

Meeting Minutes

Committee Name: Vulnerable Families

Meeting Purpose(s):		Cover agenda items below			
Leader:	Star Graber	Meeting Called			
Facilitator:	Star Graber	Time: From:	9:00 am	To:	10:30 am
Recorder:	Jaci DiCarlo	Date:	December 2, 2008		
Location: DSS Higuera Street, Room 358					
Members Present:					
1.	Jaci DiCarlo	3.	Paula Tripp		
2.	Belinda Benassi	4.	Tracy Lang Wood		
5.	Evelyn Ruscki	6.	Phyllis Braiotta		
7.	Star Graber	8.	Lisa Fraser		
9.	Terri Kurczewski	10.			
Agenda Items		Comments/Conclusions/ Actions (If Any)			
Agenda Adjustments & Announcements		Star Graber opened the meeting, and there were no additions to the agenda.			
Announcements		<p>Phyllis announced the Christmas Tree Auction and Raffle on 12/6 from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm in the Plaza that will benefit Prado. She also announced the Needs and Wishes Holiday Fundraiser on 12/13 in Los Osos to benefit the Maxine Lewis Memorial Shelter.</p> <p>Phyllis brought to the attention of the committee the latest CWS Drug Issues Charts that track local drug use over the past few years. She pointed out that Meth use continues to be off the charts in our area.</p> <p>Phyllis announced a Beginnings Education, Pregnancy, and Strategy Session on 12/12 with Dr. McGourty. It will be held at the Ag Farm Advisor building from 8:15 am to 4:30 pm, and lunch will be provided.</p> <p>Paula handed out flyers for the new P.O.P.S. classes that will start in January. They will start their first women involvement group for women who have made poor choices in their past. This class hopes to educate them how to make better choices in the future.</p>			

<p>Debrief of SLOCAP/CSN Forum Training</p>	<p>Star reported that about 75 people attended, and the presentations went well. There were not many questions.</p> <p>Evelyn brought up the question as to where the protocols will be housed so the agencies that use them can access the most current versions. It was decided that it would be best if DSS would put a Vulnerable Families tab on their external website so others can access and link to it, but only DSS will be able to make changes to them. Belinda will check with Chris Haggie and see if a VF tab can be added. After several corrections are made to the protocols (errors notes at the forum training), Jaci will send the protocols to Chris for upload.</p> <p>Belinda reported that the DSS external website is developing a Families In Need section that families/anyone can access to do their own research and have links to other resources.</p> <p>Lisa reported that there were lots of new faces at the Forum, pointing out that turnover is always high within the CSN partnership. She also pointed out that representation is lacking from several major agencies.</p> <p>There are several agencies that have expressed doubt about using the Multi-Service Referral form. The goal of VF is to get these agencies to honor the referral form when it is submitted to them. Terry suggested that we put together a train the trainer workshop so trainers from the various agencies can go back to their staff and educate them on the use of the Multi-Service Referral form. The list of names/agencies suggested for the training includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Enyart • Brad Sunseri (Mental Health) • Linda McGregor (211 Hotline) • Matt Greene (ILP Cuesta) • Belinda Benassi (DSS) • Evelyn Ruscki (DSS) • Debra and Melinda from EOC Head Start • Scott Livingston (French Hospital Case Manager Director) • Sierra Vista and Twin Cities Hospitals Case Manager Directors • John Nibbio (Family Care Network) • Salvation Army • Catholic Charities • ECHO (North County) • ALPHA • Women's Shelter North County (Cindy Smith) • Women's Shelter SLO (Beth Raub) <p>Lisa will attend the CSN meeting tomorrow and get some additional names.</p> <p>Tracy suggested a meeting/discussion on the barriers to the Multi-Service Referral form before the training would be beneficial. It would be good to be aware of these barriers before developing the training. The group agreed to develop a short survey to send out to those that attended the SLOCAP Forum.</p> <p>At the next meeting we will complete the list of names for the training and set the date – most likely for late January or early February.</p>
<p>SDQ Pilot</p>	<p>Terri reported that Dana Frances and Melissa Musgrave at the San Luis Coastal school district like the idea of using the screening tool, but it has a lot of barriers. One of the most difficult challenges is the fact that if the school identifies a student as “at risk” they are then obligated to provide services. School boundaries and legalities must be taken into account, and the follow-up portion is really tricky. There is a very big gap in services in our county for elementary through high school ages, and there is the budget issue as well.</p> <p>Terri believes it may take some time to convince the schools to pilot the SDQ, and that it will be important to get some other board members/administrators on board with the idea.</p>

<p>CSN Interface and Priorities</p>	<p>The group discussed the need for CSN to be the hub where county agencies and community partners share information in hopes of avoiding the duplication of efforts. Unfortunately the CSN website is buried within the SLO County Website and it is very hard to find. The VF Committee agreed to make a recommendation that CSN create a website that is visible and accessible.</p> <p>The CSN Methamphetamine and Children Workgroup is trying to develop a strategic plan to identify gaps and barriers. Where do we need to improve services? How does the Vulnerable Families Committee interface with this workgroup?</p> <p>Star reported that although Dependency Drug Court has been very successful is it limited to 30 families. If the substance abuse problem is not addressed the family cannot get better. Parenting classes must happen, but will only be successful after treatment.</p> <p>The group wondered: How many CWS families are referred to DDC? Belinda stated that she would talk with Connie Willard about incorporating the need for treatment first into the SDM Refreshers scheduled at DSS in the next few months. She added that this is already a part of the Engagement training at DSS, and Participant Services staff is taught this idea through SDM. Evelyn is going to pilot an "I Am Concerned" training during the Induction Training of the new DSS Social Workers. Jaci will look for the books and video and get them to Evelyn.</p> <p>Lisa reported that she attended a meeting with Kim Barret and Jim Salio at Probation on the Anti-Gang Initiative (prevention portion). It mirrors the objectives that Vulnerable Families has been trying to achieve, but they have a lot of money and political support. She brought up the concern that we are duplicating efforts.</p> <p>The group discussed the possibility of becoming more effective as a part of a larger initiative like the Anti-Gang Initiative or the MHSA. Star suggested the committee members read these strategic plans this month and we can have a more focused discussion in January to see where VF can fit in as a workgroup/committee. How do we work with all these larger initiatives?</p> <p>The group agrees that CSN needs to know about all of these groups and initiatives out there and become the umbrella or forum where communication and information goes back and forth. It was originally intended to be just that; however it has not turned out that way. How can Vulnerable Families help CSN become the hub that knows what is out there?</p>
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>The next meeting will be on January 6th from 9:00 am to 10:30 am at DSS on Higuera, Room 357.</p> <p>Agenda items will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on the Multi-Service Referral form and protocols <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Website ○ Survey Monkey ○ Make-up Training • CSN discussion follow-up • Homework – Pick a big plan and read it! How does VF see itself in this mix? • SDQ Update • Teen Issues and Job Training Programs