

MINUTES

Woodridge Community Wellness Council

January 20, 2010

ATTENDEES

Joy Aronson, Lifelink Head Start
Kristin Bormann, Community Consolidated School District 99
Julie Burke, WCWC Chair
Maria Castellanos, Woodridge Community Resource Center
Suzanne Hammer, Lifesource
Lisa Horn, Family Shelter Service
Pat Nugent, Metropolitan Family Services
Julie Rhodes, Woodridge Park District & Woodridge Jaycees
Beth Van Opdorp, Woodridge Public Library
Kathleen Rush, Village of Woodridge
Eliane Stefango, Metropolitan Family Services
Teri Vasile, Woodridge Community Resource Center

INTRODUCTIONS

Julie Burke, Woodridge Community Wellness Council (WCWC) Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed the council members and special guests to the meeting. Maria Castellanos volunteered to take the notes for the meeting. Members introduced themselves and stated their affiliation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes of October 14, 2009 meeting. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Julie Burke opened meeting with the following updates.

- Lee Pistilli, Council representative from St. Scholastica School, had knee surgery recently and would not be present at today's meeting.
- Christine Gaylord died after a long illness. Ms. Gaylord was a founding member of Wellness Council and president for its first 20 years until her retirement in 2006. Ms. Burke said that while Ms. Gaylord died last summer, she did not learn of it until after the October 2009 Wellness Council meeting. She went on to say that Ms. Gaylord was a champion of children who always provided encouragement to those serving children and that she made a difference in the lives of Woodridge children.
- Dave Krupka, a retired Sergeant of the Woodridge Police Department, died last week after a long illness. He was a former DARE officer and advocate for children. He was a member of the Woodridge Council until he became too ill to continue last year.

Lifelink Head Start - Joy Aronson

- Head Start is a program for children from birth to age 5. Over 500 families have been serviced. The office is consolidating and moving to Mohawk at KinderCare.
- Lifelink will add a program called Early Head Start for infants and toddlers. The program will open in April.
- Lifelink Health and Human Service serves children and older adults.
- Lifeline is affiliated with the United Church of Christ.

Metropolitan Family Services - Eliane Stefango

- The 2010 Winter Carnival is Sunday, January 24. Cost for adults is \$25; children under 17 are \$10. This is a great event for all children.
- All proceeds from the Winter Carnival go to the MetroMentors Program. The mentoring program is a somewhat unique entity in that it does not receive any state or federal funding; all monies for the program come from the Winter Carnival and private donations.
- The agency is always looking for mentors to match with children, many of whom have been waiting a long time. Male mentors are especially needed.

Woodridge Police Department - Jeff Bean

- The annual 6th grade lock-in will take place at Jefferson Jr. High this year in efforts to reduce the expense. This new plan will include pizza and a DJ for the students.
- For the second year Officer Daniel McIntyre will participate in the Annual Polar Plunge on February 28 in Palatine at the Twin Lakes Recreation Area. This is an effort to support the more than 22,000 athletes of Special Olympics Illinois. Donations will help provide athletes with intellectual disabilities the chance to participate in year-round sports training and competition. Anyone interested in donating towards this effort may do so at www.firstgiving.com/danielmcintyre.

DuPage Health Department - Michelle Lanzi

- H1N1 shots are available at all clinics.
- Tobacco program monies have been received.

Woodridge Rotary Club and Bridgeview Bank - Gina Cunningham

- Ms. Cunningham is new to the current Wellness Council but was a member back in the 1980's and said she was happy to be back.
- The Woodridge Rotary is assessing the needs in the community for services. The Rotary provides scholarships to graduating seniors, dictionaries for all third graders in Woodridge, funds to help eradicate polio worldwide, support of the Resource Center, and many other community projects. The Club is looking at the possibility of holding additional small fundraisers in addition to its current Mini-Triathlon and Holiday Auction events.
- Bridgeview bank is sponsoring an Oscars event on for the Golden Years Club on February 25. One of the nominated movies will be shown to the group. Snacks and a red carpet will be part of the event. This free event will start 9:00 am at the Woodridge Park District Community Center.

Village of Woodridge - Kathleen Rush

- The national census kicks off in February. It is important to get counted so that the State and the Village receive the maximum amount of federal funding for which they are eligible.

Assistance is available to college students, people who do not speak English and anyone else who has difficulty filling out the census form. Any help anyone can give with the census is greatly appreciated.

- As with all communities, the Village is experiencing problems funding everything it did before the economic downturn. There are a number of events for which the Village provides monies. Since it will not be able to fund all of them this year, it is asking residents to complete a survey on the Village website. The survey lists the events and asks residents to rank them in order of importance. The results will be used to determine funding priorities.

Woodridge Park District - Julie Rhodes

The latest Park District Activity Book was distributed to attendees. There is a big upcoming event called Road Rally with Bolingbrook where there are six adults in car at three sites in both communities. A pizza party at Jefferson Junior High will follow the event. One must be age 18 and older to participate.

Woodridge Jaycees - Julie Rhodes

- The 2010 Easter Bunny lunch will be at Carrabba's on March 27. Please see the Jaycees website for additional information. Everyone is invited to attend.
- There were two recent special fundraisers: the Chili lunch raised \$3000 for a local family and the Jingle Brunch with Santa event raised \$1500 for the Woodridge Community Resource Center. Many CRC volunteers bused tables, served food, and gathered auction items.

Woodridge Public Library - Beth

- Cans of soup were collected in December, 2009 for the Community Pantry.
- Great decisions discussion groups will start February 4.
- Magic show is on Sunday from 2-3 pm.
- The library is continuing computer classes.
- A program about Diabetes is scheduled for Thursday at 7pm.
- Reference USA will be on February 3, 2010 from Noon until 1:30 pm.
- Young adults ages 10-18 will have a Super Smash tournament on February 15, & March 1.
- The Job Club is ongoing on Mondays at 10 am. An additional resource for job searches is Joy Maguire Dooley at Lisle Township who is a nationally acknowledged job expert. She also has a radio show devoted to help finding jobs. She can be reached at 630-968-2087, extension 13, or at joy@lisle-township.com.

Family Shelter Service - Lisa Horn

- Due to funding cuts, the 12-bed Glen Ellyn shelter site had to be closed. It has reopened as intermediate housing for women and children leaving one of the other two shelters may live for up to one year rent-free. Change budget cuts, Glen Ellyn site closed (13 bed facilities).
- Five beds will be added to the Downers Grove facility in February bringing the capacity to 29 at that site.
- The agency's big fundraiser, Magic of Venice, will be held on Friday, April 30 at Esplanade Lakes by Doubletree in Downers Grove. The agency is looking for donations for silent auction, especially things unique like a ride on a fire truck, culinary arts lessons, etc.
- The agency has two Second Chance Resale Shops, one each in Westmont and Naperville. The shops are looking for donations of household items such as dishes, cookware, and

linens as well as clothing, particularly clothes appropriate for job interviews. Shelter clients shop for free at these locations. Money from the shops goes back to the shelters.

Downers Grove South High School - Kristin Bormann

- Prevention and intervention. A new clothing center was started. Staff members and students donated clothing for students in need. Students could pick up what they needed in private. It was very successful. Some students whose homes have been involved in fires have been able to use this resource at DGS.
- Snowflake will be held on March 20 at Lakeview Junior High School in Downers Grove. Herrick Middle School and O'Neill Middle Schools are also involved. Seventh graders and Downers Grove South students will be at the event. There will be a keynote speaker and pizza at end after workshops on building self esteem and dealing with bullying.
- Snowball will be held the last week in February. There is a waiting list of 50 students. Helping Girls Navigate Adolescence is working with Downers Grove South High School on the "Snow" events.

Metropolitan Family Services - Parents as Teachers - Pat Nugent

- A Family Night was held at the Woodridge Library in January. Families enjoyed a tour of the library while the children listened to story time.
- The February & March Family nights will be held at Woodridge Community Resource Center in February and March while the April night will be held at Edgewood School. Ms. Nugent is working on having the May Family Night with the Lisle Woodridge Fire District for families to learn about fire safety.
- Last September Ms. Nugent was invited to address the Woodridge Junior Woman's Club. The members were moved by her telling them that some of the kids in the program did not have pajamas so the club started Jammies for Juniors program to gather them for the children. The moms were very grateful. Ms. Nugent stresses the importance of bedtime rituals, including bathing the children and getting them in their pajamas, as part of the Parents as Teachers program.
- The Junior Woman's Club will have a fundraiser for the Parents as Teachers Program at Arabian Nights Horse Farm on March 13 from 11 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. There will be fun activities for the whole family along with a silent auction, pizza, and mostaccioli. Ms. Nugent will distribute the flyer for the event as soon as it is ready. The fundraiser is especially important given the drastic cutbacks in state funding and further cuts expected to come in the new state fiscal year.

Woodridge Community Resource Center - Teri Vasile

- The After School Program continues with the first hour dedicated to homework with assistance from College of DuPage, Downers Grove North, and Downers Grove South High School volunteers.
- The second hour includes yoga, outings, art classes, Tae Kwon Do, theatre, scrapbooking, and character building class. The Kindergarten and first grade students enjoy a visit from the Woodridge Library on a monthly basis. Their visit includes story time and a craft related to the story and/or a holiday.
- In November, 2009 the CRC students enjoyed the holiday festivities which included a Thanksgiving feast. An old fashioned thanksgiving meal with chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy was prepared for all students and volunteers to enjoy. The Kindergarten and first grade students gave a special presentation as Pilgrims and Indians at their first feast.

- In December, 2009 the CRC Secret Santa Christmas party took place with a professional magician as the entertainment. Popcorn and cotton candy were enjoyed by all of the students. There was a visit from Santa who delivered special Christmas gifts to every child.

Suzanne Hammer – Lifesource

Please donate blood and save three lives by doing so.

Walk-In Ministry of Hope - Julie Burke

A fundraiser for the Walk-In Ministry of Hope (WIMOH) will be held on January 28, 2010 at 7:30 pm, at Downers Grove High School. The event is a concert by Muriel Anderson featuring Tierra Negra. The cost is \$20 for adults and \$15 for students and seniors. WIMOH serves Willowbrook, Westmont, Downers Grove, Lisle, and Woodridge. It provides money for transportation, medication, food and emergency dental services. See www.walkinministryofhope.org or call 630-241-0187 for more information.

COUNCIL LOGO

Ms. Burke presented the Council with three designs to consider for a new logo. One was chosen and will appear on the Wellness Council website.

NEXT MEETING

April 21, 2010 at the Woodridge Community Resource Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 2:05 pm.