

MONTCALM HUMAN SERVICES COALITION

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

MAISD Office in Stanton

MINUTES

Members Present

Kim Singh, Bob Brown, John Kroneck, John Kearney, Deborah Terborg, Erin Roberts, Linda Huyck, Kim Brown, Brenda Greenhoe, Franz Mogdis, Janet Bloomfield, John Van, Cari O'Connor, John Johansen, Bob Clingenpeel, Dr. Scott Koenigsknecht, Bob Ferrentino, Kristi Romashko, Michelle Seigo, Dr. Dorothy Berg, Mark Bellinger

Staff Present

Jeni Williams

Welcome and Call to Order occurred at 9:05 by Chairperson Bob Ferrentino.

Public Comment

Public Comment was offered, none were given.

Motion made by John Johansen, seconded by Dr. Dorothy Berg, to accept the minutes from November 2, 2011 as presented. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Basic Needs

Erin Roberts reports that there is nothing in addition to what the committee minutes reflect. The committee continues to looking at the issue of hygiene. They have sent out a survey to food pantries asking what they typically give out to those in need. R.A.V.E. is making their own laundry soap and hope to be able to distribute to food pantries. Dr. Koenigsknecht expressed interest in the making of laundry soap; he has students that could possibly assist with this process and he will speak with the coordinator to see if this is something that this group could make.

Bob Ferrentino reports that the Electronics Club at MCC gave away 10 computers that they refurbished to R.A.V.E. and Great Start. The club would be happy to take unwanted computer equipment to refurbish for future distribution.

Economic and Workforce Development

Bob Clingenpeel discussed their committee's goals with their number one goal to continue to expand the role of the Montcalm Alliance as the economic development leader in the community and as the representative for the western Michigan area.

Fran Mogdis adds that the transportation millage request that was on the ballot in November did not pass. The areas where it did pass or failed by a narrow margin, there was nothing else on the

ballot and voter turnout was very low. The Transportation Authority is going to ask the Board of Commissioners to extend the tenure of the committee until 12/31/2012 and place the issue back on the ballot in the presidential general election in November 2012.

Education

John Van Nieuwenhuyzen reports that they did not have a committee meeting after the last MHSC meeting due to lack of attendance. He is hoping to get together after today's meeting to meet briefly.

Health Care

Dr. Berg reports that the Health Care committee has established one major goal for each group within the committee and they have also added a goal for advocacy. Dr. Berg discussed each goal for each section of the committee. They will support whatever goal is set by the Healthy Montcalm survey results.

Healthy Montcalm Survey Results

Kim Singh was in attendance to discuss the Health Montcalm Survey Results. The committee is hoping to have the Montcalm County Community Profile completed by the end of the week. They are also trying to get around to as many groups as possible to present the survey findings to. The committee has a target date of April 2012 to hit the ground and implement a plan of action. It was interesting to find that the top five community perceived and provider perceived serious problems were the same. Kim discussed each of these problems and provided more information on each topic and discussed the next steps. It is obvious that there is a lot of work ahead to educate people how to improve their quality of life. The committee broke up into four groups to gather feedback on the various issues and how to proceed. Kim will continue to keep the group updated on the solutions list.

Business Items:

Old Business

Transportation Initiative – Next Steps

Franz reports the he hopes to have the authority extended through December 31, 2012. By putting it on the general election in November this will increase voter turnout. This will also provide an opportunity to advertise/promote the cause. Franz has the wording for a resolution from this group providing support to continue the Transportation Authority.

Motion by John Van, supported by Kim Singh, that the MHSC endorse the request to amend the initial resolution by the Montcalm County Board of Commissioners to extend the Transportation Authority to December 31, 2012. Motion carried.

Discussion took place about the proposed motion and how other organizations can support the cause. Motion carried.

Commission Johansen expressed his concerns for future funding of a transportation initiative and encourages letters of support be sent to Jeni no later than the end of the day today.

211 Roll-Out Update

Erin Roberts brought some flyers to pass out. The program is currently up and running in Montcalm County. Erin encourages that you call to make sure that the information that you supply is actually given out. Discussion took place about a lengthy message at the beginning of the 211 call and the data that is collected from that survey. Erin will report to the advisory council the concerns that were discussed today and advocate on how this committee would like it to run.

Round Table Reports

John Kroneck, introduced Jill Worden from Riverhaven. Jill distributed two pamphlets that were developed to provide assistance for prescription drug abuse and substance abuse.

John Johansen reports that the county made the national news last night; the county is in receipt of a Snow Cone machine that was purchased with federal grant money to be used for treatment at mass casualty incidents and at community events to be used by Citizens Corps. John also discussed a two page letter from the Attorney General's office on medical marijuana. He also discussed the public safety millage; he states that if the millage isn't passed it will end 24/7 coverage after 2013.

Mark Bellinger would like to speak at the next meeting in regards to the public safety millage.

Erin Roberts reports that the WYCA Kent County is partnering with UMH for sexual assault nurses. This means that victims will no longer have to transported out of the county for examinations.

John Van, passed out new brochures for the 2nd annual barren dash. John also reports that this is the last week for the food drive. EightCAP would prefer cash donations because they can purchase food at a much better price than what individuals can purchase.

Dr. Berg reports that North Kent Guidance Services have hired a new counselor that has worked extensively with foster children.

Cari O'Connor reports that there is a winter wear drive going through February for infants and toddlers. Donations can be dropped off at Great Start and DHS. They have lots of requests this year.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 4, 2012 from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. The committees are scheduled to meet after the general MHSC meeting.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

Minutes Recorded By
Jeni Williams