

# SERVICE PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN OF HIGH CONFLICT FAMILIES

Meeting #8, October 30, 2007

## REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

### ATTENDANCE

Representative	Organization	Present	Absent
Sharon Aarons	FIU/Victim Advocacy Center		X
Sharon Abrams	Eleventh Judicial Circuit	X	
Vanja Abreu	American Therapeutic Corp	X	
Paula Bain	MDC Dept. of Human Services		X
David Battenfield	Miami Dade Fire Rescue		X
Robert Beneckson	Children's Home Society	X	
Michelle Benjamin	Victim Service Center		X
Emily Bennett	United Way		X
Melissa Brail	Jewish Community Services	X	
Janna Bolinger -Heller	MDPD- Domestic Crimes Bureau	X	
Queen Brown	Human Service Coalition		X
Marcelo Castro	Research & Evaluation Network	X	
Teresa Descillo	Victim Service Center		X
Angela Diaz-Vidaillet	Victim Response, Inc. (The Lodge)		X
Delores Dunn	Center for Family and Child Enrichment		X
Maryellen Ebert	Institute for Child & Family Health	X	
Joan Farr	Miami-Dade County/DHS/Family & Victim Services	X	
Juan Ferreiro	State Attorney's Office/MOVES	X	
Linda Fieldstone	Eleventh Judicial Circuit/Family Court Services	X	
Nadyne Floyd-Grubbs	Alliance for Human Services		X
Susan Gold	UM Medical Mailman Center for Child Development		X
Normando Gregorisch	MDPD- Domestic Crimes Bureau	X	
Maria Harris	Eleventh Judicial Circuit/Domestic Violence Division	X	
Mary Horan	All Children Together		X
Robin Hunter	Dept. Of Juvenile Justice		X
Cece Hurtwiz	YWCA of Greater Miami	X	
Christine Jean	Family Resource Center		X
Regina Johnson	State Attorney's Office		X

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Judge Judith Kreeger	Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court	X	
Sandra Lawrence	State Attorney's Office/Victim Witness Services		X
Lauren Lazarus	Eleventh Judicial Circuit/UFC	X	
Fermin Leguen	Miami Dade Dept. of Health		X
Judith Lieber	Jewish Community Services		X
Sarah Lenett	Miami-Dade County/DHS	X	
Sheldon Levy	The Melissa Institute for Violence and Prevention Treatment	X	
Vicki Lopez-Lukis	Miami Dade Reentry		X
Hebe Lubowitz	Jewish Community Services		X
Conchita Lundblad	Family Counseling Services		X
Sarah Magnes	The Village		X
Emily Marquez	Humane Society Miami-Dade		X
David McGriff	Advocate Program, Inc.	X	
Ivon Mesa	DVIU	X	
Dr. Robert Morgan	Heroes Program	X	
Barbie Ongay	Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Inc.		X
Daniel Ore	MDPS-Division of Student Services		X
James Pann	Research & Evaluation Network		X
Colleen Perdue	Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Inc.	X	
Vivian Perez Pollo	AOC Mediator		X
Cheryl Pestaina	Youth on the Move	X	
Tom Pietrogallo	National Association of Social Workers		X
Jesus Pinero	Kids Hope United		X
Silvia Reyes	Barry University Counseling	X	
Susan Reyna	MUJER		X
Rose Marie Rodriguez	Miami Dade Fire Rescue		X
Jim Rudes	Barry University		X
Jennie Rundell	Eleventh Judicial Circuit		X
Frank Sanabria	Switchboard of Miami	X	
Lisette Sanabria	Eleventh Judicial Circuit/Family Division	X	
Christine Sainvil	CHARLEE Program		X
Sabrina Salomon	Fl. Immigrant Advocacy Center		X
Stephanie Solovei	Miami Bridge Youth Services		X
Carrie Soubal	State Attorney's Office		X
Yanina Sywyk	DCF	X	
Michele Sweeting	DCF/SAMH	X	
Bettina Toscano	Kids Hope United	X	
Dawn Thompson	Kristi House		X
Heather Winters	Family Counseling Services	X	
Mary Grace Yale-Kaiser	UM/Linda Ray Center		X

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## SERVICE PARTNERS

Organization	MOU signed
CCDH- All Children Together	X
American Therapeutic Corp.	X
Barry University	X
Center for Family & Child Enrichment	
Clerk of Courts	X
CHARLEE	X
Children's Home Society	X
DCF	X
Early Learning Coalition	X
Eleventh Judicial Circuit	X
Family Resource Center	X
FIU/Victim Advocacy Center	
Heroes Program(UM)	X
Human Service Coalition	X
Institute for Children and Family Health, Inc.	X
Jewish Community Services	X
Kids Hope United	X
Kristi House	X
Miami Bridge	X
MDC Dept. of Human Services	
MDC Dept. of Juvenile Justice	X
MDC Dept. of Health	X
MDC Office of County Manager	
MDC Public Schools	X
MDC/DHS/Family & Victim Services	
MDPD- Domestic Crimes Bureau	
MUJER	X
National Association of Social Workers(Miami Chapter)	
Our Kids, Inc.	
State Attorney's Office	X
Switchboard of Miami	X
The Journey Institute	X
The Melissa Institute for Violence Prevention and Treatment	X
The Village	X
United Way Miami	X
University of Miami Linda Ray Center	X
University of Miami Medical School	X
Mailman Center for Child Development	
Victim Response, Inc. (The Lodge)	
Victim Services Center	X
Young Women's Christian Association of Greater Miami	X

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## WELCOME/AGENDA REVIEW

Project Director, Isabel Perez-Morina welcomed everyone to the eighth and last meeting of the Service Partnership for Children of High Conflict Families. The meeting facilitator, Janice Fleischer, reviewed the Agenda for the day (Exhibit A). All members of the Service Partnership introduced themselves.

## AN OVERVIEW OF PROPOSAL AND STATUS OF APPLICATION

Ms. Perez-Morina described the Children's Trust application process for the upcoming collaborative work. The final proposal was originally due on November 15, 2007, but it was moved up by a month to October 12, causing some hard work to be done to complete the process in a timely manner. The plan submitted was contained in the meeting packets (Exhibit B). The application process was successful and a resolution to approve funding will be presented to the Children's Trust Program Services Committee this afternoon, and with their approval to the General Board on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

The new name of the project will be: *Bridging Families and Communities*, reflecting the family driven, community and strength based approach of this partnership and collaborative.

The model for the collaborative is the Wrap Around Model previously described at prior meetings. Each of the three focus areas reported on their section of the Plan.

The Family Court section: Lisette Sanabria, Director of Family Court Operations, and Linda Fieldstone, Family Court Services Supervisor, spoke regarding this section.

Page 11 of the Plan was provided to members for their information. There is an early triage component to the Plan. Recommendations can be made to case managers on families that might not need wrap around services. There is also an element for families with substance abuse.

Domestic Violence Court section: Maria Harris, Director of Domestic Violence Court, spoke on this section on behalf of the court and Ivon Mesa, Director of the Domestic Violence Intake Unit. Maria explained the process as it pertains to the referrals into the system of care from this point of entry.

Shelters: Isabel Perez-Morina spoke on behalf of Angela Diaz-Villadet, CEO of the Lodge, and explained how women with children entering shelter will be screened and referred into the system of care. Due to recent turnover in Miami-Dade County, Paula Bain, who represented the shelters in this partnership, is no longer working in that capacity. Project staff will be contacting Patricia Sims, Director of the SafeSpace shelters to bring her up to speed and reach an arrangement for screening and referral.

### First Responders:

Members asked the following questions after the First Responders reported on their section:

1. Will fire and rescue be included as first responders?
  - a. Once we have decided on the pilot area, we will see if fire and rescue are interested in referring.
2. Will initial screening be kept so if a family is initially not identified as a Domestic Violence (DV) family, but then when they get to court it is discovered that they were DV?

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- a. Screening will be given only for those calls coming in as domestic violence.

Overall there is a commitment to the Trust that 400 families needing multiple services due to being high conflict will be identified and receive services. The other funded group is Children's Services.

A psychological evaluation will hopefully be added as an additional service over and above the medical intake. Many partners have additional services they provide routinely; they will be contacted to maximize the services available.

The Trust has limited original funding due to the budget situation in the current economic environment; therefore flex funding for money for families has been reduced but The Children's Trust may allow for the capacity to apply for an increase in funds if needed after a period of time.

Another issue is the identification of the family team. One member inquired if families come directly to providers/partners, can they refer them to the program? Ms. Perez-Morina responded by saying they were not sure yet since it may cause a "flood" of referrals.

It was noted that the collaborative should be looking for other funding as it moves forward so the collaborative is not only relying on the Children's Trust for funds.

It was suggested that the collaborative may want to use graduate programs to get the psychological evaluation done at the level of funds available (\$250.00 per person) since it is unlikely that private practitioners could be found who will do evaluations for that amount of money. Additionally, a member observed that adult and child evaluations are very different and must be conducted very differently; child evaluations take much longer and are more expensive due to the time involved.

We may want to look at whether a family can contribute any funds to this aspect and the \$250.00 could be added and thereby increase the funds available. Additionally, the school system may be willing to help if they are able. However, one member stated that there is often a waiting time within the school system which is very long and by the time the evaluation is done, major problems have arisen (crime, drop out, etc.).

The Courts are switching from psychological evaluations to mental health evaluations; it is important to ensure that the correct referral is happening.

All partners will be receiving a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for partners to take to their Boards/legal departments, etc. In addition a Memorandum of Intent (MOI) will be sent so they can be signed before the actual MOU is signed (which often takes a longer period of time).

## **CARE COORDINATION: FAMILY TEAM EXERCISE**

Belinda Paulicin explained that Care Coordination is all about working as a Team (family, providers, community, collaborative). Collaboratives work on breaking down barriers, closing gaps, and increasing expertise. The beauty of a collaborative is that all members work on these issues together.

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In order to demonstrate how this might work, Belinda Paulicn led the members in a Family Team Exercise. The members broke into 5 small groups. Each group was given a scenario (Exhibit C).

The groups discussed each member of the scenario family and what services/interventions should be considered including the strengths and weaknesses of the scenario family.

A lively discussion ensued, which included several comments and questions about the interpretation of calling in abuse/neglect to the DCF abuse hotline when children witness domestic violence. The collaborative agreed that this topic was an important community issue and that the partnership would take a key role in organizing an event to clarify issues and to bring together professionals from child welfare, domestic violence, and mental health to reach a uniform protocol.

## **BREAK**

The members took a short break.

## **SUCCESS WITH COLLABORATIVES: EXAMPLES**

Member Michelle Sweeting gave a report on a successful collaborative of which she is a part: the Community Empowerment Teams. This comes from a Committee on Violence in Broward and Dade Counties. The group wanted to address violence in non-traditional ways; to be unique. The Collaborative is currently in four areas of Miami-Dade County: 3 in South Dade and one in Liberty City. The Collaborative brings no money to the table; however they have brought in partners to assist like Police, mental health, housing, education, and social services.

Teams function out of office space donated in the communities and office supplies/equipment have been provided as well. They go door to door; tell about the Team and how and why it could be a benefit to the community and the problem of violence. Each member agency provides in kind contributions. Ms. Sweeting said it is a very exciting and rewarding program.

Member comments:

1. Who chairs the collaborative?
  - a. Jeffrey Gorley
2. Do you do immediate intervention?
  - a. Help with understanding the system and having an advocate in the community to assist with working through the system.
  - b. We come as a team; if as a team member the best thing for a family does not involve my agency, we still make sure it is done.
  - c. Enables the evaluation of the individual needs of each community; things that by contract or law they are not allowed to do (street parties, etc.) can be reviewed and help make good things happen for the community instead of just giving a blanket "no"; work with the community as unique.
3. What is the community involvement?
  - a. Walk throughs help
  - b. Tenant association meetings
  - c. Housing developments have rules and meetings
    - i. Currently reworking the model being used
4. Are representatives from the community seated on the panel/team?
  - i. They come to the meetings are not members of the Team.
  - ii. Plan is to do training to develop natural leaders.
5. Can you take referrals from that area from us?

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- a. Yes as long as the family lives in that community

## DEBRIEF OF PROCESS/OPEN DISCUSSION

The Facilitator asked members to comment on their thoughts about the process used for the meetings of the Service Partnership. The following comments were made:

1. If you look around the room today, you see all chairs are filled, it means there is still energy and people are still committed.
2. Facilitator participation made this easier.
3. Need for facilitation and the whole collaborative process
  - a. I am with "Youth on the Move" in Overtown area, I have used this forum as a training ground
  - b. This is a great model; I am grateful for all the details I have taken from here
4. In special communities that have a lot of distrust, no money; you need to get them to understand it takes time; need to show milestones.
5. Law enforcement needs to be an integral part of whatever effort you are doing in stressed areas.
6. Really appreciated the use of the website; made it possible to share the information; easy to follow. (Facilitator's note: this was a reference to the Facilitator's website on which a separate page was established for the Partnership and all documents, including the Reports, exhibits and other important information could be posted.)
7. A facilitator should put him/herself out of a job by teaching as you do!
8. Looking forward to additional training and continued working together.

## CLOSING CEREMONY **PICTURES!!!!**

Judge Judith Kreeger and Advocate Program Director, David McGriff, thanked everyone and congratulated them on their fine work. Certificates were awarded to all members.

Members were asked to complete their Evaluations. The Facilitator thanked everyone for their cooperation and strong commitment to the process. She wished them luck in their future endeavor and offered to conduct a "pro bono" basic facilitation training for any of the staff of the partners wishing to attend. Ms. Perez-Morina offered to coordinate this training should the members desire to do it.

## COMMENT CARDS:

*"Great work. It was a long road but you successfully pulled it together!"*

*"Collaborative running smoothly. The partnerships appear to be more cohesive."*

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