

progress report

Executive Summary

One Voice for Volusia is pleased to share this 2009 Progress Report. The next few pages will feature work related to the Coalition, the Community Agenda initiative, Continuing Communication Tools and Resources, and Consulting and Professional Services.

One Voice for Volusia remains committed to fulfilling its mission:

Through collaboration One Voice for Volusia mobilizes all sectors of the community by strengthening our organized capacity to meet human needs.

The work over the last six months is due to the vision of our Board of Directors, support from our coalition membership, our community and financial supporters.

Thank you!

One Voice for Volusia

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The Coalition

The coalition meetings continue to attract new faces each month as timely monthly presentations and other coalition business – strategic plan updates and member recognition (agencies with perfect attendance!) – were featured.

Approximately 34 new members joined since January, 2009 and an average of 78 individuals were in attendance at the meetings.

The following topics have been presented in 2009 to date:

- Update on Two Local Mergers (*Stewart Marchman Act Behavioral Healthcare and Volusia/Flagler Family YMCA*);
- Put the FUN back in Fundraising!;
- Early Childhood Development Panel;
- Connecting to the Business Community and Social Services Networking Exercise;
- Law Enforcement Panel; and,
- Sensory Impairments presentations.

We want to hear from you! Meeting critiques serve as a helpful guide in planning upcoming meetings. What did members want this year? Networking, Networking, Networking!

Connecting the Community

Over the last six months, One Voice has also been involved in several community efforts and partnerships in order to better connect issues and provide helpful resources, such as:

One Voice for Volusia served in a facilitator role to the **Infant Mental Health Chapter of Volusia/Flagler** for the purpose of bringing together multi-agency efforts, resulting in enhanced collaboration and effective outcomes. A mapping of the infant mental health system in addition to developing chapter bylaws and a strategic plan were produced.

Striving to be the voice and expert throughout Florida, One Voice for Volusia spearheaded efforts towards establishing a **Community Coalition Alliance**, now involving 7 coalitions in Central Florida. The group met quarterly over the last year.

Community Education and Systems & Data

In its goal to educate the community, the coalition works to develop data-driven and prevention-oriented awareness campaigns through the coordination of educational and marketing techniques/tools for health and human services within Volusia County.

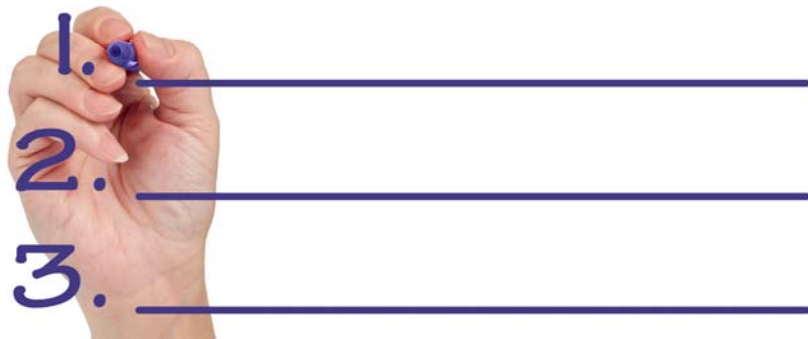
Specific efforts in 2009 have targeted the faith sector and a long-standing goal to reduce youth access to alcohol. One Voice for Volusia continues to work within its membership and beyond to explore ways to better communicate and work with faith-based agencies. Efforts in 2009 have included the development of a survey to assess services provided by the faith community and connect efforts where appropriate and desired between the faith and social services sectors.

One Voice for Volusia has concentrated on efforts since its inception to prevent underage drinking. Centered in Deltona, the **Deltona Prevention Project** aims to build capacity among youth-serving organizations through its plan to effectively reduce substance use and related problems in communities.

Coming up later in 2009....

- The **Annual Membership Survey** will be conducted at the August coalition meeting.
- The **Health and Human Services Summit** will be held on Friday, October 30th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach.
- A new **and improved One Voice for Volusia website will be unveiled!**

2009



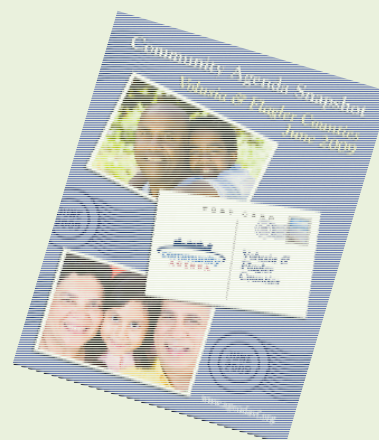
The Community Agenda

One Voice for Volusia continues to build on the Community Agenda initiative by publishing an annual Snapshot report detailing key data indicator trends regarding the health and human services system. The framework focus areas are:

- Creating a Brighter Future for our Children and Youth
- Building Stronger Families and Neighborhoods
- Creating Independence for Elderly and Creating Independence for Adults with Disabilities
- Responding to Community Disaster
- Promoting Wellness and Protecting Our Health

The 2009 Snapshot features 43 unduplicated indicators initially identified and recommended by nearly 200 community members. This report can aid in planning, policy, funding and other decision-making by exploring ways to improve the wide range of social and health conditions in our area.

Also released in the last six months, the companion study of the Community Agenda - **thrive by five: ensuring hope, health and happiness in early childhood** –provides a review of literature and summary of data on the issues affecting the prenatal through age five population and the families and community who support them. Child development is outlined chronologically and each age is described within the multiple categories of development within the study with multiple pages of data tables giving a detailed view of the community by the numbers. The recommendations in the study are designed to serve as a starting point for advocacy for improved conditions and support for pregnant women, infants, toddlers and preschoolers and led to a local collaborative meeting monthly, vigorously acting toward optimal early child outcomes.



Identifying Critical Community Issues

After three years of examining data, the Community Agenda initiative moved toward establishing priorities following a model used with success in other communities. In 2009, the community was “engaged” through a brief but intense indicator review process that brought together over 30 respected community leaders representing a diverse array of health and human service sectors, businesses and retired professionals.

Although each of the Snapshot data indicators represents important issues in our community, a series of sincere and candid discussions resulted in this list of 15 critical community indicators in need of attention, advocacy or action. It is hoped that this list will serve as a catalyst to rally efforts to ensure that these issues are brought to the forefront. Each indicator is a starting point for researching the issue it represents rather than the final word on that subject.

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Connecting the Community

Find us on the Web:
www.onevoiceforvolusia.org



Continuing Communication Strategies

One Voice for Volusia staff is responsible for the day-to-day business ensuring the success of the coalition work and other agency initiatives. Several key resources have been highly regarded over the last several years and efforts are maintained and enhanced to ensure continued success., including:

Web Page Development - One Voice manages two websites
www.onevoiceforvolusia.org and www.agendavf.org.

Monthly updates regarding **Implementation and Evaluation of the Strategic Plan** - 2009 will also mark the end of the three-year goals set for the coalition so efforts will be taken at the end of the year to review the established goals and update accordingly.

Presentation of **timely topics at Monthly Coalition Meetings and Annual Membership Survey.**

The **Community Connector** e-communications system has increased in subscribers by 25 % since January, 2009 totaling 789 subscribers to date. Approximately 255 messages have been distributed since the beginning of the year. This popular communications tools forwards information regarding upcoming community events, fundraisers, job postings and grant funding opportunities. Subscribers may sign up for the type(s) of information.

Consulting & Professional Services

Within its scope of business, One Voice for Volusia pursues opportunities to assist other community initiatives while generating revenues to sustain the work of the agency beyond grant funding. Over the last six months, One Voice for Volusia was under contract to evaluate a grant managed by Stewart-Marchman-Act Behavioral Healthcare; to facilitate the Tobacco Free Partnership/ Volusia County Department of Health; and, to conduct strategic planning for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health & Substance Abuse Reinforcement Grant for the County of Volusia.

In Closing

One Voice for Volusia encourages open dialogue about key community issues by mobilizing all sectors in the community to strengthen their organized capacity. We advocate for efficient use of resources and data-driven outcomes, and promote system and community improvements by fostering diverse partnerships in the health and human services field. We serve as a neutral convener, engaging leaders and individuals to develop and implement strategies to improve the community.