



MEDINA COUNTY FAMILY FIRST COUNCIL

MINUTES OF APRIL 28, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT

1.	Anderson, Jeff	Ohio Department of Youth Services
2.	Andregg, Carol	Family Representative
3.	Barlow, Betty	Oaks Family Care Center
4.	Calvert, Sandy	Hands Foundation
5.	Carmon, Gail	Alternative Paths
6.	Castele, Lynne	Family Representative
7.	DePasquale-Hagerty, Dianne	Medina Creative Housing
8.	Dockrill, Diane	Solutions Behavioral Healthcare
9.	Gordon, Jan	OSU Extension
10.	Grace, Debra	Wadsworth Salvation Army
11.	Hardin, Beverly	Society for Handicapped Citizens
12.	Jackson, Sienna	Medina Salvation Army
13.	Jenks, Michael	ADAMH Board
14.	King, Julie	United Way of Medina County
15.	Koran, William	Medina County ESC
16.	Kubena-Yatsko, Debbie	Medina Metro Housing
17.	LaForme, Gregory	Medina County Achievement Center
18.	LaMar, Michelle	Community Services Center
19.	LeSure, Suzanne	Cornerstone Wellness
20.	Leuthaeuser, Judy	Medina County Library
21.	McGuire, Beth	Hospice of Medina County
22.	Nowak, Brian	Medina County Drug Abuse Commission
23.	Putka, Tim	Catholic Charities
24.	Radecky, Debra	Office for Older Adults
25.	Ray, Billy	Family Representative
26.	Robertson, Pat	Family Representative
27.	Schreiber, Kim	Family Representative
28.	Shema, Timothy	Domestic Relations Court
29.	Simon, Betsy	Family Representative
30.	Strebler, Lisa	Medina County Health Department
31.	Tahajod, Sharon	Family Representative
32.	Titterington, Phillip	Juvenile Court
33.	Wilkins, Mead	Medina County Job and Family Services
34.	Williams, Bradford	Solutions Behavioral Healthcare, Chair-Elect

GUESTS PRESENT

1.	Pendlebury, Dee	Ohio Department of Youth Services
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STAFF PRESENT

1.	DeGeorge, Vincent	Family First Council Executive Director
2.	McCourt, Jayme	Family First Council Administrative Assistant
3.	Perrine, Amy	Family First Council ICAT Coordinator
4.	Ruf, Christine	Help Me Grow Project Director

1. WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Brad Williams called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made.

2. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Vincent DeGeorge discussed his report (copy attached to original minutes). Highlights included:

- Help Me Grow and Youth ICAT issues have been very challenging.
- Medina County is eligible for a waiver at the state level to provide changes in transition service delivery for Help Me Grow.

- The Help Me Grow budget was reduced by 40%.
- Vince DeGeorge and Christine Ruf have been working on the 2009-2010 Help Me Grow budget.
- The Wellness Committee submitted a proposal to the Administrative Committee to fund CareTeams and teen pregnancy. This issue will be on agenda for the Administrative Committee meeting on May 19, 2009.
- Thirty people attended the Senior Focus first "Phoenix Rising" meeting on April 21, 2009.
- Mid-CAT is making progress.
- Summit/Medina Workforce Board is developing a summer youth employment program in the county.
- Parent mentors are meeting with parents of Youth ICAT kids.
- Columbiana County has requested help from our Family Advisory Committee. Sharon Tahajod will assist them.
- In the near future, Mrs. Strickland will have forums on the education plan. Invited to the forums will be five people from the schools including the superintendent from the largest district and the other superintendent who is on Council. Other invitees will be Council members from education and community relations. Some of these forums have been held in other counties. Our Council needs to identify five individuals, not including Will Koran or Randy Stepp because they are already invited as part of the schools.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sandy Calvert made a motion to approve the minutes and committee reports. Lynne Castele seconded. The motion passed. Judy Leuthaeuser abstained.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. ADMINISTRATIVE

Mead Wilkins noted that Vincent DeGeorge and the Administrative Committee had an opportunity to review and discuss concerns per Council's motion on April 28, 2009. All Council members were invited to attend the meeting. After much discussion the Committee came to consensus:

- i. Vince heard the Administrative Committee's concerns.
- ii. The Administrative Committee heard Vince's concerns.
- iii. Vince will work with Chris Jakab on concerns expressed by both the Administrative Committee and Vince.
- iv. A major emphasis will occur on dealing with Council programmatic and budget issues as numerous initiatives need to be the focal point of Council operations.

B. FAMILY ADVISORY

Sharon Tahajod reported that the Family Advisory Committee is working on the donation list. The Bylaws will also be addressed at the meeting today.

C. MEMBERSHIP

Judy Leuthaeuser noted that the committee reviewed the membership list. Judy reiterated that each person is to be on a Council committee; one person is not and a committee member will contact them. Charlie Johnston submitted his resignation from Council. The committee spent time on the membership portion of the draft Bylaws.

D. PUBLIC RELATIONS

Phillip Titterington announced we have pens with our new logo. The Public Relations section of the Bylaws is acceptable as written. Items are progressively being uploaded to the web site.

E. PLANNING COMMITTEE

i. SUBCOMMITTEES

Brad Williams asked Council members to schedule the entire day of September 25, 2009 as this will be the Strategic Planning Retreat.

a. WELLNESS

Brad Williams congratulated Diane Dockrill on an award received from Share Cluster for her dedication to community service. Diane Dockrill noted that the Wellness Committee and grantees met on April 3, 2009. Only the committee members will meet on Friday, May 1, 2009. The committee and grantees will meet again on June 5, 2009. We will be

discussing the information from the state from Mrs. Strickland on initiatives, concepts and how do we fit into the process. We will also discuss the continuation of CareTeams with budgetary constraints and the possibility of carryover funds.

(i.) **CARETEAMS**

Debbra Grace reported that the Wadsworth CareTeam is continuing to operate. They are investigating funding for next year. The Salvation Army of Wadsworth and Wadsworth Middle School are committed to continuing the CareTeam. Transportation is one of the main issues. Vince DeGeorge noted that Medina may look at combining A. I. Root and Claggett Middle Schools to one CareTeam. There has not been a sustainability meeting because CFIT is closing it is uncertain how this will affect the CareTeams.

c. **SENIOR FOCUS**

Sandy Calvert distributed a report on the recent happenings of Senior Focus. She announced that April 21, 2009 was a great morning for Senior Focus. Thirty people attended the meeting and want to be included in the long range plans. The attendees broke out into groups and out of the six initiatives, four people volunteered to be chairs. We need a chair for Health and Well-being. The first meeting of the Safety initiative is already scheduled. Sandy will be attending the Western Reserve Area Aging conference on June 3, 2009 with day long breakout sessions. Thank you to Jayme McCourt for taking minutes, completing the lists of individuals and forwarding it to the chairs. The Senior Civic Engagement Council has attended meetings at the state level and with Senator Gibbs. They are looking at tax incentives for businesses, with stimulus funds, to hire older adults over the age of 55. Many individuals who are retired have lost their retirement income. There is a stigma in hiring older adults. Many have hospitalization and benefits in place and will not require them to be provided by the businesses that hire them. The farmers market is being finalized. The food will be available to 450 older adults living in poverty. Western Reserve is providing 200-250 vouchers. A mobile farmers market has been secured for Wadsworth at the Wadsworth Towers for seniors with or without vouchers. We are currently working with Medina to provide a mobile unit at their housing areas. The horse racing industry has had an impact on older adults as slot machines and gambling at the tracks have decreased. Funding has been decreased to Passport as 25% of the funding is due to horse racing declining in the state of Ohio. If you know of anyone wishing to serve on any of the six initiatives for Senior Focus, please contact Sandy Calvert.

e. **YOUTH ADVISORY CONSORTIUM**

Vince DeGeorge reported that Community Action gave a presentation on Head Start and Lisa Strebler gave a presentation on the mobile dental clinic. Chris Ruf distributed and discussed information about Help Me Grow that was shared with the Administrative Committee last week.

Highlights included:

- A 40% reduction in funding is \$280,000 from Help Me Grow.
- The financial impact will be felt at the schools.
- Stressing to the schools that there will be an impact on school age children.
- Every Friday there are conference calls to discuss HMG. The last one was cancelled because the need to process the information.
- The state does not know what do to because there is so much to take in and work on.
- The RFP for Part C money is not out yet, but due May 26, 2009
- We cannot put a budget together and staffing is not known.
- There are a high number of children with a diagnosis.
- Part C may or may not change its funding.
- The caseloads are changing. The ratio will be 1:25 and we still have children to serve.
- 14 full time employees are needed and we have 11 and no money to serve the children.
- The number of home visits will increase.
- The clinical supervision will change to 1:10 not 1:15 as it is now.
- We will need another clinical supervisor.
- We have eliminated newborn home visits.
- A baby being assessed is a good link to other things in our community.
- Chris has contacted all of the agencies to determine the costs of staffing.
- Chris has contacted Scott Miller concerning rent and utilities costs.
- Without newborn home visits we will keep \$55,000 in the budget.

- HMG has to reduce some hours on part-time staff.
- The family advocate position will be eliminated.
- Chris is meeting with contracted agencies on how to best proceed on what we have. This may mean reduced hours, some layoffs and may impact individuals insurance.
- This is going to impact children in the public schools.
- Have to transition each Part C child into public school.
- Chris is open to ideas and suggestions.

Discussion included:

Question: Can HMG absorb the cuts and make changes? Then how much of a deficit?

Answer: If the staff are paid what they are now, there is \$66,000 left for rent, supplies and 10% to Family First Council (taking \$41,000 off the top). This will impact all of us in the community. The HMG transfer has allowed Family First Council continue to operate.

Question: Can any group pick up the newborn visits?

Answer: Lisa Strebler and the Health Department is trying to do this.

Question: What is the logic of a 40% cut?

Answer: The \$280,000 cut is TANF funds.

Vince DeGeorge noted that stimulus funds may go to the newborn visits. There were policy discussions on early childhood before the budget crunch happened. Now there is talk about the current funding levels. It is very clear that any cuts to partner systems is a cut to protective services to families. There has been discussion about taking away from other systems and we made it very clear that we did not support that. There is Part C eligibility and we can't change the criteria. We do not have to implement 1:25 ratio within this fiscal year. The Ohio Revised Code does not stipulate that. All of us are in this dilemma together. There are no guidelines on the stimulus money. Chris Ruf noted that any stimulus money will have to be tracked and reported.

Mike Jenks noted that Help Me Grow and this model is difficult to push back against the administrators that are initiating the cuts. Someone will have to go to bat for HMG and we need powerful political advocacy. We have not had success in the current budget process and we are not getting anywhere with Governor. We need to go to senate and look for advocates.

Chris Ruf suggested contacting legislators. Sandy Calvert noted that decisions are being made at the current administration. Our role is to get to the legislators and lean on them. They are the ones that will be held accountable. They depend on being re-elected. Chris Ruf authored a document on current policy and if anyone wishes to write to their legislator contact Chris. Mead Wilkins noted that Medina County had good legislators.

ii. AD HOC COMMITTEES

a. BYLAWS

Lynne Castele asked Council to review the draft Bylaws that was forwarded last month. If you have any changes or concerns send them to your chairperson. The chairs should send them to Jayme McCourt so she can consolidate the list. Bylaws will meet next month and explain the changes at the next Council meeting. We are hoping for the May meeting to pass the Bylaws. If you did not send any changes by May 1, 2009, then you are happy with the Bylaws. It is your responsibility to give comments. We will also present a draft of new organizational chart that addresses HB 289. Thank you to all the members of the Bylaws Committee as we have spent hours and hours discussing this. Thanks for the English and grammar corrections that were made. Thanks to Jayme McCourt for helping with the Bylaws by projecting them on the wall and colors for the document.

b. MID-CAT

Christine Ruf announced that Mid-CAT will have its one year anniversary in June. There has been tremendous movement and the team has been identified. We are in the process of revising forms by reviewing Youth ICAT and Senior ICAT

forms and working to make them Mid-CAT forms. We should be able to start staffing some Mid's this summer. The group is doing a great job. Our next meeting is May 12, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Medina Library.

A parent advisory group that came out of a project from MR/DD, met in March. There are concerns from the disabled population who go through the systems and it is very confusing. Chris has a disabled adult child and still has problems going through the system. There were over 60 people in attendance at this meeting. That group will be meeting again on Tuesday, May 19, 2009 at the University Center. The topic will be Medicaid and Cheryl Mason from JFS will be there. July's discussion will have personal issues and presentations. Chris will send a copy of the schedule Jayme to forward to Council. Everyone is welcome to come.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Debbie Kubena-Yatsko inquired about the level of reserve funds in the budget. How much money are we willing to spend or keep in reserve? We have not discussed this. Vince DeGeorge asked what we set aside, 6 months or 1 year. Mead Wilkins noted it is contingent on the Help Me Grow budget. This will be on the agenda for the next Administrative Committee meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Brad Williams noted that CFIT is transitioning to Solutions. There will be four intensive home based therapists, three intensive case managers to provide linkages, three family resource specialists, increased psychiatric staff, nurse practitioners for age 16 and up, and part time nurse practitioners working with younger kids. The Medina Schools will be taking over the school based kids from CFIT and may be housed in the classrooms at the schools. We are now Solutions FIRST (Family Intervention Response Team) and we also offer family therapy. We are in the process of hiring and should be fully operational by July 1, 2009

Mike Jenks noted that what has been happening with CFIT and the budget has been happening for a long time. CFIT became operational in 1992 and was a valuable component of care. How do we move this project into a community based project? It is part of larger design. Five contract agencies are now down to three. Home and Professional Services to Alternative Paths, and CFIT to Solutions. The contracts have been realigned to the three major agencies. If you have any questions or concerns please call Mike Jenks or Brad Williams.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Lisa Strebler – The Health Department has been busy. Wash your hands! There are no cases of Swine Flu in Medina County.

B. Lynne Castele – Medina County is part of burn study and burn care through Akron Children's Hospital. The brochure is attached to original minutes.

C. Judy Leuthaeuser – There are free resources for job hunters at the library, classes on resumes and computer use. The bees will be back in May.

D. Phillip Titterington – Judge Lohn is back to work and thanks everyone for the good wishes

8. ADJOURNMENT

Mead Wilkins made a motion to adjourn. Lisa Strebler seconded. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Jayme McCourt