Vermillion-Parke Coalition March 2, 2023

**Attendees:**

Don Gettinger, Larry Addison, Aliya Amin, Lori Bouslog, Janna Bromm, Beth Earehart, Beth Evans, Karen Hinshaw, Heather Kirchner, Rish O’Brien, Cassemdreia OEllis, Elaine Pastore, Julie Pettit, Lori Powers, Lori Swinford, Mary Margaret Rhees, Heather Woods, Gail Wright, Lynn Egan, Amber Smith, Shelly Amerman, Sheri Trendleman, Michelle Edwards, Matt Smith, Becky Myers, Leslie Gackle.

The meeting came to order at 10:00 am by Lori Bouslog. The meeting was recorded.

Mission of the Vermillion/Parke County Coalition is for education, empathy, and collaboration.

Minutes of January meeting – were reviewed with the corrections of adding Shelly Amerman and Jerrod to the attendance list.

**Guest Speakers:**

**Sheri Trendleman – VPCHC**

Sheri is a therapist and has worked at the Hamilton Center based out of the Clinton office. After Covid their organization noted a higher rate of suicide. Therefore, Valley made traveling to the schools a priority and conducted assessments.

They have clients that range in ages from four to 70 years old.

Their organization is also associated with the Team of Mercy program. This team coordinates counseling / funeral arrangements.

The Valley organization has an umbrella of programs that helps to provide care and link services to their clients need. The variety of services include medical, behavioral, chiropractic, dental, etc. The positive about this type of set up is that when people come into the organization, the other people do not know what they are there for.

Some barriers for their organization working in the rural community included money for gas and transportation.

**Heather Woods**

In 2015, she was going to the schools as a therapist. She now has her own space within the schools. When parents give their consent, their organization can provide medial needs from the school nurse, counselor, target mental health programs, and provide summer camp groups.

The barrier for their organization is transportation.

There is a therapist in their organization. Additional programs that they offer are yoga, stress management, physical exercise activities and basic coping skills.

**Michelle Edwards**

She had previously worked in Illinois. She is currently working in early recovery programs that start with medial issues. Their organization checks out underlying health issues before they are able to provide a treatment program. Programs can take 12-18 months to complete, and within those programs they focus on life skills and management, healthy living and eating, for whole health wellness. Addiction programs are provided for adults and students. They also offer family sessions as they progress within the programs.

The barrier for their organization is also transportation.

**Behavioral Health / Family First**

Services provided are ACE and Perils, these programs help for mental health, and model when the clients need help with issues of trauma. Tela-Health is used to provide services. During the pandemic their organization found no internet and transportation to be barriers.

They are starting to work with sexual assault victims to get the help needed and provide resources. Behavioral Health/Family First are partnering with Union Hospital who has trained nurses to provide programs for these clients.

**Dr. Warren**

Dr. Warren is working with first responders, police, and firefighters. EAP sponsors $25.00 co-pay. The schools base this need on a crisis or critical care that would be needed for tragic conditions.

They also use the Love on a leash program. (Which is animals/companion animals that are brought in to help ease the situation or tragedy of the conditions.)

**Food Insecurity Programs:**

Lynn stated her appreciation for the Coalition group regarding the knowledge of a food panty being closed. Currently, at this point in time the Hillcrest Food Pantry is not operating and is currently closed. Donors for this location is being rerouted to other areas.

Lynn is asking for help to get healthy snacks for the kids this summer.

**Connecting Health Care: - No Updates currently**

**Resource Manual**

They have monthly updates (focused on military needs) Lori Bouslog will share the emails she receives to the group.

**211 – Universal Resource:**

Therefore, no matter where someone would be in Indiana, they would be able to get assistance. Lori Bouslog will send out information regarding how to contact this group.

**Poverty Working Group**: (Mary Margaret – spoke person)

The Poverty Simulation program needs 60 participants to conduct the program. This program needs a ½ a day to take place. This program is set up to work through an experience that would reflect the challenges that people in poverty have to actually go through who live in. Lori Bouslog referred to the program as being similar to a reality store.

Mary has tried to contact the schools to be able to do with the teachers on an in-service day, or even expand the idea to provide for away for the students to participate.

Mary is asking for others for ideas and inputs for other participants to be able to conduct/promote the program.

One comment was made to have ISU help promote the program for social work and see if ISU could partner with CEU’s.

The CED’s may be another possible partnering outreach.

**Previous Meeting: Long Term Goals**:

Connect organizations & Resources together

Partnerships

(Catholic Charities – would like to work with other to give away diapers / wipes and partner for prenatal needs. They will have a program called Cover with Love, March 13, 2023 to handout diapers / wipes)

(Another organization was given left over flowers from a wedding and was able to handout to clients.) This organization noted that severe COD, and access, and no transportation were barriers for them. During Covid they indicated that an iPad and a Hot spot were utilized to homebound clients.

***United Way – Community Health***

The United Way is looking for what they can fund, and where they can be proactive that could use a small-scale grant. Larry indicated that everything could be funded except blood pressure cups. However, there is a very short time frame that they are working with to be able to provide funding.

***Coalition*** – May Meeting: Guest Speakers will be the United Way and Interia.

*March*: Disability Awareness / National Nutrition Month

*September*: Suicide Prevention Month / National Movement Month

* Team of Mercy, will speak on behalf of their family loss of their daughter.

*November*: Food Bank – Catholic Charity

***Volunteer Opportunity:***

April 15th – Victory Race Volunteers

For More Info and Registration Visit <https://victoryhalf.itsyourrace.com> or ask Lori Bouslog.

**NEXT MEETING DATE: May 4th at 10:00 AM, In-Person and Zoom**

Submitted by Beth Evans.