



Kerrie Fine is the new Senior Program Manager with the Healthy Start Coalition. She explained that with new funding from JWB they are trying to do more home developmental visits. The most vulnerable families tend to turn down visits due to fear etc....but Healthy Coalition realized the gap for the 0-3 age group. They started a 1000-day program which helps these families by phone to give them the resources to help. 400 participants per year but there is a tremendous need. There is a doula program now due to low-birth-weight problems and these women need support throughout pregnancy and postpartum with no family support. The final program presented is Champions for Children which helps to educate mothers by offering Educational Playgroups, Developmental Screening and Breastfeeding support. Flyers were given detailing these programs.

Lanie Gibney who is a social worker with Calvary Christian Church presented the vision of the yet to be built Compassion Center in Clearwater. She said that their church had a vision for foster care and adoption in Pinellas County. They partner with many Christian agencies including A Door of Hope, Man Up & Go, Daylight Counseling, Play Therapy, Firefly and FSS. The idea is that these agencies will all housed in the new center for ongoing support. They also want to get more Christian families as licensed foster care families through their church and other Pinellas churches. She mentioned a partnership with One More Child in Lakeland for free goods in the future like highchairs, Pack n Play etc....Walmart provides goods to One More Child, and they have excess. Lanie explained that they have 15 foster families currently at their church, but they are not exclusively Christian and will take referrals. In 5-10 years, they would like to be known for a more preventative approach, rather than being reactive. Tentative opening is fall of 2024, subject to building permits etc.

Sandy mentioned the Child Advocacy Expo on August 24th and to register asap. Forms were given out to all meeting attendees.

FSS spoke about an Expo that they are having on Monday May 15th, 2024. Sandy asked how this was different to the Angels Expo, as we do not want duplication. However, FSS is more of an internal resource for the Case Managers and specific to them.

Kelly Johnson from the Sheriff's Office updated regarding the transition to DCF on August 4th, 2023. It should be a seamless transition but currently there are 28 investigators, but they need 64 to be fully staffed. DCF is actively recruiting. The sheriff's office is using administrators to ease the workload of the investigators. Removal rate is low this month and FSS is engaging in available services and resources to avoid future problems. She stressed that the in-home services are essential and make a world of difference to these high-risk families. Currently there is lots of internal training and restructuring.

Directions for Living updated on the Youth Mental Health training. They have two fully trained staff and have trained 150 teachers so far statewide. Next step is the local training for staff and volunteers.

Hero to a Child mentioned Opportunity Outreach with Angels as a great program and is a tremendous help with mental health. Lots of spring sports at the moment. They have partnered with Celebrate Birthdays. There is a Teen conference on June 6th to educate GAL, case workers and teens aged 14+ as to what to expect when aging out of the system.

Stephanie with FSS mentioned 800 exits from the system and a free Just Like Me Summer Bridge program for teens 14+ to catch up academically in Pasco County.

Boley thanked Angels for a recent donation to Family at the Ranch and mentioned a Wizard of Oz play at St. Pete High on June 1st & 2nd.

Linda with St. Pete Literacy Council updated that there is a pending grant with Boley for tutor training.

Adrienne Conwell with KindMouse mentioned their 11th Birthday Celebration on May 10th. They are also promoting an on-line fundraiser for those people who cannot attend.

Celeste with DCF said that the partnership for the transition with the Sheriff's Office has been good. All current employees were given letters to join DCF. The transition should be smooth.

PACE said that they are gearing up for Graduation and seven girls will be graduating on June 2nd. They also had a Value Me Luncheon through the Beth Dillinger Foundation.

Terry talked about David Yates (previously from Clearwater Marine Aquarium) He is making movies now and one is being shown about mental illness (Schizophrenia) on May 25th at the SPC Seminole Campus. Terry also mentioned Ukrainian refugees with children and the traumas they are suffering. They are setting up a trauma center for them.

Sandy made a comment to FSS that all their caseworkers need to see the Angel Visitation Center and it is close to their offices. To set it up with Ashley and the correct contact at FSS

Blake Kearney gave an update on our financials. We need to continue to fundraise to not have a deficit, but the Brunch was a great success with a net of \$30,103.00.

Sandy thanked everyone in attendance.