

**Medina County Family First Council
Bylaws Committee Meeting
September 21, 2007**

Members Present: Lynne Castele, Vincent DeGeorge, Judy Leuthaeuser, Pat Robertson, and Chris Ruf

Chairperson: Lynne Castele

Lynne Castele welcomed everyone to the meeting. Lynne had asked the Membership Committee to look at HB289 and to see what they need the Bylaws Committee to do. In reviewing the September 19, 2007 Membership minutes, #5 on page 2, it looks like they only addressed the Family Advisory Committee. Questions raised were "how specific do you need to be in the bylaws?" The bylaws do not address sending letters. Under statutory members the bylaws do not state anything on their attendance. Only mandated member's attendance is addressed. Mandated members get letters sent to their boards if they do not attend.

Vince stated that the bylaws are set up to give guidance, not to give specifics. Refer to HB289 if you have to send a letter to an individual member. The Ohio Revised Code that established the Family First Councils then incorporated other things, i.e. that a Judge cannot serve as a council member, but can give guidance. Commissioners are supposed to send a letter to an individual member's board on attendance issues. And specific language needs to be in the letter to the board of mandated members. HB289 is available on line (Jayme will provide a copy and/or e-mail link to HB289 to the Bylaws committee members). Membership committee has this information. As part of the Strategic Plan, the bylaws need to be reviewed at least every three years.

Vince noted that we need to develop a strategic plan for Council. The plan needs to incorporate one of the child well being statements. Janice Houchins wants to come to our council meeting to discuss HB289 and referencing the changes in revised code and HB289.

Lynne suggested that we look at the bylaws and make all the changes at one time. The Judge should be removed as statutory member, but it needs to be specific. A suggestion by the Membership Committee is that we replace the last paragraph or have the family representative information be included.

Section 7.1.4 - Paragraph 2 – will replace the second sentence and the remainder of the paragraph:

If any vacancy occurs within the Family Advisory committee the Family Advisory committee may recommend to the Family First Council Chair an individual for appointment. This individual will need to apply for membership at the next election which follows their appointment.

Section 4.3.2 – Add at the end of the paragraph:

with the exception of the family advisory committee. See Section 7.1.4.

Lynne addressed attendance requirement questions from the Membership Committee. Verbiage says "council meetings." The question raised is "does this include committee meetings?" The bylaws section 5.8.2 states about council attendance and should reflect "as designated by HB289." We should look at council meetings which includes an individuals committee meeting attendance. Ad-hoc membership should count for attendance.

The next meeting should address:

Statutory members, specifically concerning Judge Lohn.
Program Committee.

Ask committees to look at their section of their bylaws.

7.1.4 – and 7.2.2 look at wording on appointing chairpersons of family advisory.

7.2.3 – last bullet – deleting last bullet – make recommendations to council

The next meeting is November 9, 2007 at 8:30 a.m. at Medina Hospital.

Respectfully submitted by,
Jayme McCourt