

CVFAPA Meeting Minutes October 11, 2011

Members in attendance: Tara Tilton, Danny Tilton, Mike Sanborn, Carol Fellers, Gregor Fellers, Jason Farrell
Emily Marrazzo

Families shared a potluck dinner from 5-530pm, then children were dismissed to childcare. Greetings and introductions along with another postcard raffle. Mike sanborn won a \$25 gift certificate to the co-op in Lebanon.

Emily Marrazzo is the community educator from turning points network began her presentation at 530. She began with an overview on her organization; it's an organization that provides support for domestic violence victims. She shared their programs such as the 800 support line, crisis intervention support, stalking, child custody, peer counseling, and teen programs, they have a shelter which currently has 16ppl, provide shelter for their pets, and education programs in schools for such things as bullying, and sexual harassment. Carla landry is their child advocate that was scheduled to join Emily this evening but was actually dealing with a crisis and was unable to make it. A question of funding was asked, and where turning points gets theirs from, the answer was not surprising, its challenging at this point considering the cost is \$500,000 a year, they do get state, federal and private donations, as well as they have their own fundraisers every year, this year the 5k walk will be may 5th, their biggest fundraiser. They also need volunteers to help staff the crisis line, as well as additional safe homes are needed for temporary emergency housing for victims in need. Emily had many handouts that provided us with valuable information to help the kids we serve. Emily asked first what were the things we wanted to know about domestic violence. The answers were, who do we call and for what???? How do we help with prevention? And what are the signs that the children n our home who have experienced domestic violence, because even though that may not be the reason they are with us, it would be important for us to know if that had happened. And what may some 'codes' kids who are protective of their situation that we may be able to decipher. The definition of domestic violence is; a pattern of coercive behavior that is used by one person to gain power and control over another; it may include physical violence, sexual assault, emotional, psychological, and verbal abuse, stalking and emotional control. Emily provided us with facts about domestic violence in NH, such as 166,131 that's 33.4% women in NH have experienced physical assault by an intimate partner, and for the majority of victims, the perpetrator is someone they knew. Emily talked about a power and control cycle/patterns. She asked us to give her the reasons we think why the women stay with the perpetrator, answers were, financial reasons, love, no place to go, security, safety, protecting children. We learned the most dangerous situations occur when the women actually do leave. And this is why turning points are strongly advocating the empowerment model to the families who seek help. Emily then spoke of the impact of domestic violence in children and broke it down into emotional and physical. We were asked what we thought were physical behaviors, answers were trouble sleeping, bed wetting, "checking out" extreme changes, hyper arousal, tantrums, aggression and violence. And the emotional impacts were 'freaking out' gesturing, crying, lack of affect, failure to thrive, acting out, lying, depression, sadness, self blame, guilt, distrust, lack of empathy. Emily then talked about what we can do to help. We shouldn't just foster the children, we need to foster resiliency. Support building and strengthening relationships, create a safe environment, set norms, structure, support feelings, encourage empathy, which is critical to teach to children of domestic violence. Reteach norms, provide role models. She also gave a helpful hint that she uses all the time which is the "10 second restatement" give child 10 seconds to 'restate what was inappropriate" provide them with opportunity to be in therapy, and involved with places like turning points.

At 715 we then began cvfapa business with a treasury report. As of 10/10 the balance is \$2,068.32 since September \$0 was spent on supports, \$40 was spent on childcare, \$12.95 was spent on R&R, \$31.98 was spent on fundraising, totaling \$84.93 deposits were total \$.19 for august interest.

Right now we have a healthy snack fund raiser that Cindy is doing at the office, items are such things as goldfish, peanuts, sun chips they sell for \$1 if you're interested in selling a box, contact Cindy at dcyf, we also are still doing the ink cartridge and cell phone recycling and we usually get around \$100 when we send in a box, so its worth it to keep doing this.

Tara and Mike met with Heath Hooper, president of nhfapa, along with jenn guillemette in attempts to achieve support on some kind of mediation and repairing of relationships and some issues between the Claremont dcyf and the families of cvfapa. It was suggested in the meantime while things are being worked on dcyf will not be joining our support meetings.

November is national adoption month, we are wondering how to celebrate this year, we have not heard of many adoptions that have actually happened, so we may just speak about it. Tara has asked for a copy of the waiting children video that has recently been made, which displays the families that have adopted recently and of course children who are waiting,,, it's a tear jerker if you haven't seen it, be prepared, but we will plan to show this next month.

Registration is open for the nhfapa conference in concord at the grapone ctr on 11/5 there is information on our website and a link to register.

Next nhfapa general meeting is 11/7 at Wesley united Methodist church in concord at 630pm

This year's state national adoption month event will be 11/15 3pm at the NH state house in concord, gov john lynch will be speaking as well as Nicholas toumpas, and Maggie bishop of course. Please contact Mary Breen to rsvp for this event.

Discussion of this year's holiday party was mentioned. It's usually a well attended event. Tara mentioned not wanting to actually cook this year. Jason mentioned the possibility of having it at time out sports bar in Claremont.

Elections were had, Tara announced her need to not be president as elected, and a re-nomination was hard for mike sanborn as chair, and Tara tilton as co-chair, and it was elected as so. Cindy has agreed to maintain treasurer position, and no secretary at this time s elected. Jason Farrell and carol fellers were elected as board members at large. Proposed bylaw changes were voted yes

Meeting adjourned 745pm