Point: Cheri explained that she was chosen to be part of a leadership task force established by The Lake County Community Foundation to explore ways to work "smarter, not harder" county-wide. She encouraged members to use each PEC meeting to its fullest potential by networking during lunch and bringing questions/opportunities to the group. Cheri reminded everyone that PEC is ahead of the curve when it comes to county-wide collaboration and that her participation in the leadership task force and the coalition's implementation of Service Point reaffirm the need for this important work.

Peter Duggan gave a demonstration of the Service Point system for PEC members. Service Point is a human services focused case management tool. The goal of implementing this system county-wide is to move residents in need toward self-sufficiency by providing a coordinated, collaborative continuum of care. Members had the opportunity to ask questions about the system's capabilities and security as well as how Service Point can be tailored to fit the specific needs of each agency. Peter will be presenting a demonstration of Service Point at The Lake County Community Foundation's Leadership Task Force meeting on June 15th.

Zion City of Miracles: Each year, City of Miracles International has a series of festivals across the country and abroad to develop stronger communities. **This year, Zion "City of Miracles" will be held on Saturday, August 14th from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.** PEC participates by setting up booths for families to visit to receive information about the services and resources available in their community. The schools do all of the registration for the event. The churches collaborate to provide children with the backpacks and school supplies they need to be successful academically. If your organization is interested in participating, please contact Maggie as soon as possible. For additional information, please visit www.cityofmiracles.com.

Book of the Month Club: Maggie asked the group to consider the following questions about *Rose's Story*.

- How did *Rose's Story* demonstrate the impact blaming the victim has on an individual within the social welfare system?
- What limitations to the welfare system did *Rose's Story* uncover?
- How does *Rose's Story* demonstrate the value of understanding poverty from the perspective of those who experience it rather than from one's own?

Please e-mail Maggie suggestions for next month's book.

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

June 2010 PEC Announcements

SER Fair Housing Center of Lake County: Megan announced that she has new staff working with her at the Fair Housing Center.

CREW: CREW is doing some restructuring within both divisions. John Rivers has retired from the organization. CREW's Substance Abuse Counseling and Anger Management Division is looking into partnering with Nicasa in some capacity.

Zion-Benton Public Library: The Library's summer reading program begins June 12th. In addition, there are a number of workshops and programs coming up including:

- Find a Job in the Modern Market on Tuesday, July 20 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
- Know Your Rights presented by BENNU Legal Services on Monday, July 12 at 6:30 p.m.
- Computer Classes & more!

The 2010 Partners in Reading Campaign is in full swing and the Library needs your help to continue to provide the community with programs and resources. For additional information about all the Library has to offer, visit www.zblibrary.org.

Nann announced that the Coalition for Healthy Communities' Annual Coalition Caddie Classic Golf Outing is Friday, August 20th at Shiloh Park Golf Course beginning at 2:00 p.m. Contact Rich Walker at 847-746-5500 or Judy Mackey at 847-746-4014 for more information and to sign up.

Zion Park District: Zion Park District's summer activity guide is now available. For information about special events, summer camp and activities for all ages, please visit www.zionparkdistrict.com or call 847-746-5500.

Zion Benton Children's Services: Theresa Mendoza, office manager for ZBCS, introduced herself to the group and reminded members the clinic is open for exams for children ages 4-18 who reside in Winthrop Harbor, Beach Park or Zion. The exams are free to those who have medical cards and cost \$20 for those without. Contact Theresa at 847-872-9227 to schedule an appointment or get additional information.

Lake County Workforce Development: Eva announced that the Job Center of Lake County is hosting speaker Bonnie Schirato who will be presenting "What Do Employers Want" on June 16th in Waukegan and June 23rd in Grayslake. On June 15th the Job Center is offering "Tips & Tricks for Your Job Search" from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. For details about these events or to sign up, visit www.jobcenterlakecounty.org. Employee Connections, Inc. is hosting a job fair on Saturday, June 12th at Shiloh Baptist Church in Waukegan from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Eligible individuals may participate in this Put Illinois to Work program where trainee-workers are paid subsidized wages of \$10 per hour. Call 847-360-7177 to learn more about eligibility criteria or visit www.putillinoistowork.illinois.gov. The College of Lake County still has a number of openings available for individuals interested in free ESL classes. Contact the college at 847-543-2000 to register.

Nicasa: Nicasa advocates for families and assists those with children under the age of 18 to prevent them from having Department of Children and Families Services intervene. Counseling, vocational programs as well as several other services are provided. For details, call 847-546-6450.

Zion-Benton Township High School: Jenny announced that they had over 600 seniors graduate last week. The first annual Footsteps for Families event will be held this Saturday, June 12th from 3:00 - 10:00 p.m. More information for Footsteps for Families can be found at:
<http://www.zbths.org/zbths/cwp/view.asp?A=3&Q=298847>.

Star Hospice: Star Hospice operates out of Vista Medical Center West. Barb Bailey shared brochures about Star Hospice's services and explained that there are a lot of misconceptions about hospice care. Referrals are not only accepted from physicians but also family members and friends. Contact Star Hospice staff at 847-360-2220.

CareNet Family Resource Center: Leah announced that they are in need of formula. She can be reached at 847-731-8370.

Compass Christian Counseling: Kelsie is facilitating a seminar called "Recovering from Loss & Grief" from May 20th - June 24th. Registration costs \$15 per individual. For more information contact Kelsie at 847-746-5524.

Salvation Army: Captain Holman stated that they are moving forward with their building project which will not only add to their church but also to several youth programs they offer. Rebecca announced that youth ages 8-12 can sign up for summer camp through the Salvation Army. Children with a medical card may attend camp for free. Those without may attend for a \$50 fee per week. Camp begins on June 21st and will end in July. Applications are due one week prior to the session a child signs up to attend. Applications can be found online at www.sawaukegan.org. Their regular band and character building programs have finished for the summer. Lastly, they have exhausted the first half of their EFSP funds. Individuals are encouraged to check back in July.

Catholic Charities: David stated that Catholic Charities can assist individuals in applying for food stamps through the SNAP program. Those interested should call 847-782-4000 or visit the food pantry to sign up.

YouthBuild: YouthBuild is recruiting students ages 18-24 for the GED and construction program. Individuals ages 18-26 who already have a GED or high school diploma and an interest in construction are encouraged to contact the agency at 847-473-3483. Zandra announced that they are planning to implement a Bridge to College program for 18-26 year olds who are interested in pursuing a career in manufacturing. Participants would become enrolled in the College of Lake County's manufacturing degree program. They are still looking for gently used new books for a variety of reading levels to fill their library. Contact Zandra if you would like to make a donation.

BENNU Legal Services: Berenice stated that BENNU has established a number of community partnerships across the area including one here in Zion. See the announcements from Zion-Benton Public Library for details regarding upcoming workshops. For more information, contact BENNU directly at 847-478-8200.