

Caring & Sharing

May 8, 2009

8:30-10:00 a.m.

Minutes

In attendance: Rosie Duran, Mark Dorr, Pam Rud, Joan Pluess, Brownie McGraw, Karen Bettis, Lauren Powers, Amy Yoder, Kiersten Guerrero, Elise Kormas, Julie Witkowski, Linda Jessup, Deana Loven, Anne Chaisson, Pia Jansen, Jerri Howe, Lisa Ratajczak, Teresa Tellechea, Suzanne Ragland, Janie Powell, Brenda Guzman, Katie Reiff, Kim Sharpe, Andrea O'Connell

Presentation—Joan Pluess, The Center for Family Outreach

- The Center was started in 2000 by Laurie Klith who had been working in the juvenile justice system for 18 years. She saw the need to serve families going through the system.
- Youth are sentenced to the Center to serve probation for charges and is usually first time offenders. Once the program is completed, the charges are dismissed.
- The Center offers a Diversion and Deferred program. Through the Diversion program, youth take seven week classes, get UA's and BA's to test for drug use, and do community service. For more serious charges, youth can be required to take 10 week class with a mandatory curfew for the youth. The Deferred program does not typically require community service, but curfew, classes and drug testing still enforced.
- The Center also offers an Open Referral program for families who want to get support for their teenagers before they get into trouble with the law.
- Level I Drug Court is a six month intensive probation program using drug testing, therapy, mandatory yoga (research shows that this helps with addiction), and are offered an enhancement program with classes like guitar, writing, painting, photography and drawing.
- The Center also offers a GED prep program and expulsion school with a 5x1 ratio
- Now beginning a Parenting Center for parents of clients. Classes offered to give parents tools to raise teenagers using consequences, love and limits and behaviors. Will be offered as part of the Center's programs for kids but will also be available for parents in the community.
- Most programs now being offered in Loveland at 715 E. 7th Street
- The Center's website is www.fortnet.org/thecenter

Sharing

- The Matthews House—Work with level II offenders and repeat offenders. Refer to the Center when necessary who also refer to the Matthew's House.
- DHS—Just started a strengths based program called Signs of Safety providing creative services for families in jeopardy of losing children due to neglect or abuse. Looking to collaborate with other community organizations to provide services.
- Steppin Out—Small organization providing celebrations and general support to youth 18 and older who are aging out of foster care or juvenile justice system. Can provide small awards to help with daily needs, and providing Supper Solutions classes for clients.
- Linda Jessup—In the final stages of writing a parenting text book called “Courageous Parenting”
- Lutheran Family Services—Offering a Nurturing Parenting class for parents of children ages 0-5 years as well as an ACE Community parenting class. Also offer a parenting support group at Trinity Lutheran Church for any parents free of charge.
- HCC—will be presenting “The State of Children and Youth in Larimer County” at the June meeting. The snapshot will have indicators and data around children's health and wellbeing
- Larimer County Health Care Program for Children with Special Needs—have set up a trust fund for children with traumatic brain injuries. Can provide up to \$2000 for support for these families.

- Basecamp—Offering summer programs beginning June 1 at Johnson Elementary. Families can go as many hours or days as needed.
- Look Both Ways—provide parent and youth education classes around young adult sexuality through Lambda at CSU. Also offering a Comprehensive Reproductive Health Education Conference July 30-31 for K-12 educators at UNC at Centerra for \$50
- Brenda Guzman—will begin offering conversational Spanish lessons on Tuesday's beginning June 9. Location TBD
- Fort Collins Housing Authority—provide a Family Self Sufficiency program for families working toward getting off assistance. Also provide both public and project based housing for families.
- Children's Speech and Reading Center—Provide services for children with speech, language and reading disabilities. Offering a social skills group this summer for children with autism. Offering a Kindergarten readiness program and pre-school development groups. Also provide individual services. Upcoming fundraiser—selling books by Barbara Murray, a local children's book author. Community members asked to buy books which will then be donated to children at United Day Care and Thompson Valley Preschool.
- Macdonald Family Charity—grants dreams to terminally ill children, or children from low income or foster care families, or children with major injuries.
- Boys & Girls Club of Fort Collins—doing a Tobacco Free event at the Club on Friday, May 15 from 2-8:30 p.m. including Junior Olympic activities like basketball, soccer, track, tennis. Also dancing and a fair along with an Iron Man competition with fun, non-competitive games. Summer program offered from 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. from June 1-August 7. Cost for 7:30-11 a.m. is \$5 per day. Other times cost \$5 per year. Breakfast and lunch provided.
- CHP+--Government did not renew marketing program through Maximus. Rosie will only be available until the end of June. Offering training for agencies who need to share information about CHP+ with clients.
- The Family Center—Looking for a volunteer to help with a summer reading program for K-8 grade students.
- Early Childhood Council—CCAP rates have increased meaning more families will now qualify. Also providing 120 job search child care coverage
- LC Tobacco Program—tobacco industry is spending about \$4.4 million per week in Colorado targeting young people. A meeting planned for Monday, May 18 at 11:30 a.m. at MCR to address tobacco use in the Latino population. Will be announcing mini-grant opportunities for other organizations focusing on this issue.
- City of Fort Collins Recreation—offering camps for teens this summer such as EMT, culinary and veterinary camps. Also bringing some programs out into the community parks called "Neighborhood Fun and Fitness". Check in the Recreator for more information. Scholarships are available.