

# CARBON COUNTY PARTNERS FOR PROGRESS

Minutes—February 13, 2009



**Those in attendance:** Pat Reilly, Joe Guardiani, Wayne Nothstein, Susan Tyler, Peter Kern, Jeanne Miller, Elissa Thorne, Leo Kucewicz, Michael Heery, Ron Blisard, and Kristin Simmons.

President Elissa Thorne welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

Joe provided an oral report.

## **Acceptance of Minutes:**

Regarding the Education discussion, the heading will need to include the Family Collaborative when referring to the Family Center, Clearing House or "311" for Social Services. The minutes will be amended to include the Family Collaborative in the heading.

**MOTION:** A motion to accept the minutes for January 16, 2009 was made by Joe Guardiani and seconded by Wayne Nothstein. Motion carried.

## **Old Business:**

### **Issues Identified at January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

Do we want to focus on one goal or work on all? Discussion was held regarding mental health, drugs, and family center since they overlap.

Joe mentioned the state health improvement plan. He suggested that CCPFP reach out to the Department of Health for technical assistance to create a Logic model; or create and write a five-year plan. There are facts and outcomes available for the Right From the Start (RFTS) program that we can share with the community. RFTS has been very successful; however their current funding will continue only until November. They cannot apply for refunding.

## **Foundation**

Peter Kern volunteered to research the creation of a community foundation. It would be a mechanism to help fund local projects. He would like to be involved in how it's structured to help ensure the maximum amount of funds collected are distributed. Joe Guardiani, Wayne Nothstein, and Pat Reilly will be assisting Peter with creating a foundation.

## **Marketing**

Micah Gursky has inquired if CCPFP has any dashboard indicators. Discussion was held about creating a website with these outcomes. In the past, PenTeleData has offered a website. For example, we can use this site to list the number of children served through the Dental Van, SHINE After-school Program, and Right From the Start. Also the number of Leadership Carbon graduates could be listed. It would be an ongoing report card to list all CCPFP achievements. Elissa will initiate contact with PenTeleData.

**Carbon County Child & Family Collaborative** They have all partners at the table. The collaborative has a mission and identified priorities: Early childhood and parenting programs that prevent child abuse, after-school programs for academically at-risk children, and need for increased mental health services. The collaborative has also adopted the goal of creating a comprehensive family center which brings together health, welfare, and education to support families. There was also a discussion that as part of the move toward a comprehensive family center we are were working

# CARBON COUNTY PARTNERS FOR PROGRESS

Minutes—February 13, 2009

on systems reform, hence one intake and getting over the barriers of confidentiality particularly for Mental Health, Drug & Alcohol, etc. Currently, work is being done to create one intake for all services.

## **Education Task Force**

What is it? What is our role in the community? Definition & direction is needed. Some of the following issues were identified: increase technical assistance, post secondary information to parents & students, and/or workforce development programs. Workforce programs such as AmeriCorps VISTA can provide a transitional program to our 19-22 year old population. There are some individuals who do not want to go to a post-secondary school or do not know what they would like to do. These individuals can enroll in post secondary programs i.e. restoring park projects, assisting municipal maintenance and service learning. It was suggested we are not providing enough information and education to the community regarding these programs. We need to encourage 19-22 year olds to consider programs such as AmeriCorps VISTA. It will allow them to gain exposure, credits and financial aide. These programs can be funded via grants or workforce development. Joe Sebelin, WIB, will be contacted to possibly provide more information.

*The purpose of AmeriCorps is to engage AmeriCorps members in direct service and capacity-building to address unmet community needs. Local programs design service activities for a team of members serving full- or part-time for one year or during the summer. Sample activities include tutoring and mentoring youth, assisting crime victims, building homes, and restoring parks. AmeriCorps members also mobilize community volunteers and strengthen the capacity of the organizations where they serve. VISTA members commit to serve full-time for a year at a nonprofit organization or local government agency, working to fight illiteracy, improve health services, create businesses, strengthen community groups, and much more. By serving through VISTA, you'll gain new skills, friends, and experiences—plus you'll get the satisfaction that comes from helping others...Source: <http://www.americorps.gov/about/programs/vista.asp>*

Leo's background is in municipal government. He suggested using existing resources i.e. PCC to excite municipal leaders and drive them. CCPFP role could be a liaison between these resources and municipalities. The value would be most effective between something existing and those who need it. We need to revisit our mission statement. Also, we need to try to get all superintendents or assistants to attend a meeting or task force. There was an education task force meeting to develop a list of goals or career pathways. We need to focus or narrow our objectives that are quantitative, definable, or achievable. CCPFP can be a liaison between service groups, niche for education, and marketing.

## **Other Items:**

- Executive board terms were discussed
- Dawn Ferrante has been appointed Director of Economic Development. She will be introduced at the February 26<sup>th</sup> Carbon County Commissioners' meeting.
- Gail Sterrett, Pocono Mountain Visitor Bureau, recently passed away. A card will be sent to Ann Pilcher.

**Carbon County Partners for Progress will meet on Friday, March 20, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. for a general meeting.** Elissa will make arrangements for a speaker at the April meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by: *Kristin Simmons*