



November 10, 2020

**Consortium Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:** Alwalan, Norah; Arambula, Ana; Ariana; Bailey, Sarah; Brandenberger, Mary Fran; Brennan, Abigail; Burden, Sharon; Delgado, Humberto; Fulmer, Becki; Gard, Melissa; Grant, Tom; Green Reeves, Kimberly; Horn, Theresa; Huerta, Dalila; Jackson, Elisabeth; Johnson, Deja; Jung, H.R.; Kalman, Eilleen; Larrier, Yvonne; Laudeman, Kent; Marek, Courtney; Mastuszkiewicz, Brenda; Mattiford, Chloe; McBride, Sharon; Moore, Dezha; Nowak, Chris; Okanlami, Bunmi; Overmyer, Pam; Peters, Denise; Pinter, John; Pochert-Ringle, Christine; Pontius, Sandi; Reyes, Celia; Sida, Maribel; Sims, Kimberly; Smith, Meadow; Sobieski, Allie; Solis, Isaias; Stevens, Rebecca; Szymanski, Sharon; Tomas, Gail; Torres, Amanda; Walker, Jeff; Walker, Kathy; Young, Khardeshia; Z, Mary; Zakowski, Becky; Zornig, Terri;

1. **Welcome: 1:1 Activity-** Attendees were welcomed by Coordinator Becky Zakowski and oriented to 1:1 Connecting Activity. Becky explained the reason SJC Cares does this is that System of Care strives to improve accessing support for families better through the power or relationships, and this activity helps enhance relationships between SOC members. Attendees were randomly paired and spent 6 minutes in breakout rooms to share answers to the following questions: *Who are you? Why are you here? What is something your friends and family would say you are great at?*
2. **Innovative Ways to Connect with Young People during the Pandemic** – H.R. Jung kicked off this discussion about ‘screen fatigue’ – have noticed that young people are challenging to engage via Zoom – when they do tune in they often keep cameras off and keep mics muted. The LGBTQ Center has found some success with meeting over Discord, a texting-based platform. It is compatible with ‘multi-tasking’ and also is a safe way to communicate if/when they do not feel comfortable doing so ‘out loud’ in their surroundings. Private and secure. They have just begun using it. Think ‘AOL chat rooms’ from the past; youth are invited to participate. App is free, can be used via desktop or phone. Was initially created for gamers. Uses channels to create the rooms; also invitations to individuals that are good for 24-hours. Margaret Goldsmith, of Camp Mariposa, began connecting with campers remotely in March – initially mailing packets with activities, coloring pages, etc. that shared and reinforced content and began holding Zoom Camp in March. Every month before Zoom camp, campers receive a big packet in the mail that includes materials they will work with during the camp. Campers also receive a postcard 2 weeks before camp, an email the week before camp, and a text message the before camp & 2 hours before the camp. Issue: difficult to replicate the safe-for-sharing environment experienced at camp while campers are in their homes. Daycamp was held outside at Potawatomi Park in September and the hope is to continue day camps each month while unable to safely hold camp. Texting does help, and campers packets read ‘Open at (time of meeting)’. Attendance at Zoom camps has fallen off as the months have gone on; they are 2-hour sessions. Issue: siblings often were sharing devices. It works much better when each has own device and they are in individual rooms. Margaret has a friend who can wipe and prepare devices for use; if anyone has a device to donate, please let Margaret know: [Margaret.goldsmith@oaklawn.org](mailto:Margaret.goldsmith@oaklawn.org) . Consortium members who come up with additional innovations for connecting with youth or adults remotely during the pandemic are encouraged to share that information with the consortium.
3. **YMCA of Greater Michiana Update:** Denise Peters and Tom Grant of the YMCAGM provided the following updates as the YMCA in South Bend has transitioned to 100% outreach with the announcement of the permanent closing of the facility last spring. Since July have a partnership with the O’Brien Center of South Bend Venues, Parks, and Arts. Within that partnership, the Y is providing senior classes, healthy

living classes, child watch, and classes for children. Additional partnerships include with River Bend Cancer Center and the Livestrong program, and will be expanding Livestrong as safety of the physical environment in the community increases in the future. Also partnering with Camp Mariposa and involved in Partnership for Children. Also working with two schools to provide after-school programs and partnering with SBCSC to support virtual learning & stress management for children, staff and families. Also have the corporate wellness program with 14 local organizations. Stress management is popular and is currently being offered virtually as well as in person. This has assisted 3,400 employees and working on agreements to assist another 3,000. Also helping schools with physical education needs. Corporate wellness programs are individualized. Pandemic has created many outreach opportunities. Best way to get in touch with the YMCA about partnering is to email Denise: [dpeters@ymcagm.org](mailto:dpeters@ymcagm.org)

**4. SJC Cares Committee Updates:**

- a. Outreach Committee: (provided by Allie Sobieski, Chair)** the OR committee has created and launched a networking page for SJC Cares members on [www.sjccare.org](http://www.sjccare.org). Purpose is to link names and faces and enable people to connect outside of meetings. It does require a photo to enable recognition. Members are encouraged to sign up via <https://www.sjccares.org/member-network>
  - b. Building Resiliency: (provide by Dalila Huerta, Chair)** Youth worker appreciation bags are being created for youth working staff and volunteers; Becky will email the form to consortium members; deadline for completion is Sunday, November 15. Velshonna Luckey of United Way is heading this for the committee. This committee is also working on promoting random acts of kindness to encourage community well-being. And also discussing creating a survey for organizations to check in on how they are doing with Covid, etc. to enable us to support these organizations in 2021.
  - c. Diversity & Inclusion: (Provided by H.R. Jung, Chair):** This committee was able to meet for the first time in October and had a great discussion. Starting with language, getting committee members on the same page philosophically and educating ourselves before we educate others. Remember all committees are always accepting new members – let Becky or committee chairs know if you are interested in joining.
  - d. Parent Advisory:** Also met for the first time in October. Two dedicated committee leaders, Nicole Staton and Tawana Brown, but parent involvement is fluid. Will move into meeting monthly. First meeting what came up the most was challenges with e-learning. Next meeting will likely be in January – we are relying upon consortium members to help get the word out and recruit attendees. Small stipend of \$10 gift card/ meeting for all who participate. Will continue to meet via Zoom for the foreseeable future.
- 5. SJC Cares Coordinator Report:** Two major community programs wrapped up in October – sessions 3-5 of The Body Keeps the Score with SJCP and Parenting in Motion, 3 Day parenting symposium. Both of these featured many of our SJC Cares members – available for viewing on our website [www.sjccares.org](http://www.sjccares.org) under our event tab with the program description. Also, SJC Cares and Oaklawn will be providing 3 programs for SBCSC parents via Brown Learning Center, first one this evening on community resources – depression next week, then stress and anxiety 1<sup>st</sup> week in December; all are encouraged to attend. Also, Parent Cafes sign ups are available online at [www.sjccares.org/event](http://www.sjccares.org/event): there will be two virtual Cafes in collaboration with United Way’s Mobilizing Family Supports group this month- the first is November 11 at 7:00 p.m. and the second November 13 at 1:00 p.m.
- 6. SOC Values Spotlight: Strengths-Based: Highlighting what is ‘strong’ rather than ‘what is wrong’:** Becky shared comparison chart of strengths-based vs. traditional model. While many of our consortium members naturally think along strengths-based lines, many of the youth-serving systems and programs in our community and elsewhere do not. In some respects this is a habit of thinking that can be adapted. Attendees went into breakout room groups to answer the following questions:

## SJC Cares November 2020 Consortium Meeting

- a. What are some things you see that are currently working in our systems, communities, organizations, families?
- b. What are some ways we might build upon these strengths?

### Summary

Strengths & opportunities to build: we are all being vulnerable together (people can see we are all human), sometimes people are more willing to share virtually than in person. Everyone has had to try new things and be flexible. Community's food response has stepped up and is evolving, flexibility in workplaces, many new partnerships have formed/ are forming. Adapting, better communication, more kindness and being neighborly, doing more things outdoor, recognizing first responders and healthcare workers, recognizing teachers and community health workers, prevalent generosity. Discoveries of new apps such as 'doximity' that allows case workers to call and check in on fragile patients while keeping the caller's phone number private yet shows a call from MD office so pts know to take the call. Reaching out to patients has been helpful and patients have been very kind, responsive and appreciative. Noticing the positive -many people have seen and shared many positive things happening during this challenging time. Convenience of Zoom – no travel time or needs. Being solutions-driven and finding ways to collaborate – need to partner to deliver things – openness to working together. Doing true social work – a lot of checking in on people – 'really, how are you doing?' Support and grace, importance of emotional and mental health has been validated. How will we incorporate the new technology into what we do when we move forward? Does this eliminate the lack of transportation issue? Continue to think creatively and collaboratively, partnerships, building on the desire to help one another that has manifest. Hope the partnerships will continue – reach out to others to continue on being solution-driven.

### Announcements Shared

- App resource shared via H.R. Jung to connect with young people during physical distancing: Discord
- Camp Mariposa is ISO used computers; donations will be used to provide campers with individual devices to use during virtual camps. All donated computers are 'wiped' of information on the computer from the previous owner before they will be used by others. Contact [Margaret.goldsmith@oaklawn.org](mailto:Margaret.goldsmith@oaklawn.org) about donations/ with questions
- 'Social Justice & the Tyranny of Tobacco' community conversation presented by Smoke Free St Joe on November 19 from 6 – 7:30 p.m.; <https://rb.gy/8ffv28>
- The LGBTQ Center has a list of groups and a form for youth who may be interested in participating at [www.thelgbtqcenter.org/youth](http://www.thelgbtqcenter.org/youth)
- Wednesday, November 11, from 6-7 p.m. there is a free Zoom class 3 R's to Re-entry Readiness for 11-13 year olds, offered by GC Scored. This interactive program will include Amazon e-gifts. Register at [www.Instituteforsocialemotionaleducation.com](http://www.Instituteforsocialemotionaleducation.com)
- To reach out to Denise Peters for more information about corporate wellness opportunities or other ways to partner with the YMCA of Greater Michiana, email [dpeters@ymcagm.org](mailto:dpeters@ymcagm.org)
- To access SJC Cares' new member networking page, visit [www.sjccares.org/member-network](http://www.sjccares.org/member-network). You will be required to upload a photo or logo when you submit information to be included on the page. Those who attend SJC

Cares as a community member or parent are encouraged to participate in addition to those who attend in a professional role.

- GC Scored is offering a confidential Listening Oasis Wellness Line – anyone who would like someone to talk to is encouraged to call. For more information visit [www.listeningoasiswellness.com](http://www.listeningoasiswellness.com)
- Khardeshia Young is working on launching a crisis line for families and is currently interviewing local people for their input as well as seeking information for similar services to ensure this will be addressing a gap and not duplicating services already available in our community. If you'd like to be interviewed or would like more information, contact Khardeshia at [khardeshiay@gmail.com](mailto:khardeshiay@gmail.com)
- If you are part of an organization who has staff who work directly with youth (other than in school) and would like to sign up for the team to receive youth worker appreciation bags, please complete the form on the other end of this link before 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 19: <https://forms.gle/GYEkbFiH42gFXwX86>. The form will also ask if you have volunteer youth workers; The BR Committee is hoping to recognize volunteers as well, but is monitoring supply/demand.

Next Meeting: December 8, 2020