

**COMMUNITY INTERVENTION PARTNERSHIP  
NORTH FRANKLIN ED CENTER, MALONE, NY  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2016**

**PRESENT:**

Co-Chair Stephen Shafer, District Superintendent, FEH BOCES  
Co-Chair Michele Mulverhill, Commissioner, Franklin County DSS  
Donna Andre', Superintendent, Brushton-Moira Central School  
Michelle Armani, Adirondack Mentoring Program  
Julie Austin-Kormanyos, Principal, FEH BOCES  
Alida Bunk, Berkshire Farm  
Craig Carriero, Franklin County Acting District Attorney, District Attorney Office  
Chris Dewey, Program Coordinator  
Cheryl Felt, Deput Superintendent, FEH BOCES  
Loretta Fowler, Supt. of Schools Chateaugay CSD  
Jerry Griffin, Supt. of Schools, Malone CSD  
Lisa Griffin, Case Supervisor, Franklin County DSS  
Nicole LaClair, Interin, Franklin County Public Health  
Suzanne Lavigne, Dir. of Community Svcs, Franklin County Community Services  
Beth Lawyer, Director, North Star Behavioral Health Services  
Denise Luka, Principal, F-E-H BOCES  
Angie Martin,  
Tracy Merrick,  
Kevin Mulverhill, Franklin County Sheriff, Franklin County Sheriff Dept.  
Sylvie Nelson, Executive Director, Workforce Investment Board  
Brandon Pelkey, Principal, Malone CSD  
Jeremiah Pond, Casework Supervisor Grade A, Franklin county DSS  
Cori Potter, Program Coordinator  
Bryant Robinson, CDOS Coordinator  
Erica Soper, Associate Director, JCEO  
Kathleen Spinner, Domestic Violence  
Cherie Stone, Probation Supervisor, Franklin County Probation Department  
Kathleen Strack, Director, Franklin County Public Health  
Alan Tessier, Supt., St. Regis Falls CSD  
Brittany Trybendis, North County Thrive

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Co-Chair Michele Mulverhill, Commissioner, Franklin County DSS, called the meeting to order at 9:35 A.M.

**WELCOME AND  
INTRODUCTION:**

Michelle welcomed the members. Those present introduced themselves to the group.

**APPROVAL OF  
APRIL 29, 2015  
MEETING  
MINUTES:**

Ms. Mulverhill asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the minutes of the October 29, 2015 meeting. Kevin Mulverhill moved, seconded by Beth Lawyer to accept the minutes as presented. All approved, minutes accepted.

**FOSTER CARE  
MAPS DISTRICT  
OF ORIGIN/  
DISTRICT OF  
PLACEMENT:**

Jeremiah Pond reviewed the status of Foster Care Placement in Franklin County at the present time. He pointed out to members the majority of placement is in the Malone area, mostly in Malone and Brushton. Placements outside of Franklin County tend to be placements with relatives or placements for therapeutic reasons. Justin stressed the need for more foster care homes at both ends of the county. He showed the breakdown of district placement and reviewed the large increase in numbers in the last year due primarily to drug abuse.

**NORTHERN  
BORDERS  
ACADEMY  
UPDATE:**

Julie Austin-Kormanyos reviewed the history of the Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) model, which will include health services, human services and chemical dependency counseling. She outlined how the program will work for our school districts. Franklin Academy will be hosting the first classes in the Fall of 2016. Julie reviewed the opportunities and access this program will provide to the participating students. She spoke regarding the local business commitment and mentioned all those involved. Ms. Kormanyos explained the creation of a steering committee which meets monthly to mold the program and make it successful. Julie is excited to announce 49 applications have been received for the 30 positions available.

**CDOS GRANT  
UPDATE:**

Bryant Robinson provided a quick synopsis of the CDOS credential, which is a graduation option used as a supplement to receiving a diploma. Bryant is currently working with the school districts to do a needs assessment study. He will be setting up a steering committee to accomplish the goal of facilitating this grant. Bryant explained how job coaches will be used to assist students working with local businesses. Mr. Shafer provided an explanation of the 3-year grant and reviewed the requirements for graduation.

**COMMUNITY  
SCHOOLS  
FUNDING:**

Stephen Shafer said he had hoped to have information available for this meeting, however, due to budget deliberations, the New York State Education Department has not created any regulations or guidance yet concerning the Community School Funding. Mr. Shafer expects more information to be forthcoming shortly.

**NYS YOUTH  
MENTORING  
PROGRAM:**

Michelle Armani spoke regarding the Adirondack Mentoring Program. The program focuses on mentoring students in the elementary schools. Mentors must commit to work with students one hour per week for one year. Michelle reported the program includes free background checks, training for mentors and a web-based system of tracking time spent mentoring. Cornell Cooperative can provide the mentor training. Each district would need a site coordinator for this mentoring program. Michelle asked the districts to consider creating a mentoring program in their districts.

**JCEO OF  
CLINTON AND  
FRANKLIN  
COUNTIES:**

Erica Soper outlined the services of the JCEO of Clinton and Franklin counties, such as food assistance, heating, back to school supplies, medical transportation and summer camp opportunities. She spoke regarding the food production program and announced the sale of office depot furniture if anyone was interested. Erica reported the application for an Early Head Start grant whereby up to 900 children could be served. Anyone interested in more information can call 483-7002.

**THRIVE:**

Brittany Trybendis reviewed the history and initiative of Thrive, a national

movement to improve education for every child, from cradle to career. She noted that the North County Thrive has different issues to face. Transportation and distance is a huge factor of this area. Brittany reviewed the elements of this initiative, common agenda, shared measurements, mutually reinforcing activities, continued communication and backbone support. She shared the goals and vision of the program and advised how to get involved.

**PINS DIVERSION:**

Lisa Griffin reviewed the PINs Diversion Legislation, which was enacted in 2005. This came about due to PINs applications clogging up the court system. She explained the Franklin County Probation Department had been the initial contact agency, however, recently that has changed and now the Department of Social Services will be the initial contact agency. This change will enable the Department of Social Services to open a preventative service case with the family when deemed necessary. A preventative service case places services with the child and the family. These PINs cases run for a 90-day block and then are evaluated for further needs. Probation and DSS will be pleased work with the school districts on these issues.

**SAFE HARBOR INITIATIVE:**

Jeremiah Pond explained the Safe Harbor Initiative. He explained the misperception of human trafficking issues, outlining how this problem does exist in Franklin County. To address these issues, Franklin County is using a multi-disciplinary model to investigate jointly between services. Jeremiah explained how the interview process could cause a victim to feel ashamed and could possibly taint the evidence. He urged partners to hot line all suspicions of neglect or abuse. Trainings are available and more information can be obtained by calling 481-1705.

**SYSTEMS OF CARE TRAUMA SURVEY/SUICIDE PREVENTION TASK FORCE:**

Suzanne Lavigne discussed a survey recently sent out across systems in Franklin County to all community partners in hopes of gaining a better understanding of trauma and to establish a baseline of data.

Suzanne also spoke regarding the Suicide Prevention Task Force. She announced upcoming activities including candle light vigils on May 4<sup>th</sup> in Malone, May 11<sup>th</sup> in Tupper Lake and May 18<sup>th</sup> in Chateaugay to honor lives of those lost to suicide. She advised of a conference on May 24<sup>th</sup> at the Malone Golf Course.

**OPEN FORUM/SHARING INFORMATION FOR UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES:**

Katherine Strack shared the Public Health Department would soon receive a survey from the Center for Public Health in Albany. This survey will be another community health needs assessment. She advised anyone taking part in the survey will provide information for a snap shot of the community wellbeing and could possibly be eligible for a gift card.

Kathleen Spinner announced community events to spread awareness of National Stop Domestic Violence week including Zumba-a-thons held recently. She reminded the members that her agency can help provide compensation to victims for losses caused by crimes.

Brittany Trybendis offered to post any of these community events on the Thrive website.

**OPEN FORUM/SHARING**

Michelle announced that the Department of Social Services has moved the Children's Services Division to the old Franklin County Nursing Home facility.

**INFORAMTION  
FOR UPCOMING  
PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPENT  
ACTIVITIES  
(cont.):**

The financial departments will be moving in June as well.

Jerry Griffin shared news of three upcoming events:

September 1, 2016, a Back to School Kick Off evening – Mastering the Art of Bettering Your Best

October 27, 2016, an evening Power of Positive Thinking in the Home

March 23, 2017, Preparing your Child for Success

**DATE AND  
LOCATION FOR  
NEXT MEETING:**

The date and location for the next meeting is October 28, 2016 at the North Franklin Educational Center in Malone. Agenda items can be sent to Michelle Mulverhill or Stephen Shafer.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

---

Franklin-Essex-Hamilton BOCES