

SUSSEX COUNTY STRONG COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE (SCI) MINUTES

Thursday, February 24, 2011
First State Community Action Agency
Georgetown, DE 19947

The monthly meeting of the Sussex County Strong Communities Initiative was held on Thursday, February 24, 2011 at First State Community Action Agency. The meeting began at 10:15 a.m.

The following attendees signed in: Michelle Johnson, Rev. Charles Dennis Sr., Anna Dennis, Andy Lorenz, Rosemary Joseph-Kappel, Deanna Campagnini, Linda Connors, Bonnie O'day, Carla Gibbs, Natisha Austin, Wade Jones, Star Fuentes, Katy Getsie, Diaz Bonville, Mike Nelson, Nika Reid, Msgt Gerald Miller, James Brunswick, Tabitha Brown, Mary Johnson, Denise Hamilton, and Bruce Wright.

Michelle Johnson opened the meeting with a welcome followed by a prayer by Rev. Charles Dennis. There was a silent reading of the minutes. The minutes were approved and accepted with necessary corrections.

PRESENTATION

MSgt. Gerald Miller, Air Force National Guard did a presentation to the group on the following:

Who we are:

The Air National Guard is a reserve component of the Air Force. You will be joining an elite team whose main mission is to serve and protect the state of Delaware.

What we offer:

1. College tuition assistance up to 100% to include a Masters Degree.
2. An enlistment Bonus up to \$20,000.00.
3. World Wide Travel Opportunities
4. Technical Training in competitive career fields.
5. Medical (individual coverage is \$47.51 per month, family coverage is \$180.17 per month) plus Dental Benefits.
6. Opportunity to serve your country while staying close to home.

Requirements:

1. Must be at least 17 years old (with parents permission) and before your 40th birthday to enlist.
2. Must have high school diploma, GED, or be a senior in high school eligible to graduate.
3. Must achieve an overall score of 31 on the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test) and meet job requirements. The ASVAB is a written test that will inform both recruiter and yourself as to what jobs you are eligible for with the Air National guard.

4. Must pass an entrance physical, height and weight standards, as well as a background check.

Facts:

1. You will attend Basic Military Training for eight (8) weeks which is held at Lackland AFB, San Antonio, TX.
2. You will attend a military technical training school where you will learn how to do the job that you enlisted to do. The length is 6-52 weeks depending on the job.
3. You will be paid active duty pay during BMT/TECH. training determined by rank.
4. You will enlist as an E-1, E-2, or E-3. Your rank will be determined by factors such as: Type of job, college credits that you may have and ROTC, girl scouts/boy scout awards.

Enlistment contracts are for 6 years.

For more information on basic training, please visit: www.basictraing.af.mil.

Call now to see if you qualify!!

1-800-742-6713

COMMUNITY REPORTS

POLLY BRANCH CIVIC ASSOCIATION

2/10/11 - Demonstration of how air has weight based on the pressure that it exerts (used a spread out sheet of newspaper to hold down a stick on the table as the other end was "karate chopped")

2/15/11 - Ms. Lisa Harkins, Food Bank hosted a Tobacco Prevention Workshop on "Cancer of the Mouth" with total of 27 in attendance.

2/17/11 - Students learned about polymers through a balloon demonstration (we poked a sharp skewer through a balloon without making it pop!)

2/18/11 - Mary Johnson and Tabitha Brown attended Tobacco Prevention Workshop on Best Practice in Dover, DE.

2/22/11 - Beebe Medical Center presented a Tobacco Prevention Workshop on "Cancer of the Body" and "Why Smoking is Harmful to the Body".

2/23/11- Mr. Travis Brown will coming on Wednesday's to work with the youth in doing a short film (PSA) on Tobacco Prevention and teaching youth how to use a video camera, lights, boom mic, and etc.

2/24/11 - Students learned about the reaction of an acid (lemon juice) with a base (baking soda) with a touch of liquid soap to form a pretty cool (and good) cleaning agent.

All Tobacco Prevention Workshops and (PSA) are made possible through the Delaware Division of Public Health's Tobacco Prevention Community Contract. Funding for contract provided by the Delaware Health funded and managed by the American Lung Association in Delaware.

Three (3) students in the after school program made honor roll.

Community still having problems with drugs in the neighborhood. The clean-ups are going well.

COVERDALE CROSSROADS

Our after school program is going very well; Ellis Cannon III, Jerome Cannon III, Nevada Jackson, Nathaniel McDonald and Freeiana Jackson made the Honor Roll; the other report cards were good. Just received progress reports and grades are still up. We are averaging about 15 youth a day. Froilon Brittingham (University of Delaware Student) volunteers Monday and Tuesday with homework assistance/mentoring.

02/01 - Coverdale Crossroads Community Council, Inc. provided over 80 pounds of food for a community family.

02/07 - Community/Parent/Child mtg., 20 participants

02/09 - Evelyn Wilson attended Sussex Child Health Promotion Coalition meeting at Seaford Boys and Girls Club; also, afterschool program, scientific experiment, Dean Purnell "Air".

02/10 - Mrs. Norma Zumsteg from PNC Bank (Funder) visited our afterschool program; this visit went very well.

02/11- Coverdale Crossroads Community Council, Inc. partnership with Milford Food Bank of Delaware to distribute 21 food boxes for seniors at the Coverdale site. Woodbridge School District donated a new file cabinet for the youth programs.

02/14 - Dean Purnell volunteered for homework assistance.

02/15 - Sharon Cannon (parent) volunteered for homework assistance.

02/16 - Dean Purnell, did a scientific experiment, Polymers "Stretching the Truth.

02/24 - Evelyn attended First State's Executive Board Meeting in Dover; afterschool participants had ice cream/cookie day to celebrate perfect attendance/honor roll successes.

03/12, There will be a Parent/Child Workshop with "The Men of Distinction" at the Coverdale Community Center, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Next community meeting will be held Monday, March 07, 2011, at the Coverdale Community Center at 6:00 p.m.

ELLENDALE

No report

DCUSA

FATHERHOOD WORKSHOP-

The Fatherhood Program will be a five (5) week program that will begin on Thursday, March 24, 2011 and ending on Thursday, April 21, 2011.

GRIFFIN PLACE

Griffin Place is being built with the assistance of some inmates from the Work Release Community Center and volunteers for Employment Connection through Del Tech. Griffin Place should be ready to occupy in midsummer.

ISY

The ISY Program is currently serving 15 students. Four (4) students are from Cape Henlopen High School, eight (8) are from Milford High School, two (2) students from Sussex Tech High School and one (1) student from Seaford High School.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is provided for the ISY and for the GED participants that needs it.

COMPUTERWORLD

Computerworld is still running. Every Thursday evening from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

VOLUNTEERS

The organization has three (3) volunteers from Employment Connection.

PARTNERS REPORT

DNREC

Carla Gibbs, DNREC/Financial Assistance Branch reported that on February 1, 2011 credit fees will increase to \$16.45 individual and \$17.73 for joint (applicant with spouse)

The Administrative Specialist II position was filled on February 21, 2011.

The new HUD updates for income limits should be released around March 15, 2011.

SUSSEX COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

A Brush with Kindness is a program of Sussex County Habitat for Humanity that helps low-income homeowners by offering exterior home improvements. Volunteer teams work to improve the condition of homes by painting, landscaping, and performing minor exterior repairs at minimal costs to homeowners. Able-bodied homeowners are encouraged to work alongside the volunteers in a cooperative effort. This program is for homeowners earning 60 percent or less of the area medium income (see income guidelines). Our ABWK program focuses on homes located in the areas in which Sussex County Habitat for Humanity (SCHFH) is currently doing construction projects.

DIVISION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE & MENTAL HEALTH

Rosemary Joseph-Kappel reported that the Kent /Sussex Crisis Intervention Services Management Information Systems, and CMHC statewide performance improvement and community projects. The office has officially relocated to the former Kent/Sussex Detox Building in Ellendale. Rosemary's new phone number is 302-422-1413 or 302-422-1417 ext. 209.

GEE...YOU WILL PROJECT

Prom is just around the corner. If you know anyone who needs a gown have them call us at 302-242-0032. We can offer Tuxedos at a discounted rate through our co-location with "Clothes to You Cleaners."

On March 25-27, 2011 we will hold the 6th Annual "Women Supporting Women through Opportunity" Conference and Retreat at Redden Lodge. This year's theme is "Living Your Dreams" "Your Past, Your Present, Your Future." There are a few spots left and there are scholarships available as the Delaware Commission for Women is our lead sponsor again this year. For more information, please call 302-242-0032 or <mailto:gwillproject@yahoo.com>.

Linda Connors, Division of Substance Abuse & Mental Health/Laurel State Service Center reported that Delaware State University's College of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences Presents a Film Symposium "An American Tale 20 Minutes" written and directed by G. Lloyd Morris.

The film symposium will address recidivism, personal development, and the ability to change while transitioning back into the community after incarceration.

Open to the DSU community and general public:

Thursday, March 3, 2011 at Delaware State University Bank of America Auditorium 1200 North DuPont Highway Dover, DE 19901 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The Men of Distinction are coming to the Laurel State Service Center on Tuesday, March 8, 2011. All are welcome! They have much useful info and resources. There will also be numerous

giveaways. One of their current projects is helping seven (7) local young people with life plans and resumes writing. The "Men of Distinction" are mentors and encourage healthy life styles. They connected with Evelyn the last time that they came to Laurel and now have an exciting event planned for Coverdale on Saturday, March 12, 2011.

The People of Color Mental Health Conference for Southern DE will be Saturday, April 9, 2011 at Del State. All are welcome. Opportunity for agency exhibits. \$50.00 for non profits and \$100.00 for profits. Please contact me for further details. Dr. Peter Pecora is the featured speaker and all breakout sessions are themed from chapters in his latest book. It Takes a Village.... come be part of this exciting day!

The film event featuring "20 Minutes...an American Tale" will be shown at Del State March 3rd at 11 AM. There is no charge to attend or exhibit at this event. All are welcome! G. Lloyd Morris will be presenting his film. This will be a very special showing of the film as the three (3) leading actors will be in attendance and be available to talk with the audience. There will be a panel discussion after the film. Representatives from the State Dept. of Corrections, the Delaware Criminal Justice Council, the Ministry, and our own Wade Jones will share their views and information.

Come join in this big event for Delaware State University!

Delaware is working to prevent Child Sexual Abuse, state-wide. We have been working hard in Sussex County, where this Delaware Initiative is focused to begin and then go slowly up to Kent and New Castle counties. We are using the evidenced based program by the South Carolina group, Stewards of Children. The program that will be presented to communities, churches, schools, private and state agencies is called, "Darkness to Light". There is a focus group scheduled for March 15th at First State Community Action Agency. This group is looking for individuals who would be interested in becoming trained facilitators. The cost is \$15 for workbook materials. The catered lunch will be free of charge to the group. Please contact me if you would like to attend this group. Please contact me if you are interested in becoming a certified facilitator but cannot attend this initial focus group. We hope to select a group of 10 people to become certified facilitators to begin this process. We will continue to start more groups to become certified facilitators in Sussex, Kent and then New Castle counties. The cost to become certified is \$350.00; we are hoping to try to obtain grants and donations to cover the majority of this cost. This training affords Social Work ceu's and we are looking into obtaining ceu's for other fields also.

T.A.P. F.A.I.T.H. meets every Monday at 3:00 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church in Georgetown. Jim Martin's cell is the contact # 302-362-8612. This is for use by all. "Big Ray" Perry from A.M.E.N. is also part of this group. All are welcome at the meetings, this including the homeless. This group helps those developing shelters and also assists those with immediate shelter needs. The group not only works with homeless people, but those on probation, in recovery, and in treatment for mental illness. Please come to the meetings and network with the group!

I am always available to assist with Mental Health & Substance Abuse issues, Gambling problems, Domestic Violence concerns, and Homeless/Shelter issues. Please call me at 302-249-0578 for referral, advice and or consultation. You may also reach me at <mailto:lindaconnors@state.de.us>. I can see clients at your office, in the community, or in my office space at the Laurel State Service Center. Please do not give my cell phone number to clients. They may contact me by e-mail or at the Laurel State Service Center # 302-875-6943. Thank you!

For more information contact: Ms. Diane Scott 302-857-6628.

DELAWARE STATE POLICE

Lt. Micheal Nelson reported on Explorers Program for high school students. County wide organization meets once a month and students of interest in law enrollment. Please contact Det. Cheryl Arnold at Troop 4 302-856-5850.

KENT /SUSSEX COUNSELING

Ms. Star Fuentes reported that they are available for displays, health fairs, and presentations. We offer free HIV counseling & testing referral services.

We will bring out mobile van to your agency or community and all services are free. If you need information or services, please call Haley Truitt in Sussex at 302-387-5495 in Kent Contance Johnson at 302-382-7284 or Star 302-735-7790 ext. 212.

Rev. Johnny Woods Anniversary Dinner April 30, 2011 call Star at 302-943-3373.

DELAWARE STATE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Andy Lorenz reported that Community Development Block Grant applications are due March 4, 2011. The CDBG programs are used mainly for housing rehabilitation, and the waiting lists are long for this assistance. The phone number to call for rehab. assistance is 302-855-7777 and ask to be placed on the housing rehab waiting list.

THURMAN ADAMS STATE SERVICE CENTER

Bonnie O'Day reported that energy assistance remind outside agencies that Division Social Services Center's may have funding available for heat, electric, rent, mortgage, and medical. You can use us a "clearing house" prior to using their resources. "DEC" fund Delaware Electric Corporation customers that have disconnected notice can apply for assistance through any Social Service Center in Kent or Sussex.

SOUTHEAST RCAP

Deanna Campagnini reported that the town of Ellendale has completed two (2) in a series of required public workshops for application of a Water District. The proposed water system would

move forward in a two phase project. The first phase of development would include the Town Proper (Annex) and the second phase would include unincorporated areas outside of town. Ellendale has been approved for a (100% forgiveness) Loan for the first phase of development (\$3.6 million) at no cost to the town. The estimated user rate for the treatment system would be approximately \$38 month. The Water System Referendum Vote is scheduled for March 05, 2011 at Ellendale's Town Hall.

IRSD PARENT EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Nika Reid reported the following:

Parent Education Center of Indian River School District

The Parent Education Center is located in the G. W. Carver Educational Center (formerly Frankford Elementary School) on Frankford School Road. This program is funded through the Race to the Top Initiative.

Mission

The mission of the Indian River School District Parent Education center is to establish a collaborative partnership between the Indian River School District and the families/communities we serve.

The Parent/Family Center will provide a variety of services and programs, to promote academic and social growth and support and encourage parental involvement within the educational process.

The goal of the Parent Education Center is to promote equalization of resources for all students and their families by providing empowering workshops, fostering the District's commitment to our community. Understanding the diverse needs of our population of families, the material presented will be all inclusive therefore ensuring that all members of our school district community are valuable and attaining our mutual goal of student achievement.

The Parent Education Center has a 12 Computer Lab (internet accessible) for parents to use for employment assistance, housing &/or completion of application to the ASSIST program. Parents may access the District Reading and Math Programs to afford their students with opportunities to preview, review, and attain classroom knowledge, as well as the Home Access Center, which allows the parent to frequently check on student progress (grades, testing, and attendance). It is also our goal to provide holistic workshops for parents based on identified needs.

IRSD T.O.T.S.

Diaz Bonville, Community-Home Liaison reported the following:

Indian River School District T.O.T.S. (Transitioning Our Toddlers to School) - Early Intervention Services

what is T.O.T.S.

T.O.T.S. is a service designed for 3 and 4 year olds who qualify for early childhood special education services. The services are provided to children in various settings across the school district, such as: in the child's daycare, at the T.O.T.S. site, home or other community setting.

These services are provided at no cost to parents if their child meets State Special Education requirements for early intervention service.

Who could be served by T.O.T.S.?

Children who are currently enrolled in a Birth to 3 programs and are turning 3 years old during the school year may be referred for further assessment.

Children who have been initially screened through a physician's visit and referred for further assessment.

T.O.T.S. Services
Millsboro Middle School
302 East State Street
Millsboro, Delaware 19966
(302) 934-6278

Any child who may be exhibiting a difficulty or delay in the following areas: communication, cognitive, motor, social, emotional, articulation that could impact learning.

Services offered by T.O.T.S.

Special Education diagnostic services for children who exhibit specific delays that could impact learning.

On going Child Fund screenings for three (3) year olds who may be experiencing difficulties or delays in development.

Special education instruction, Speech, Occupational or Physical Therapy services for children who have been determined to qualify for early intervention services.

Specialized training events for parents, guardians and caregivers offered periodically on topics such as parenting skills, learning styles, early childhood developmental stages and "look fors".

For further information about T.O.T.S. contact:

Denise Snyder, Early Intervention Coordinator
dsnyder@irsd.k12.de.us

Julie Beebe, Early Childhood Teacher
jbeebe@irsd.k12.de.us

Diaz J. Bonville, Community-Home Liaison
dbonville@irsd.k12.de.us

Debbie O'Neal, Speech Pathologist
doneal@irsd.k12.de.us

FIRST STATE COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY

Bruce Wright reported that we will be doing need assessments and will be contacting partners to collect information. He informed the group that CSBG may face a 50% cut of our core funding. We would like for our partners to send letters to the Federal Government.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:15 a.m. **The next Sussex County SCI meeting will be Thursday, March 24, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. hosted by DCUSA Philadelphia Pentecostal Church, 13724 S. Old State Road Ellendale, DE 302-422-2350.**