

**Kootenai Alliance for Children and Families
General Membership Meeting
Friday, December 9, 2011**

MINUTES

Present KACF Steering Committee: Kerri Thoreson (Chair), *City of Post Falls*; Debbie Nadeau, *K.C. Juvenile Probation*; Mike Wood (Treasurer), *Project Safe Place*; and, Crystal Owens, *Youth Equipped for Success (YES)*. **KACF Staff:** Kerri Wilfong and Kelly Sheffield. **Members and Visitors:** Amy Moulson and Susanne Reimann, *NIC Head Start*; Bob Driscoll and Shirley Schopp, *Idaho Dept. of Health and Welfare*; Chris Copstead, *North Idaho Publications*; Donna Euler, *Idaho Youth Ranch*; Janet Bourque, *Bright Star Grant Consultants*; Jennifer Ross, *Panhandle Health Dist.*; Nancy Irvin, *Business Psychology Associates*; Paul Grayhek, *St. Vincent de Paul*; Peggy Sue Jones, *Student Organization of Social Workers (LCSC-Cd'A)*; *St. Vincent de Paul*; Valerie Wilcox, *Boys and Girls Club*; Amika Dupree; *Aces Community Services*; Carolyn Mattoon, *Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)*; and Debra Stewart, *Panhandle Autism Society*.

Meeting called to order by Kerri T. at 12:04 pm.

Minutes from the November meeting were reviewed. A motion made by Chris was adopted that, "the November minutes be accepted."

Guest Speaker: Donna Euler, Idaho Youth Ranch (IYR) Adoption Services

The Idaho Youth Ranch was founded in Rupert, Idaho in 1953. IYR provides residential treatment for at-risk youth at the Anchor House and offers adoption and family services. Donna explained that IYR is not thought of as an adoption agency although they have been providing adoption services since 1983. IYR provides free counseling services to the birth mother, father and members of the extended family, for as long as it is needed. They interview the birth parents to find out their desires for child placement and continue to work with them through birth to make sure the parents are still open to adoption.

Counseling, home studies and training are available for the adoptive parents to help prepare them to be the best parents possible. IYR also facilitates special needs adoptions and assist families that want to adopt from the foster care system.

KACF Updates

Youth drug prevention media contest (formerly "Real Teens, Reel Change") – Kerri W. explained the contest has been held in the fall the past two years but is being moved to the spring by the request of area students and teachers. The 2012 contest will offer TV and radio commercials as well as a print campaign and will be open to students in grades 6-12. Details will be announced after Christmas.

Networking

Mike Wood, *Project Safe Place* – stated Project Safe Place always has space for more youth and they are currently open five days a week. They are looking for host homes (licensed through the foster care program) for youth needing shelter from ages 13 to 17.

Paul Grayhek, *St. Vincent de Paul* – explained they are currently remodeling the kitchen of the women's shelter and are looking for volunteers to assist with plumbing, wallpaper, electrical, etc.

Debra Stewart, *Panhandle Autism Society* – announced April 21 is the 2nd annual Walk for Autism Awareness. PAS offers a support group on the first Tuesday of each month.

Peggy Sue Jones, *Student Organization of Social Workers (LCSC-Cd'A)* – mentioned the SOSW is having a Bingo fundraiser tonight at the Harding Center from 6-8 pm



Carolyn Mattoon, *Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)* – offers speaking services for groups throughout the ten northern counties.

Chris Copstead, *North Idaho Publications* – stated the winter edition of the *North Idaho Family Magazine* will be distributed January 9. The North Idaho Charitable Events (NICE) calendar has been given a facelift. Check it out at nifamily.com. Chris encouraged all agencies/organizations to send their event information to him as soon as the event date is confirmed. Chris also stated “Souport” event was a success and cookbooks are available for purchase online and at the HELP Center.

Bob Driscoll, *Idaho Dept. of Health and Welfare* – announced 800 meals were served at the Fedora during the community Thanksgiving dinner. The Homeless Connect is January 26 and will be held at the American Legion (on Poleline) in Post Falls. Over 1,000 people are expected. Donations of gloves, hats, boots, toothpaste, etc. are always needed.

Valerie Wilcox, *Boys and Girls Club* – stated the Beach Party fundraiser was a big success. They are hosting a Turkey BINGO night on November 22 and will provide Thanksgiving dinner for 15 families. Taco Bell is offering “Bells for Kids” and will make a donation to the Boys and Girls Club. Snowman Soup is being sold by the youth to raise money to purchase toys for kids at the North Idaho Violence Prevention Center. Currently 175 youth are attending the afterschool program. Valerie also mentioned they have been receiving referrals from the United Way volunteer website and recommended organizations use it when they need volunteers.

Janet Bourque, *Bright Star Grant Consultants (BSGC)* – explained Horizons funding ended last year. BSGC is having a strategic planning session with decision makers at the University of Idaho to reestablish funding. Janet asked anyone with ideas to let her know.

Jennifer Ross; *Panhandle Health Dist.* – offers free child care resource and referral service through the 2-1-1 Idaho CareLine.

Kerri Thoreson (Chair), *City of Post Falls* – encouraged people to volunteer at the warming center in Post Falls made available by Ground Force Manufacturing. Donations of foam pads are needed as the concrete floor is cold. Shirley recommended using carpet padding (doubled-up).

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm.

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