

Partners for an Enriched Community (P.E.C.)

Minutes - August 12, 2009

In attendance: **A Safe Place:** Caprice Killingsworth, **Benton Township:** Jule Groat, **CareNet:** Brenda Benegas, Doug Carlson, **Compass Christian Counseling:** Kelsie Newbrough, **CREW, INC.:** Dan Juliana, Maggie Maxwell, **Illinois Department of Human Services:** Willie Lewis, **Lake County:** Peter Duggan, **Lake County Workforce Development:** Eva Locke, **Salvation Army:** Rebecca Friede, **SER Jobs for Progress:** Rosa Reyes-Prosen, Chris Vogel, **Teen MOPS:** Beth Fitzgibbons, Darci Green, **YouthBuild Lake County:** Zandra Genous, **YWCA Lake County:** Joy Bah, **Zion-Benton Children's Services:** Gaby Gallegos, **Zion-Benton Public Library:** Susan Clark, **Zion-Benton Workforce Development Training Center:** Kera Rhyan, Danielle Young, **Zion Park District:** Karen McElyea, **Zion Township:** Eunice Bridges, Cheri Ditzig, Adriana Ortiz.

Cheri Ditzig, Facilitator, called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM.

City of Miracles: Cheri reviewed the City of Miracles event which took place Saturday, August 8. This year a number of organizations and churches came together to provide a community-wide back-to-school festival. The event was very successful because families were able to receive registration information and PEC agencies were able to directly connect with community members. Nine churches adopted one backpack item to fill 2600 backpacks. Over 1000 Zion kids were served. All Zion kids received backpacks. Cheri asked for feedback to improve the City of Miracles event.

CCI Database: Awards were given to Rebecca Friede from The Salvation Army and Holly Brown from YouthBuild for using MPOWR to refer clients to other PEC organizations. The CCI pilot group comprised of CREW, Benton Township, Zion Township, Zion-Benton Workforce Development Training Center and LOVE INC has been meeting regularly to determine how best to use MPOWR for case management. The grant that was given to CREW from The Lake County Community Foundation requires that we report twenty-five outcomes from our case management clients. The goal is to complete those outcomes prior to moving forward with designating other PEC member agencies as case managers.

Book of the Month Club: Maggie introduced the idea of having a book of the month club. The purpose is to get people to think differently together. Susan Clark and Kera Rhyan offered to form a committee to facilitate this. Maggie suggested the group start off by reading *Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischman. Susan reaffirmed that this is a great book to begin this activity. CREW still has funds left from The Lake County Community Foundation grant to purchase copies for PEC members.

Speed Networking: Maggie and Cheri introduced the concept of speed networking to the group. PEC members were asked to pair up with people they did not know very well and were given a series of questions to discuss. Each pair had six minutes to discuss the questions. Members had the opportunity to meet and learn about four other people that day. The goal

was that each person would have a chance to develop a stronger working relationship with other PEC members. A short survey was distributed to determine if this activity was useful. The responses will be distributed with a copy of the minutes prior to the September P.E.C. meeting.

Announcements:

Zion Township: Eunice mentioned that the Secretary of State will be at Zion Benton Public Library on **August 19 from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM**. Community members are invited to learn more about senior services, receive vision screening and participate in Rules of the Road. The Township just finished the Summer Work Program. This year they had over 85 youth who completed the program. Adriana explained that she had a CCI client who recently became employed thanks to the referral she was able to give to SER Jobs for Progress.

Lake County Work Force Development: Eva stated that the use of their services has increased 80% in the last two years. Anyone interested in their programs should attend an information session. If you are interested in finding out more about the Illinois Work Net Coordinator or Elevate America programs, please contact Eva at elocke@lakecountyl.gov or (847) 377-3456.

The Salvation Army: Rebecca reminded us that The Salvation Army no longer has in house funding. They should be able to offer further assistance beginning **October 1**. Their client numbers have doubled. Youth programs start soon. The Salvation Army will come to Zion to pick up children for their free program, which provides instruction on learning to play an instrument and includes the instruments. It runs from 5:00 - 8:00 on Wednesday nights. There is a group for moms as well. For more information, contact Rebecca at 847.336.1880 or rebecca_friede@salvationarmy.org.

Zion Park District: The Park District's fall activity guide is now available. Visit <http://www.zionparkdistrict.com/> to download the brochure.

SER Jobs for Progress: SER received the Dollar General grant which has enabled them to provide additional computer classes. They currently have openings for anyone interested in attending their ESL computer classes. These classes have high retention rates. Anyone from Lake County is welcome.

Lake County Workforce Development Training Center: Danielle stated that computer programs, tutoring and mentoring are continuing. If you would like more information, visit <http://www.workforceskills.org/>.

Compass Christian Counseling: Kelsie mentioned that she recently learned that Cancer Treatment Centers of America will be funding cancer treatment for those who live within a five mile radius of the Center and cannot afford care, through the Lake County Health Department. She also noted that the Family Bridges conference will be held **September 19 from 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM** at Waukegan High School. For more information, call (847) 360-5616.

Zion-Benton Public Library: The Library's newsletter will be coming out soon. Families First, part of Lake County's adult literacy program, will begin registration for their family literacy class in Zion next week. Parents who would like to earn their GED and who have children under the age of 5 are encouraged to sign up. The classes are free. Susan mentioned that there are two to three part time job openings at ZBPL.

Zion-Benton Children's Services: Children between the ages of 4-18 can receive dental services for a reduced fee or for free, based on their parent's income eligibility.

Catholic Charities: Catholic Charities' funding has been replenished through HPRP. Programs will continue to be offered.

Illinois Department of Human Services: Willie Lewis reported that they have received stimulus money and their limits have increased regarding people receiving TANF. If there are people that had previously been denied TANF are encouraged to re-apply.

YWCA: There are several workshops being offered this month and in September.
Violence Prevention - **8/19** (offered by The Zacharias Center)
Health Fair - **8/15** at Waukegan Trinity Church from **12-4 PM**
Wig/Prosthesis Day - **8/20** at the YWCA starting at **9:30 AM**. Walk-ins are welcome.
Parent education & sign language classes will be offered in September. Parents in need of low cost childcare may call 847.662.4247 to inquire about programs and services offered.

Teen MOPS: Teen MOPS will meet at the Zion Benton Public Library on **October 14, November 11** and **December 9**. They focus on developing parenting skills and instilling confidence in teen mothers. They are having an open house at Zion-Benton Public Library on **September 16**.

CareNet: Brenda mentioned that CareNet has seen an increase in the number of Latino clients they serve. CareNet is in need of cribs.

CREW, Inc.: Dan encouraged people to make referrals to CREW. The Corporate Spelling Bee will be held on **November 12**. CREW is currently updating its website. Maggie mentioned that she and Cheri have put together a group to address the healthcare needs of Zion-Benton residents. They will be meeting again on **September 15**. A group has also been put together to identify and address the growing and changing needs of the Latino community. They will meet on **August 26**.

A Safe Place: Caprice stated that A Safe Place will continue to offer all of its current services. Those in need of counseling/support can call the crisis line 847.249.4450.

Motion from Cheri Ditzig to approve the minutes from July 08, 2009. Karen McElyea seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote of members present.

Meeting adjourned.