

MINUTES

FORT BRAGG CENTER COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 25, 2004

In attendance: Tanner Silva, CRI; Guy Joy, Parents and Friends; Marjorie Zakula, JA; Pamela Patterson, West Company; Debra Moody, JA; Morgaine Colston, Dept of Social Services; Josh Edelman, COR; Mark Molina, EDD; Jean Franco, MPIC; Cindi Hood, MPIC.

Passed around the list of partners from the Mendocino Works website. Address for Mendocino County Native Americans with Disabilities Project needs to be changed to reflect **220** Mason Street. Morgaine suggests list should also include Mendocino County Workforce Investment Board as a partner. Website address is www.mendocinoworks.org

We will plan to have meetings on the third Thursday at the end of each quarter. Expected meeting dates are June 17, 2004, September 16, 2004 and December 16, 2004 beginning at 1:30 pm.

Group discussed One Stop Team Building meeting held in Willits on March 23 and 24, 2004. Suggestions from meeting include:

- collaboration of training activities between agencies. Joint workshops are conducted in Ukiah and Willits offices.
- potlucks/mixers to get to know each other better.
- role that each organization plays in the big picture.

After discussion it was decided that joint case conference will take place once each month for mutual clients of MPIC and JA on Wednesday at 3:30pm, starting the last last week of the month, April 28.

Cindi will put together a list of the partner agencies that share use of the one-stop center and the days and times they are available in the Fort Bragg office.

Discussed Ticket to Work program. Tanner explained a bit about this program and how it works. It is an option for those currently on SSI or SSDI who is considering re-entry into the workforce. She also gave a description of Community Resources for Independence and their services to the community. They are available to support disabled individuals with benefits planning, advocacy and outreach. This includes everything from the application process to appeals and restarting employment. Tanner, Joyce and Tammy are available in Fort Bragg by appointment on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month.

There was also discussion of one application process to cover all the agencies. Jean and Morgaine indicated this process was reviewed at one time and found to be too long and cumbersome (over 12 pages) as each organization requires some different items. We would like to know what other counties do. Suggestion was to check on the Internet and with other One-Stop centers to determine their process.

Discussed possibility of Job Alliance having access to Softscape since they now have Internet access. Jean explained the features we expect from the revised Softscape by summer 2004.

MINUTES (continued)

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Guy mentioned that the Parents and Friends organization has all forms available for completion on-line. Guy would like to assist with getting the information process viewed from the perspective of the customer.

We discussed the limited hours of the Resource Center for those who are currently employed or in training. Consider extending hours several days per week to accommodate those individuals. Discussed need to better inform the community on the services offered by the One-Stop partners. Article in local papers was of some assistance.

Cindi updated the group on the search for a new location in Point Arena. Our best option may have been sold. She will follow up on the possibilities of the library (moving to a new location) and the building at 243/245 Main Street (which may be sold or may still be available for rent). Job Alliance expressed their desire to stay in Point Arena rather than consider Gualala as an alternate location.

Mendocino Resources has a website for community services funded through JCIF grant. This includes government agencies and non-profit organizations. See www.mendocinoresources.com.

Hospitality House offers shower and laundry services to customers in the community even if they are not rooming there.

Upcoming Events:

Pamela informed all that Fort Bragg is holding an Economic Development Conference at Dana Gray Elementary on April 15 & 16, 2004. All are encouraged to attend.

Chamber mixer for April is at the Jughandle Farmhouse.

Jean advised the group of the Legacy training available on-line at www.employability.org/legacy. There are eight on-line modules and a live training in Willits on April 20, 2004. At least one on-line module must be completed prior to attending the live training. Anyone interested in the live training should contact fred@mpic.org to make a reservation.

Willits One-Stop office will be moving in June and adding a number of co-located partners.