



## October 13, 2020 Consortium Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:** Alwalan, Norah; Brandenberger, Mary Fran; Burden, Sharon; Delgado, Humberto; Diehl, Joshua; Faulker-Jones, Jenn; Fulmer, Becky; Gard, Melissa; Geissler, Mark; Gibney, Maggie; Goldsmith, Margaret; Grant, Tom; Himschoot, Mary; Hofferbert, Diane; Horn, Theresa; Huerta, Dalila; Jackson, Elisabeth; Jung, H.R.; Largent, Bradley; Larrier, Yvonne; Long, Joshua; Marek, Courtney; Martin, Jen; Mattiford, Chloe; Okanlami, Bunmi; Overmyer, Pam; Patty, Derrick; Peters, Denise; Pontius, Sandi; Robinson, Emily; Sida, Maribel; Sims, Kimberly; Smith, Meadow; Sobieski, Allie; Staton, Nicole; Strabavy, Dana; Streeter, Kathe; Szymanski, Sharon; Tawadros, Kristin; Temple, Beth; Thomas, Ben; Torres, Amanda; Walker, Jeff; Walker, Kathy; Zakowski, Becky

**Welcome:** Coordinator Becky Zakowski welcomed everyone; attendees were asked to share their name in the chat for attendance

**Member Spotlight: Camp Mariposa** Director Margaret Goldsmith shared information about Camp Mariposa. This is a program under the Aluna Foundation that is operated by Oaklawn. The Michiana site is one of just 15 in the county and is currently in its 9<sup>th</sup> year. It is for children ages 9 – 12 who are impacted by the substance use addiction of an important adult in their lives. It operates as a weekend camp that meets 4-6 times/year. Programming includes both traditional camp activities, therapeutic sessions and education sessions under a group & peer mentoring model. It is provided at no charge to the campers and their families. It is typically held at Camp Raybird in South Bend. About 40% of campers served in our region are in foster care. A typical session includes 20-20 campers at a mentor/ camper ratio of 1:3. The camp weekend begins Friday at 5:00 p.m. & ends at Sunday at 11:30 a.m. A foundational part of the program is teaching about the 7 C's: *'I didn't cause it, I can't control it, I can't cure it. But I can take care of myself by communicating my feelings, making good choices, and celebrating myself.'* Opportunities for older youth include alumni camp, junior counseling, and the opportunity to become mentors at age 18. Currently they are meeting monthly over Zoom and have had some one-day outside camps. Individuals are encouraged to become volunteer mentors (there is an orientation, paperwork requirements and background check process). Individuals can contact Margaret if they would like to volunteer or if they know of potential campers: [Margaret.goldsmith@oaklawn.org](mailto:Margaret.goldsmith@oaklawn.org), phone 574-349-1835; website [www.oaklawn.org/camp-mariposa](http://www.oaklawn.org/camp-mariposa); and Facebook. There is an application for new campers on the website. There are not geographical boundaries; children from any location can apply to participate.

### **Work Group Updates:**

**Outreach:** Allie Sobieski, Outreach Committee Chair, provided an update. This committee meets monthly and a current project is developing a webpage-based opportunity for networking. People who belong to SJC Cares will be invited to complete a form and fill out some brief contact and agency information, interests in SJC Cares, and share a photo. The hope is this will encourage networking while we are not able to meet in person. Outreach also supports the other work groups & committees. Hopeful the networking page will be ready to share by the November meeting.

**Building Resiliency:** Chair Dalila Huerta shared that this new committee met for the first time in the last month. There is wide representation across many organizations. 3 Ideas to implement this fall: gift bags for youth workers. Velshonna Luckey is spearheading this; if organizations have any free swag they'd like to donate, please let Velshonna, Dalila or Becky know. We are also considering creating a survey for youth workers that will look at personal sustainability and financial sustainability of local organizations. The final idea is a big idea of creating form to create intentional acts of kindness – virtually or in person. BR and Outreach may interface about this.

**Diversity & Inclusion:** H.R. Jung, committee chair, announced that people who've expressed interest in being involved have been contacted regarding availability for the group's first meeting, which will take place in October. Anyone who'd like to be included can reach out to H.R. ([hr@thelgbtqcenter.org](mailto:hr@thelgbtqcenter.org)).

**Parent Advisory:** Becky gave an update. This group is being chaired by Tawana Brown and Nicole Staton. Parent involvement is essential in System of Care. Eventually hope to have a regular group of people who meet but will be launching with a 1-time get together on Wednesday, October 21 at 3:00 over Zoom. This group is designed for individuals who are not involved with SJC Cares professionally and who are raising youth anywhere between the ages of 3 – 20 in SJC. Members are encouraged to share this opportunity with people they know who may be interested; all attendees will receive a \$10 Wal-Mart gift card.

All SJC Cares Committees are accepting new members at this time; anyone interested can reach out to a committee chair or to Becky.

**Coordinator Update:** Becky announced that Be Well Indiana has added a crisis support line for Indiana; it can be accessed by dialing 2-1-1. County-specific data was shared with the Indiana SOC coordinators at a recent state wide meeting and through this Becky learned that 9-1-1 calls for domestic violence were up 14.7 % and for suicide were up 39.1% in St. Joe County this spring as compared to 2019. Becky shared meeting will focus on ways to reach youth/ other audiences virtually in addition to Zoom; please let Becky know if you are interested in sharing. Parenting in Motion, a free parenting symposium, will be offered over Zoom on October 27-29. The schedule will be available soon, and many SJC Cares consortium members are presenting.

**Community Resource Spotlight: Bendable** Norah Alwalan, Bendable Engagement Specialist with SJCP, shared information about Bendable. Bendable is a new learning platform with over 1,000 learning resources (similar to classes) that range in length. Website: [www.bendable.com](http://www.bendable.com). About half of the providers are local and half are national. Some include college credit, some include professional certifications, and nearly everything is free with a library card. Norah provided a demonstration of the platform. There are many different collections, with content ranging from personal interest to career/professional. Every professional collection is backed by a local employer. There are some pandemic-specific collections, and some about being part of a democracy. Persons without a library card are given 30-day access and prompted to apply for a library card, and this can be provided contact-free/ remotely. Course completion = receiving a badge that can be added to resume, LinkedIn profile, etc. it's possible for organizations to create collections for their employees to access or teachers to create collections for students (i.e. Riley High School has a collection on building a gaming PC); these are on the community tab. If an organization would like to become a partner/ share a resource, and or recommend a content provider reach out to Norah ([n.alwalan@sjcpl.org](mailto:n.alwalan@sjcpl.org)). Hobbyists as well as professionals encouraged. Recommend all spend at least 5 minutes exploring.

**SJCPL Parent Survey:** SJCPL provided a Powerpoint Summary of the Parent Survey that was conducted August – September and this was shared. Highlights: There were 694 responses from throughout SJC; it was only offered online. Ages of children of those who took the survey ranged from 0-18+; 59.9% had children ages 6-10. 52% had children who attended public school, 25% private, and 12% were homeschooled. 55% were currently e-learning for school, and 19% attending in-person. 32% of primary care givers were working away from the home, 24% working in the home, and 13% were working from home part-time. The top 3 answers chosen as barriers in supporting their child’s education are Time, energy, and stress of day-to-day (62.3%), Lack of experience teaching (30.2%), and Childcare options (19.7%). Top 3 greatest needs were Socialization (Virtual or in-person) (47.4%), Mental Health & Wellness (35.8%), and Creative ideas for crafts or activities for kid (35.6%). The top 3 answers for ‘Where else are you getting support?’ were Family (61.8%), Friends (54.6%), and School (36.8%). If people would like more information about the survey or data please contact Becky. The library is working on creating a response to the data. SJCPL anticipates doing another round of this survey and will appreciate collaboration from SJC Cares members to distribute. Also always looking for partners to respond. Contact Theresa Horn with ideas

**Member Announcements:**

- The YMCA is open for business in a physical facility at O’Brien Center; you are invited to stop by and check them out.
- SJRMC needs to hear your voice for their Community Health Needs Assessment: [www.sjmed.com/CHNA2020](http://www.sjmed.com/CHNA2020)
- The LGBTQ Center is moving to Vested Interest (251 E. Sample St., South Bend) in January 2021. At this point in time they are completely virtual.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 10 at 8:30 a.m.**