



Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2018
10:30 am – 12:00 pm
Shipley State Service Center
Seaford, DE 19973

Mission: This Committee coordinates efforts to provide a forum to connect key service providers, to better assist individuals and families, in accessing services in Sussex County. The goal is to improve overall physical and economic health.

Welcome & Introductions: Cheryl Doucette called the meeting to order and welcomed the committee members. Review of December meeting minutes. Regina Sidney-Brown made a motion to approve, motion was second by Tom Thunstrom. Minutes were approved as presented. Committee member introduced themselves.

Attendees: Holly Johnson, Tanisha Showell, Ella Collins, Regina Sidney-Brown, Dupree Johnson, Michelle Johnson, Anthony Williams, Evelyn Wilson, Ramona Pickett, Tynetta Brown, Tom Thunstrom, Roberta Severin, Ida Pennewell, Jon McDowell, Cheryl Doucette, Nancy Burris

Action Items:

- Holly Johnson to provide contact information to Cheryl for Vicky Artis, present to Success, Feb/March?
- Holly Johnson to create a one-page document to provide 2018 event dates and details.
- Cheryl to introduce Toni Dickerson to Holly Johnson regarding planning an advocacy day with fathers.
- Regina Sidney-Brown to update the group in February.
- Tynetta will speak to Donna Snyder White, Delaware 211, to make sure she has Community Partner Support Unit's details. United Way can connect to partner agencies, need a list of her partners.
- Tynetta will research State Service Centers to get a better understanding of the new unit's role.
- Roberta to share a list of Unit's partners to committee members.
- Invite a DSS Administrator to attend committee meetings, present.

Old Business:

Cheryl is looking for a second co-chair as of 2019. If you would like to be a part of this leadership, please let us know. Patricia Clear is at court, Michelle Johnson may not be available for Jan/Feb/March/April (due to tax season).

As we look at this committee and are members, this is a fluid committee. Who is at the table? What are your agency goals? How can we work together? Share your goals are, focus for 2018. How can we help you collectively or organizationally? All committee members are invited to share their organizational goals at a upcoming meeting.

Cheryl asked Holly Johnson, Connections, to share what her organization does. Help families to decrease stresses to decrease abuse of children. Offers assessment and consultation, identify stresses with the family. Safe and stable families, prevention program. Families can self-refer, free services. Must live in Delaware, have children 17 and under living within the family, (grandparents raising grandkids) pregnant girls, foster kids getting ready to leave foster care. Fatherhood as a positive force, spread the message through the state of DE. Teaching effective co-parenting.

Lots of events already schedule for 2018. Five core events, community wellness day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, dads bring kids to work day. All events are very family focused, high end locations, events are made special. State wide initiative, contributing to the larger events like Breakfast with dad. All events are free. Bring different events to families that they may not normally afford. Working with First State Community Action Agency and other partners. Holly is a free resource.

Is there a way to highlight in newsletters? Working smarter not harder. Tenisha Showell, project coordinator also spoke. Barber Shop outreach program, going to barber shops getting feedback from the males there, then going to the salons and speak with the women. Share feedback with the each other. Have after school programs, trying to have sessions for the parents, while there at school picking up the kids, trying to reach out to the fathers. Fathers need to be Not just be present, be active.

Talking more about men's health, how does dad's health effect baby and Mom's health? Fatherhood action day, in Dover. Advocacy day at legislative hall, deaeyc heads up, Cheryl to introduce Toni to Holly. Also, reach out to DANA, join DANA, Cheryl to connect Tenisha to contact from DANA.

Advocacy needs to be more than one day. Bring data, success stories, try to meet once a month with your legislative rep. Develop a personal relationship with your legislative rep. Invite them to attend your round table meeting. Present from an economic standpoint to legislature. Call them, personal emails. Most representatives will make arrangements to meet or connect with you. They live in the same community they represent, issues that impact you, impact their families or their communities. Be prepared, take another partner with you. Delaware after school program already works with Fatherhood program. Share what programs are working and what programs are not working. Piloting with boys and girls' clubs, Holly's groups is covering the costs of the program.

Regina Sidney-Brown, update on more after school programs not just in the schools. Schools can't do everything. How do we partner with the schools, we can provide this to your school? What is already in the community. Who is in your neighborhood? New, Extended Learning Opportunity Council (ELOC), what is created would stay, not go away if leadership changes. She is attending a meeting tomorrow, review possibilities of the next two years. What's working, what do you want more of?

How do we align the work that we are doing in the afterschool space, making sure after school staff is well educated.

YESO update from Regina Sidney-Brown, for February, add to agenda.

Tom offered assistance with financial literacy, budgeting, how to open a bank account, work with startup businesses. Working with \$tand By Me. Can do a workshop or presentation, train the trainer program.

Ella Collins, state service center: safety net for vulnerable families, trying to take care of the emergencies for the families. Problems have grown, one agency can't do it all. From committee discussion, Ella will reach out to Holly and her organization sooner rather than waiting for the 30 days to be up, be more proactive. Start the process earlier, service center can make a referral. Ella announced a Stakeholders meeting 3/22, 1:30 pm at Shipley Service Center, she would like to have Peggy attend. Ella to connect with Holly earlier, VI-SPCAT program.

Roberta Severin. Community Partner Support Unit

Mission Statement: To improve the quality of life for underserved Delawarenas by enhancing the delivery of services between the Department of Health and Social Services and community partners, facilitating timely and efficient customer service, and eliminating barriers to determining eligibility for benefits and programs. (Some barriers could be language, or transportation issues). Her staff is currently in some of the local libraries trying to reach the population that may not have access to a state service center. Enrolling clients for services on location.

Q: How does this department work separate from the state service centers? Staff works outside of the office, i.e., library.

Q: How many partners do you have? About 50 in Sussex County alone.

Q: Are you working with Delaware 211?

There was a lengthy discussion with the committee to understand the difference between what this unit does and the state services centers. Tynetta Brown would like to see an organizational chart. Shared some concerns from a major funder that state service centers are receiving funding for duplication of effort? Should that funding go to more non-profits?

Community Partner Support Unit can train your staff on how to assist registering clients (trainings occurred last spring) Give some thought as to how SCHC can help spread the word for this Unit.

Roberta works in Sussex County, Dupree works with Kent and Sussex counties. Committee would like to have someone attend monthly meetings.

Ramona passed out her HIV one pager. Testing and counseling is free. She is under Kent Sussex Community Services. She can provide a referral to the peer support partner.

Joyce Mixon was referred to Tynetta to connect with. State service centers have been representative in pieces, not as whole at committee meetings. What are the 2018 goals for State Service Centers? How do we connect the right people to the right resources?

Meeting adjourned: Next meeting will be February 26, 2018, 10:30 am to noon.