

St. Vrain Community Council

Meeting Agenda

October 25, 2011 8:30-10am

Location: Offsite Agency Visit - OUR Center, 303 Atwood, Longmont
SVCC Mission: "Non-profit organizations collaborating and advocating to enrich the St. Vrain Community."

8:30a **Welcome:** Sue McCullough - Facilitator, Sue McCullough- Minutes

Attendance: Margie Aguirre-Moreno (OUR Center), Gerry Bristow (Community Food Share), Pat Zietz (The Inn Between), Pat Carson (A Woman's Work), Diane Groff (Center for People With Disabilities), Debbie Goldman (Intercambio Uniting Communities), Sue McCullough (FHUW's Volunteer Connection), Michele McCracken (H.O.P.E.), Robin Menschenfreund (St. Vrain Family Center), Mariela Ruiz (BV Women's Health Center), Barb Widler (Mental Health Partners), Jessica Cowan (St. Vrain Family Center).

Guests: Stewart Walker (Earth Explorers), Sue Muench (Colorado Alliance for Cruelty Prevention).

Additions: none

8:35 **SVCC Business:**

- 1) Approve September Minutes- Gerry moved, Barb 2nd Unanimously approved
- 2) Treasurer's Report- budget balance \$10,054.92
- 3) November Meeting – Next meeting is 11/22 which falls during the Thanksgiving holiday week. Council agreed to keep the meeting on that date.
- 4) 2012 Calendar: Sue asked for feedback about 2011's calendar and input/changes to be made to 2012 calendar. Meeting format has allowed for 1 social event in March, 2 off-site agency visits, 8 (10-15 minute) agency presentations during regular meetings, and a minimum of 3 panels on topics of council's choosing. Council agreed that this format works well and should be continued in 2012. Diane suggested including opportunities for "ad hoc" presentations from clients. She will email suggestions to Sue. A sign-up sheet for agency presentations/off-site agency visits was distributed. This sign-up sheet will be distributed again at the November meeting and possible the January meeting until it is full.
- 5) 2012 Membership: SVCC annual membership was discussed. The 2012 Membership Application was distributed. The application will also be emailed. Membership with SVCC is \$25.00 annually, per agency not per person. Dues are due by January 31, 2012. Please extend invitation to other agencies that may benefit from SVCC participation.

- 6) Executive Committee: Executive Committee was unable to meet in October. Discussion for how SVCC will spend \$ in budget will occur at the November meeting and ideas will be brought to council at the 11/22 meeting. In addition, executive committee seats will be coming available. Start thinking about taking on a leadership role with SVCC and joining the executive committee. Open positions will be discussed at November's meeting.

8:50

Agency Intros & Info Sharing:

Diane Groff – CPWD now has 4 offices: Boulder, Longmont, Broomfield, Northglenn serving people with disabilities. The week before Thanksgiving is National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. In recognition, join LHOT and others for “Life In and Out of the Alley...A Tapestry of Stories.” November 16 at First United Methodist Church from 5:30 to 8 pm. Liane Phillips and Echo Montgomery Garrett’s book, “Why Don’t They Just Get A Job” will be discussed. Take posters and contact Diane with any questions.

Michele McCracken- H.O.P.E has 250 volunteers that serve in a variety of capacities; soup angels, outreach on the streets and at the new drop-in center where folks can do laundry, take showers or use computers. The regularly provide meals and clothing items to keep homeless people fed and safe from outdoor elements. Bray Patrick-Lake has resigned. Additional details will be forthcoming.

Pat Carson – A Woman’s Work is a timely fund for women in need. They provide support for women in the St. Vrain Valley whose immediate financial needs cannot be met by other sources. They distribute over \$100,000 a year offering grants that women pay forward. An orientation will be held on Thursday, 10/27 at 4 pm at the Longmont office.

Sue Muench – Colorado Alliance for Cruelty Prevention. Sue is a guest and would like to learn how she can help provide services such as legal, medical, veterinary, etc. to prevent cruelty to animals (cruelty, self-neglect and neglect). Her group is relatively new and is working on a state-wide effort and wanted to let us know that “we are here.” They are doing research and involving all professions with regard to emergency sheltering and food banking. Discussions revolved around service animals and certification and how some people are experiencing barriers to housing due to their animals. Sue Muench will email additional info to Sue McCullough to share with SVCC.

Mariela Ruiz – Boulder Valley Women’s Health. Mariela is the new Latino Outreach Coordinator and she’s been with BVWHC for ~ 1 month now. They offer a variety of services and are currently working with Alternatives For Youth in a partnership and also provide Spanish speaking parenting classes.

Debbie Goldman – Intercambio. Intercambio offers low cost ESL classes for immigrants at their offices in Boulder and Longmont. Classes are in the evenings and can also be 1:1 at a client's home. In addition, they offer assistance with regard to financial skills and building cultural awareness.

Robin M. – St. Vrain Family Center. SVFC is in the process of changing their name to Children First of the Rockies to better convey their entire service area. They'll be rolling out the new name in April 2012. Anyone with input on the name change process is welcome to contact Robin. She'd be happy to hear from others that have been through this process. In addition to safe exchanges and supervised visits, SVFC also offers parenting classes. They'll be offering Boot Camp for new dads in Spanish after the 1st of the year. They'll be offering Boot Camp for new moms, as well. They're looking for partners to offer teen parent support groups in Spanish. They have a parenting coaching program in the works. We are all welcome to their Hootenanny & Silent Auction on November 19.

Jessica Cowan is the new Safe Services Coordinator with St. Vrain Family Center and is thrilled to be on board.

Barb Widler – MHP. Mental Health Partners was created in 1962 as a community mental health center to serve Boulder and Broomfield Counties. Today, they see over 18,000 clients and provide them with a spectrum of services for all age groups regardless of the ability to pay. One out of four people are diagnosed with a mental illness. MHP is currently focusing on getting out into the community more.

Pat Zietz – Inn Between offers transitional housing and people can stay for 2 years. They also provide services people need so that they don't wind up back on the street. Additional services include financial management classes and nutrition classes. They currently have 3 bldgs and are working on a 4th so they can increase their capacity to provide for larger families. They have a Chili Cook-Off at McCarthy's Pub on 11/6 at 12:00; \$5 to taste chili, \$20 entry fee if you want to cook chili. They also have a pancake breakfast scheduled for 11/12 @ Applebee's with the Flagstaff Academy students serving from 7:30 to 9:30 am \$7 at door, \$2 goes to Inn Between.

Stewart Walker – Earth Explorers. Stuart is a guest and is working with a 3 year-old nonprofit whose mission is to open doors to science and 21st century skills by educating and mentoring under-represented youth. Their students learn video and new media technology, interviewing and storytelling. They introduce them to working scientists at institutions like NCAR and NOAA. Students interview their scientists, video their lab and field work and return to the video lab to produce 5 to 8 minute videos. The students present their videos at a public gala with the school, the scientists and the community. They are currently at Longmont Middle School and would like to be in 5-10 schools

in 2012.

Gerry Bristow - Community Food Share is Boulder and Broomfield Counties' food bank. They collect donated food from many sources, and store the donated food in their warehouse where it is sorted, packaged, and checked for spoilage. Over 50 local basic needs agencies rely on CFS for free food to pass on to their clients. They also operate programs like the Feeding Families program which provides free food to families with school-children living in poverty.

Sue McCullough – Foothills United Way’s Volunteer Connection. Sue will be sending an email invite to organizations with accounts in their 1-800-volunteer.org database (database used for volunteer recruitment). The invite will ask organizations to complete a Holiday Volunteer Opportunity Application and/or a Holiday Donation Application. VC will compile a Holiday Guide with this info and post it on their website at www.unitedwayfoothills.org. Volunteers are already contacting VC to get involved during the holiday season. Let them know what your needs are during this time.

9:30 – 10:00 OUR Center presentation and tour

Next Meeting is November 22, 2011 – 8:30 to 10:00 am.

Location: Longmont Police Dept. Safety & Justice Center
225 Kimbark Ave. Longmont, CO