

TEEN PREGNANCY TASK FORCE
Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2010

I. Call to order

Marcia Spector called to order the fourth meeting of the Teen Pregnancy Task Force at 2:05 PM on March 24, 2010 in the Suffolk County Legislative Building, North County Complex, Hauppauge, NY 11788.

II. Roll call

The following Task Force Members were present:

Janet P. Cassidy, SC One-Stop Employment Center, Jennifer Freeman, Suffolk County Executive Office, Lorraine Gariboldi, Life Center of LI, Inc., Laura Giardino, Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Molly Licalzi, Eastern Suffolk BOCES, Judith Specht, RN., Stony Brook Hospital, Marcia K. Spector, SNAP, Vivian Vilorio-Fisher, Legislator, 5th District

The following Members were present:

Resource to Task Force - Sandra Gil, Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Clerical Staff - Ann Maurren, Suffolk County Department of Health Services

The following visitors were present:

Gina D'Andrea Weatherup, Planned Parenthood, Laurie Davis, Suffolk County Department of Labor, Kerrilynn Hurley, Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library, Christina Noonan, Planned Parenthood, Kimberly Sodagren, Suffolk County Department of Social Services, Suzanne Witzenburg, Planned Parenthood

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Minutes were reviewed with no changes. J. Specht made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by M. Licalzi, minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. Chairperson's Report:

- a) M. Spector announced that there are only 10 appointed Task Force members. Visitors will be allowed 5 minutes to speak during the New Business portion of the meeting. Sandra Gil was nominated by L. Giardino as Resource to the Task

Force, seconded by L. Gariboldi. All members in favor, none opposed. Ann Maurren will be officially listed as clerical staff.

- b) M. Spector reported that a representative from the Department of Labor will be presenting at the meeting. P. Ilberg, from the Department of Social Services, will report at the next meeting, scheduled for April 7th. A request has been made to the Acting Health Commissioner to provide information related to services the health department provides to teens. L. Giardino is in the process of gathering this information and will report at a future meeting.
- c) J. Cassidy introduced Laurie Davis, youth counselor for the One Stop Employment Center. J. Cassidy reported on services that are available from the Department of Labor and how they can support pregnant and parenting teens. Handouts were distributed including information from the Suffolk County One-Stop Employment Center, Displaced Homemaker Center, along with their calendar, and Out of School Work Experience Program. J. Cassidy suggested that the Task Force tour the Department of Labor facility or possibly schedule our next meeting at that site. She mentioned workshops and computer classes that were available. If any member needs information, please contact J. Cassidy or L. Davis personally.
- d) J. Cassidy provided information regarding Career Quest. Professionals will speak to groups about their career in order to give attendees ideas for employment opportunities. It was suggested that certificate programs may be more appealing and less intimidating than college to people who are beginning their advanced educational opportunities. V. Viloría-Fisher added that colleges have become more diverse in their educational offerings for career choices. S. Gil mentioned that the Riverhead office for the Department of Labor does not have as much valuable information. J. Cassidy responded that it is a much smaller office and therefore has limited services due to space constraints. It was also noted that there is a lack of Spanish speaking counselors. Childcare is not available unless a woman is on public assistance and is attending a four week program. J. Specht suggested that computer donations might be available for use at the centers. V. Viloría-Fisher mentioned that surplus computers from the legislature had been donated to an organization in need and that this suggestion would be taken into consideration if the need arises. She also commented that the community colleges have gotten quite diversified in their subject matter. J. Cassidy commented on the emerging worker grant for low income level students to encourage “green” jobs.
- e) The Displaced Homemaker program was described in detail. Women in the program are taught job skills and receive a great deal of information from other agencies and individuals such as the Child Care Council, attorneys, domestic violence professionals, health department, etc. Often, graduates of the program return to share their success stories. Other opportunities for job skills, literacy and GED preparation such as the Opening Word in Wyandanch, Amityville and Brentwood were discussed. These programs provide multi-lingual services.

- f) L. Davis works with adolescents aged 16-21 who are unemployed high school graduates or school dropouts. They are encouraged to go back to school but, if not, they may find work in the county for 25 hours a week at a rate of \$8.00 per hour. They learn work readiness skills, receive positive references and are also paid for classroom work. Pregnant and parenting teens receive child care and transportation. The summer program has an online application and the phone number is listed on the back page of the flyer that was distributed. L. Davis explained that there are about 60 adolescents employed at the summer camp and V. Viloría-Fisher thought it was a good experience for them to go to various venues. Discussion ensued regarding Wyandanch teens having transportation issues. L. Giardino asked if there were vans available. L. Davis responded that they have a few vans but there is no funding during the school year. S. Gil added that clients who are on public assistance receive money for gas. L. Gariboldi suggested speaking to churches for volunteers to drive. L. Davis explained that work site locations are limited to not-for-profit organizations unless a school district has a contract with other businesses. J. Specht suggested that mentors might be a good idea, M. Spector suggested TASA. (Teenage Services Act)
- g) Discussion was held regarding publicity and transportation for the public hearings. The importance of attendance and representation by teens was also discussed. J. Freeman asked how we might get teens to the public hearings. L. Davis responded that community based organizations could bring teens in vans. C. Noonan will contact teachers through Planned Parenthood to inform their students.
- h) S. Gil suggested that we have a link to all the agencies and the services they provide. V. Viloría-Fisher commented that the Task Force is on the website and all members should have their own link.

V. March 25th Public Hearing in Riverhead

- a) M. Spector inquired about the public hearing process. V. Viloría-Fisher responded that we can always be educated regardless of how many residents attend. V. Viloría-Fisher emphasized that we want to hear from the public. The Task Force sits at the dais. All visitors must speak into the microphone, provide personal information on cards and may only speak for 5 minutes. The Task Force is allowed to have dialogue with the visitors and V. Viloría-Fisher will be the timekeeper. Goals will be read from the resolution by M. Spector.

VI. New Business

- a) Discussion was held regarding promoting public hearing date information to the public. J. Cassidy suggested a colorful flyer. V. Viloría-Fisher suggested promoting ideas specific to the community, i.e. gardens, healing, new restaurant and cultural center.

- b) L. Giardino distributed flyer for Department of Health conference on April 28th, 2010 entitled “Looking Back, Facing Forward.”
- c) S. Gil distributed Spanish flyer for the March of Dimes “Enjoy the Gift of Giving Life”, starting April 19 through May 24th in Hampton Bays.
- d) L. Giardino introduced a website named text4baby.org hosted by the Suffolk Perinatal Coalition.
- e) V. Vilorio-Fisher congratulated S. Gil on recent grant awarded to the Department of Health for the community garden project.
- f) The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for the Department of Labor building.
A. Maurren will email the location of the meeting when the minutes are sent.

VII. Adjournment

M. Spector made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:25 PM, seconded by L. Giardino. Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Ann Maurren