

Partners for an Enriched Community (P.E.C.)
Minutes - October 14, 2009

In attendance: A Safe Place: Caprice Killingsworth, **BENNU Legal Services:** Andrew Sagartz, **Benton Township:** Jan Suthard, **CareNet Family Resource Center:** Brenda Benegas, **Compass Christian Counseling:** Kelsie Newbrough, **CREW, Inc.:** Maggie Maxwell, **Kids Hope United:** Francine Jones-Brantley, **Lake County Health Department:** Irma Acosta, Diane Eggers, **LOVE INC:** Jacqui Franclemont, **Salvation Army:** Rebecca Friede, **Teen MOPS:** Darci Green, Jean Studebaker, **YouthBuild Lake County:** Zandra Genous, **YWCA:** Joy Bah, Lori Deere, **Zion Benton Children's Services:** Gaby Gallegos, **Zion Benton Public Library:** Susan Clark, Reba Kaplan, **Zion Benton Workforce Development Training Center:** Tony Aiello, Kera Rhyan, Danielle Young, **Zion District #6:** Grace Robinson, **Zion Park District:** Karen McElyea, **Zion Township:** Eunice Bridges, Cheri Ditzig, Adriana Ortiz

Maggie Maxwell, Facilitator, called the meeting to order at 11:35 AM and welcomed guests.

September Minutes: Motion from Jacqui Franclemont to approve the minutes from September 9, 2009. Karen McElyea seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote of members present.

Introductions: This month we had four guests attend PEC: Andrew Sagartz, BENNU Legal Services, Irma Acosta, Lake County Health Department, Reba Kaplan, Zion-Benton Public Library and Tony Aiello, Zion-Benton Workforce Development Training Center.

Measuring PEC Success: Maggie reiterated the importance of completing the "Measuring PEC Success" spreadsheets on a monthly basis and explained that this information is used to track both individual agency and coalition progress.

The Lake County Community Foundation Bus Tour: Maggie reminded everyone that the The Lake County Community Foundation bus tour will be visiting Pearce Campus on **Thursday, October 22**. CREW's Community Development Division met with representatives from each of the Pearce agencies and New Tech on Tuesday and will be putting together informational booklets with agency profiles and wish lists as well as information about PEC and CCI for each bus tour attendee. Northern Illinois Food Bank's Mobile Food Pantry will also be at Pearce that day and will give food to 250 families in need.

Book of the Month Club: At last month's PEC meeting, copies of *Seedfolks* were distributed for anyone interested in reading the book. Members received a short list of reflection questions to discuss over lunch. Maggie mentioned that it was suggested we read a new book every other month in order to give people more time. Maggie asked for recommendations for titles. Suggestions can be e-mailed to maggiem@crewinc.org.

Speed Networking: PEC members were asked to pair up with people they did not have an opportunity to talk with during the last speed networking activity in August. Maggie gave

members a short list of questions to prompt discussion. Each pair had ten minutes to network. Members had the opportunity to meet and learn about four or five other people and their agencies. A short survey was distributed to determine how this activity compared to August's. The responses will be distributed with a copy of the minutes prior to the September P.E.C. meeting.

Announcements:

YouthBuild: Zandra announced that YouthBuild has received an employment grant for minorities to get into unions. The grant requires that minorities be between the ages of 18-26 and have a G.E.D. or high school diploma. They hope to get this program started by November 1. Zandra is currently reviewing applications. For more information, call Zandra at 847.473.3483.

YWCA: Joy announced that the YWCA will be offering a class beginning Thursday, October 15 called *Come Sign with Me*. Children under the age of five are encouraged to take this signing course in order to better communicate their needs. Joy mentioned that research has shown signing is effective in enabling children who are pre-language or autistic to communicate. The course will last six weeks. For more information and to register, call 847-662-4247.

The YWCA is also offering free Microsoft Office certification through a program called *Elevate America*. Those who are interested in participating should contact Felicia Mayfield at 847-662-4247 to receive a voucher which must be activated by October 31. The Y is still doing child care referrals.

Lori announced that the Annual Women's Health and Cancer Awareness Expo will be Saturday, October 24th from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM at Belvidere Mall in Waukegan. They will offer free screenings for blood pressure, blood sugar, colon cancer, osteoporosis, HIV/AIDS and cholesterol. There will also be activities for kids and a raffle with prizes. E-mail Lori (deerel@ywcalakecountyil.org) for more information.

CREW: Maggie and Jan announced that the 4th Annual Corporate Community Spelling Bee will be held November 12th at 7:00 PM at North Point Church. This year CREW is sponsoring a 50/50 raffle with tickets selling for \$10 each. Those who enter the raffle have a chance to win \$1500. All proceeds will go toward Community Resources for Education and Wellness (CREW), Inc. If you are interested in purchasing a ticket or would like to join a team, contact Jan Suthard at 847-746-2100.

CREW will be hosting its annual open house for Red Ribbon Week on Wednesday, October 21 from 12:00 - 2:00 PM. PEC members are invited to attend. The CCI pilot group will be having a half-day workshop on October 28th to discuss the Lake County Community Foundation grant and next steps for PEC members to become case managers within the system.

Zion Township: Cheri mentioned that her first Elimination of Poverty meeting will be on October 28th in Springfield. She is interested in getting input from PEC members as to what

the barriers are to a sustainable lifestyle. An online survey will be sent to all members next week.

This year for the Christmas Co-op, Zion Township is coordinating a one-list process to minimize duplication. Please refer families in need to their school's social workers. They can schedule an appointment to complete an application to participate.

Zion Park District: Karen stated that the new sports arena and fitness studio are now open as well as the drop in senior center. For more information, e-mail Karen at kmcelyea@zionparkdistrict.org.

Zion Benton Workforce Development Training Center: Kera announced that ZBWDTDC will be having their bi-annual pancake breakfast Saturday, October 17 from 8:30 - 10:30 AM at the J. Jireh Café in Winthrop Harbor. Tickets for adults are \$5, \$6 at the door. Tickets for children ages 3-10 are \$3. Kids under 3 eat for free. A raffle is being held that morning. Tickets are \$2 to enter for a chance to win a new computer.

ZBWDTDC's Musical Benefit will be October 31 at 6:30 PM at Christ Community Church in Zion. Tickets are \$5. For more information, call 847-731-9143.

Compass Christian Counseling: Compass Christian Counseling is still offering services to those who are hurting. Call Kelsie at 847-746-5524.

Benton Township: Benton Township is having a passport fair on Thursday, October 22 from 12:00 - 3:30. All are welcome to visit the Township to register for a passport (the same fees apply).

Flu and Pneumonia vaccines will be administered by a Certified Pharmacist on **Thursday, October 29** from 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM at Benton Township. Flu shots cost \$24.99 and Pneumonia shots cost \$49.99. These vaccinations are free for Medicare patients. Cash and credit cards will be accepted. Care Coach will be providing FREE health screenings at Benton Township from 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM on **October 29** as well. They will screen for high blood pressure and cholesterol, diabetes and osteoporosis.

The Barton Center is hosting a spelling bee on Thursday, October 15. They are still looking for spellers. Call the Barton Center at 847-872-1500 to sign up.

Teen MOPS: Darci stated that their first open house was on **Wednesday, September 16** at Zion Benton Public Library. They had six teen moms attend. Teen MOPS is having its first meeting this evening.

CareNet Family Resource Center: CareNet's annual banquet will be held November 5 at Grace Missionary Church from 7:00 - 9:00 PM. All are invited to attend. Dinner is complimentary and an opportunity to make financial gifts will be extended. For more information and to RSVP contact Brenda at 847.731.8370.

Kids Hope United: Francine reported that the Foster Grandparent program will officially end December 31. They have received inquiries from 4-5 agencies about the possibility of taking on that program.

Lake County Health Department: Dianne encouraged everyone to get their first flu and H1N1 vaccines. The Health Department will offer free vaccinations while supplies last.

BENNU Legal Services: BENNU will be having a luncheon and program at Waukegan Public Library on Tuesday, October 20 from 12-1 called *Immigration and You*. A second presentation will be held at 7:30 AM on Tuesday, October 27, 2009 at Tranel Financial, 1509 N. Milwaukee Ave. Space is limited. To RSVP call 847-478-8200.

A Safe Place: A Safe Place is offering a parent group called P.E.E.P. on Fridays at 1:00 PM. Their annual dinner is also coming. For more information, call Caprice at 847.731.7165.

LOVE INC: LOVE INC is in need of donations of new or gently used household items. Volunteers, especially those fluent in Spanish, are needed to help in the closet. Their annual fundraiser will be held **October 17** at The Country Squire in Grayslake. Tickets are \$75. For more information or to volunteer, call LOVE INC at 847.731.0526.

Salvation Army: Rebecca announced that they recently completed the sign up list for Christmas gifts for kids. She is happy to share this information and can be reached at rebecca_friede@usc.salvationarmy.org. Starting the first week in November until the end of March coat vouchers will be available for anyone in need of a coat. If you are interested in giving vouchers to your agency's clients, contact Rebecca. Salvation Army recently received restricted funds to assist with rent and utilities for people who have had hour cuts or have lost their job. The funding will be available until December 31.

Applications for bell ringers are now being taken. Bell ringers can work up to 60 hours per week and will earn \$8 an hour. Applications are available at their office location on Greenbay Road in Waukegan. People can work 4, 6 or 8 hour shifts. You must be 14 or older for this job. Visit www.sawaukegan.org for more information.

ChildServ: Samantha announced that they are looking for certified foster parents for a family that lives in the country. Those interested can call 773-867-7382. ChildServ now has a job opening for a part-time (24 hours per week) childcare worker. Call 847-263-2200 for more information.

Zion Benton Public Library: Susan distributed copies of the library newsletter. On October 31 at 1:00 PM they are having a free program, *How to Find Your Next Job*. For more information about this and other events, visit the Library's website at: www.zblibrary.org.

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 PM.