



Minutes for Angels Against Abuse Meeting February 14th, 2023

Each Individual at the meeting introduced themselves and the agency that they represented. We had a well represented large group.

Sandy Kearney mentioned the Angels Brunch on Saturday, April 29th, 2023 at the downtown Yacht Club and the Gala on Friday, November 3rd, 2023. www.angelsagainstabuse.org

Linda from the Literacy Council mentioned a Spelling Bee for adults event on Friday, April 14th at Coastal Creative. For more information please visit www.literacystpete.org. Linda also shared a leaflet for www.helpmegrownational.org.

Adrienne Conwell mentioned a Chili Cook Off at Mastry's this Sunday, February 19th, 2023 from noon to 4pm to benefit The Kind Mouse. More info at www.thekindmouse.org.

Friends of the Children are holding their Annual Breakfast in Tampa on Wednesday, April 26th, 2023. www.friendstampabay.org.

Pace for Girls is having a Believing in Girls Fundraising luncheon on Thursday, March 23rd, 2023. More info at www.pacecenter.org.

Minnregs Veterans Association explained that they contribute within the community to local, non profit organizations and the various agencies can contact them at www.minnregs.com. They have been wonderful supporters of Angels Against Abuse.

Boley Centers updated that they had a strategic planning meeting recently with management to establish a five year plan. She explained that they serve many different people. She mentioned housing and potential future land development etc...More information at www.boleycenters.org.

Directions for Living discussed that housing, rents are barriers for many clients. They do have a Housing First Division but have to use some hotels/motels with the current housing crisis.

Stephanie with FSS said that they just had their first year anniversary. She updated that more children left the foster care system since 2014 in Pinellas County. She said that their workforce went from 25% positions filled to 85% within that year and their attrition has reduced dramatically.

April Lott presented the Youth Mental Health Training information in depth. She said that it is a dire situation with youth mental health/hospitalizations/suicide attempts. There is no follow up care and there needs to be opportunities to help more. That's where Mental Health First Aid training can help.

This training teaches people how to deal with a mental health crisis and is a worldwide program. Some people at the meeting have completed the training. It is an eight hour training session that can be completed in one day, or two blocks of four hours. There are specific courses for Law Enforcement, Youth, Teen to Teen etc... DFL are concentrating mostly on Youth & Teen to Teen at the moment. The Teen to Teen program is training children to recognise other children in crisis. The Tampa Bay Lightning has been involved and supportive of this program that just started six months ago for the Teen to Teen.

Children as young as 5 are having suicidal thoughts...partly due to the Pandemic and lack of socialization/friends/activities from that time. Cyber bullying is also a factor and trauma. The training enables you to recognise mental health scenarios and trains how to assess, listen without judgment, give reassurance, encourage self help and encourage professional help when needed.

Guardian Ad Litem would like to partner with DFL to train GAL volunteers, of which there are 926 plus staff. Friends of the Children would like to do mandatory training for their staff. FSS would like to partner on the program too. DFL said that they can do training at their facility or anywhere that has technical capabilities. DFL has the trainers. Shawnee is the Director of Mental Health at DFL. Cost to train a Trainer is approx \$5000 and they get a certification for three years and then refresher training.

The cost for the training per individual is between \$80-\$150, depending on costs. The Angels are partnering with GAL and DFL to train 80 GAL volunteers.

April also mentioned that she is on the Board of the Youth Suicide Committee and said that lots of the children appear to be ok on the outside and are high achievers with a peer group in many instances. This training teaches you to recognise the symptoms. Most males are successful in suicide as typically they use a gun. However, girls attempt suicide at three times the rate but not by lethal means usually and they are not getting the follow up care needed unfortunately.

For much more information, please visit www.directionsforliving.org. They have detailed information on their website for Mental Health First Aid training.

April Lott with DFL was recently recognised by the National Council on Mental Wellbeing for their work with adults and Mental Health First Aid. This was the only agency in the entire country to receive the award.

Meeting Adjourned

