

First State Community Action Agency

Kent County Strong Communities Initiative Monthly Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2011

Attendees:

Star Fuentes

Michelle Brooks

Jim Mims

Deanna Campagnini

Nelson Driggus, Sr.

James Westley

Linda Connors

Ava Stallings-Hardy

- *Opening Prayer*
- *Pledge of Allegiance*
- *Silent Reading of the minutes (accepted with corrections)*

No Special Guests

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP UPDATES

Star Fuentes/Kent Sussex Counseling Services:

Ms. Fuentes introduced Michelle Brooks as an intern at KSCS. We welcomed Ms. Brooks to the Kent County SCI meeting. Ms. Fuentes stated things are busy at KSCS and that they are in the midst of setting up HIV/AIDS community displays. Outreach Specialist (Constance Johnson) is still available to attend community events to present information, participate in health fairs, set-up displays & offer HIV testing. The Mobile Van is also available for HIV testing & counseling within your community's. Substance Abuse issues will be referred to the local DETOX Center. KSCS is scheduled to participate in Capitol Park's Block Party on April 2nd. Ms. Fuentes may be reached at sfuentes@kscs.org or 302-735-7790 ext. 212. Ms. Johnson may still be reached at cjohnson@kscs.org or 302-382-7284.

Kent Sussex Counseling is considered to be one of the major public outpatient addiction, mental health, treatment & HIV counseling, testing and case management Centers in Delaware's lower counties. In closing, Ms. Fuentes advised the group that Reverend Johnny Woods, Pastor of the Community Christian Worship Center at Capitol Park is being honored for his 5th Pastoral Anniversary at the Modern Maturity Center in Dover on April 30, 2011 at 4pm. Tickets are on sale until April 15th and are \$30 for adults and \$15 for youth. Please see Ms. Fuentes for tickets.

Jim Mims/Bayhealth Medical Center

Mr. Mims advised the group that on April 5, 2011 there will be a 55+ Health & Wellness Expo at Dover Downs Hotel & Casino. There will be over 100 vendors participating, offering information, services & screenings for Senior Citizens. The entire day is full of activities. Also offered will be financial planning, Life Insurance planning and give-aways. Van & bus transportation is available. Vendors may still set up tables for a small fee through the Dover Chamber of Commerce. In addition, Mr. Mims distributed literature & information from Bayhealth on free Community Outreach programs & services. Karen Mercer/Bayhealth Coordinator may still be reached at 302-744-6219. Mr. Mims may be reached at 302-744-7135 or Jim.Mims@Bayhealth.org.

Deanna Campagnini/SE RCAP

Ms. Campagnini provided an update on the status of Ellendale's Proposed Water System. Ellendale recently completed a series of required public workshops for application of a Water District. The two-phased project intended to first develop within the Town Proper (Annex) and then include unincorporated areas outside of town. The Water System Referendum vote was scheduled for March 05, 2011 at Ellendale's Town Hall. The majority vote ruled approximately 2:1 against the Town Owned System. The Town Council officially accepted these results and will take no further action on a water project. Advantages of community water system include the potential for growth and development, regulated treatment standards, uninterrupted water service, and consistent reliable water pressure. This would prove extremely valuable during a power outage, where individual well owners would have no water. Despite the many advantages of a water treatment system, several residents voiced concerns about user rates, mandatory hook-ups, hook-up fees, and the costs associated with well abandonment. Some residents thought the water quality adequate, even though more than 20 % of the wells in the area tested high in Nitrates. Mr. Nelson Driggus responded with interest and inquired about Nitrates, since he believed Ellendale now had central sewer. Ms. Campagnini stated that the expansion of Sussex County's Sanitary Sewer District which included Ellendale, helped eliminate sanitary sewer overflows and other pollutants in the ground. However, there are many other factors that affect ground water. Sussex County depends exclusively on drinking water derived from aquifers. All freshwater in aquifers are derived from infiltration of rainfall on the land surface. Natural water quality depends upon location, depth, and the hydrologic cycle of the aquifer. Ellendale, like many areas in Sussex County are often affected by high seasonal ground waters and other non-point pollutants that result from agriculture, animal feeding operations, and runoff.

Linda Connors/Delaware Substance Abuse & Mental Health

Ms. Connors was in attendance for Rosemary Joseph-Kappel. Ms. Connors discussed the People of Color Mental Health Conference scheduled for April 9, 2011 at the Martin Luther King Center at Delaware State University. Participants will gain a greater

understanding and mutual respect for consumers, family members and professionals whose aim is to improve mental health services in communities of color. Celebrated film "20 Minutes" by distinguished Delaware Filmmaker, G. Lloyd Morris will be featured during the conference.

DeWayne Phillips/UnitedHealthcare Community Plan

Correction Although Mr. Phillips was unable to attend the March 2011 Kent County SCI meeting he submitted the following correction(s) to the February 2011 meeting minutes:

*Mr. Phillips, Community Outreach Coordinator with Unison Health Plan stated as of **March 1, 2011, Unison Health Plan will become UnitedHealthcare Community Plan.** Unison has been affiliated with UnitedHealthcare for over two years. UnitedHealthcare has decided to bring all of their Medicaid businesses under one brand which opens more resources and partnerships for the communities. Benefits will not change and the Unison Members will receive new cards & member ID numbers and all information will remain the same. The only change will be the new logo. All old literature will be pulled, however contact information will be the same. Mr. Phillips may still be reached at dewayne.phillips@uhc.com or 302-729-4182.*

COMMUNITY LEADER UPDATES

Capitol Park/James Westley

Mr. Westley advised that Capitol Park still has not received the speed cushions yet for the main roads in Capitol Park. Representative Bennett will attend Capitol Park's next General Meeting and the board will ask for the status of the project at that time. On April 2, 2011 Capitol Park will host a Community Block Party on Senator Avenue. Barbara Frelinger is organizing the event. There will be lots of games, give-a way's, food, music and lots of things for the kids to do. The Block Party is from 12 noon until 3pm. In addition, the youth of Capitol Park just graduated from the ***Making Proud Choices Program***, funded & facilitated by Delaware Parents Association of Delaware (at Capitol Park). Each child that graduated received a \$50 gift card.

Star Hill/Nelson Driggus, Sr.

Mr. Driggus briefly discussed the sidewalk project in Star Hill, stating that the project will be done in 2 phases. The board met with DeIDOT last week to go over the route for the sidewalks. It will take about 3 years to complete this project. In addition, Mr. Driggus stated Star Hill is still working on resolving their drainage project. Mr. Driggus recently spoke with Representative Sweeney who stated he would send DNREC an email to verify what the issues were in moving forward.

Meadowbrook Acres/Nelson Dodd

Not in attendance this month.

First State Community Action Agency/Ava Stallings-Hardy

Ms. Stallings-Hardy, Community Development Specialist for Kent & NC County gave the following updates:

- ❖ First State Community Action Agency's Capitol Campaign. Our goal is to raise at least \$500,000 by April 2011 so that we can break ground and begin construction in late spring/early summer of 2011. Executive Director, Bernice Edwards has stated "we have a long way to go to reach our goal and we hope to garner more support from the community". For more about First State Community Action Agency's Capital Campaign/Renovation Project-including donor pledge information and naming opportunities, contact the office at 302-856-7761.
- ❖ Ms. Hardy asked for Community Leaders to assist in increasing community support of the Kent County Strong Communities Initiative (SCI) going forward. Community Partners attend the SCI meetings each month to ensure communities are equipped with valuable programs & services to help the low-income & at risk populations throughout Delaware. We would like at least 2-3 residents from each community to attend the SCI each month. Please contact Ms. Hardy with any questions or concerns.
- ❖ Ms. Hardy distributed FSCAA & Partner brochures & information on upcoming events & services.

"PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE BUILD COMMUNITY"