

TEEN PREGNANCY TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

July 21, 2010

I. Call to order

Marcia Spector called to order the eleventh meeting of the Teen Pregnancy Task Force at 2:10 PM on July 21st, 2010 in the Suffolk County Department of Labor in the 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, County Executive Assistant, Lorraine Gariboldi, Life Center of LI, Inc., Laura Giardino, Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Penny Ilberg, Department of Social Services, Judith Specht, RN., Stony Brook Hospital, Marcia K. Spector, SNAP, Lorraine Squires, Mastics Moriches Shirley Community Library, Vivian Vilorio-Fisher, Legislator, 5th District

The following Members were present:

Resource to Task Force - Sandra Gil, Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Robbye Kincaid, SUNY Stony Brook, Clerical Staff - Ann Maurren, Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Seth Squicciarino, Legislative Aide, Ginny Suhr, Legislative Aide

The following visitors were present:

Angela Alvarez, Social Worker, Brentwood Health Center, Gina D'Andrea Weatherup, Planned Parenthood, Luis Valenzuela, Executive Director, Long Island Immigrant Alliance

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

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

IV. Chairperson's Report:

- a) M. Spector introduced Robbye Kincaid and requested the Task Force to consider her appointment as Resource to the Task Force. A motion was made by L. Giardino to accept Robbye Kincaid as a Resource to the Task Force, seconded by J. Specht. Vote was unanimously in favor.

- b) R. Kincaid reported that she is a clinical assistant professor at SUNY Stony Brook. She works specifically with youth, sexuality, STDs and teen pregnancy and is happy to be available as a resource to the Task Force.

V. Discussion on July 28th Retreat – Laura Giardino and Marcia Spector

- a) M. Spector reported that the meeting on July 28th will take place at the EOC Headquarters, located at 31 West Main Street in Patchogue. Meeting time is from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Breakfast will be provided by EOC. Lunch will be ordered and paid for individually. Lunch will be a working lunch.
- b) L. Giardino reported on her recent contact with Cicitelli Associates. They are able to provide their services under Title 10; therefore, there is no fee for their services. She discussed the goal of the Task Force and the need to review important aspects of contributing factors to teen pregnancy to be included in the report to be generated by the Task Force to the Suffolk County Legislature. It is expected that the summit will help Task Force members to synthesize the information that has been presented, identify potential gaps and delineate common topic areas. Topics included immigration, gangs, demographics, culture, access to care and education. L. Giardino provided them with the county link to the public hearing and Task Force minutes.
- c) J. Freeman announced the Standup for the Homeless at St. Joseph's College on August 4th from 9:00AM to 2:00 PM. All are invited to attend and volunteer, if available.
- d) J. Cassidy commented on getting the proper information included in the report. V. Viloría-Fisher responded that the important issue is county outreach to the community, how we address it, shortages in the county and what we recommend. J. Specht commented that we must be concrete if we are to make an impact. M. Spector believes that children need information about how their bodies work, but most importantly, motivation and how we get teens to access the information. V. Viloría-Fisher remarked that we need to interweave the work of other Task Forces and services in order to be successful.
- e) M. Spector reported that we now have a representative from the Copiague school district; Mr. Leunig is on vacation in July and will be able to attend in August. M. Spector will attempt to get a representative for the meeting on July 28th.

VI. Presentation by Angela Alvarez, Social Worker, Brentwood Health Center and Luis Valenzuela, Executive Director, Long Island Immigrant Alliance

- a) Angela Alvarez shared her story regarding illegal immigrants. She explained the social and economic difference for today's immigrants as compared to European immigrants from years ago. Today's immigrants struggle with war torn countries and family violence and children can be left behind for many years. When teens finally get to this country, they are afraid and parents warn them of the dangers of

- being deported. Education is not a priority. She believes that the approach to education must change. Children have difficulty adapting if they speak English or Spanish and survival skills must be improved.
- b) A. Alvarez reported that Spanish soap opera shows have started to improve by attempting to send positive messages regarding diabetes and other health issues. When people receive services, A. Alvarez believes in giving comfort and respect, while receiving respect as acceptance of responsibility in return.
 - c) Luis Valenzuela reported that he works with issues pertaining to integration, comprehensive immigration reform, national debate and third rail issues. He believes that the immigration system is broken and doubly broken for women because of structural issues. They are victimized by laws that should be protecting them. Women come to this country for many reasons and all foreign born people are fearful of ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement).
 - d) L. Valenzuela believes that families are further broken apart because they are separated when they come to the United States and they are the victims of dehumanization. 70% of women come to this country alone and many are raped or assaulted as they travel.
 - e) L. Valenzuela suggests we need comprehensive immigration reform but it will not be happening this year. We must recognize barriers and help to look for strength in these families and build on it. He also mentioned the Dream Act which allows certain illegal immigrants who were brought here by their parents at a young age and who have been educated in American schools to become permanent residents.
 - f) A. Alvarez commented that some of her clients also suffer from severe depression and mental health services are not readily available. She is a proponent of teaching responsibility to her clients. S. Gil agreed and stated that she also uses this concept when working with her clients. Rewards must be earned and this breaks their dependency on others and fosters self esteem and self reliance.
 - g) M. Spector commented on factory owners who give their staff workers time to learn English and feels that these factory owners should be given recognition so others may follow suit. P. Ilberg commented that evening hours and transportation are also an important issue regarding a client's availability to see a doctor during non-work hours.
 - h) V. Vilorio-Fisher mentioned that health centers must have community membership and suggested a recommendation to re-energize the advisory boards.
 - i) L. Valenzuela suggested that we must have more forums to give information to government officials. L. Giardino responded that most people are ignorant of immigration status and laws. L. Valenzuela suggested that we have speakers from his organization come to the workplace to educate people. V. Vilorio-Fisher commented that immigration laws are quite complicated and suggests members

- research LI Wins and Interfaith Immigration Council Forums to further knowledge about these issues.
- j) Regarding teen pregnancy, M. Spector commented that teen pregnancy rates are higher for teens living here (2nd generation teens) rather than immigrants.

VII. Meeting dates for September through December, 2010

- a) Future meeting dates will be tabled until the next meeting which will take place on Thursday, August 5th at 2:00. We are hoping to still have Dafny Irrizary speak at a future meeting.

VIII. New Business

- a) It was decided to order food from J&R Steak House for the July 28th meeting with each member paying for their own lunch.

IX. Adjournment

Penny Ilberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:55 PM, seconded by Lorraine Squires. Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Ann Maurren