

**Medina County Family First Council  
Meeting Minutes  
August 26, 2008**

**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. Castele, Lynne ..... Family Representative, Chair
6. Dell'Anno, Amy ..... Family Representative
7. DePasquale-Hagerty, Dianne ..... Medina Creative Housing
8. Dockrill, Diane ..... Solutions Behavioral Healthcare
9. Giles, Joyce ..... Medina General Hospital
10. Gordon, Jan ..... OSU Extension
11. Grace, Debbra ..... Wadsworth Salvation Army
12. Hambley, Steven ..... Medina County Commissioner
13. Hardin, Beverly ..... Society for Handicapped Citizens
14. Jackson, Sienna ..... Medina Salvation Army
15. Johnston, Charlie ..... CFIT
16. King, Julie ..... United Way of Medina County
17. Koran, William ..... Medina County ESC
18. LaForme, Gregory ..... Medina County Achievement Center
19. LeSure, Suzanne ..... Cornerstone Wellness
20. Leuthaeuser, Judy ..... Medina County Library
21. Lohn, John ..... Medina County Juvenile Court Judge
22. Manes, Jan ..... Medina County Board of MR/DD
23. McGuire, Beth ..... Hospice of Medina County
24. Nowak, Brian ..... Medina County Drug Abuse Commission
25. Putka, Tim ..... Catholic Charities
26. Radecky, Debra ..... Office for Older Adults
27. Ray, Billy ..... Family Representative
28. Robertson, Pat ..... Family Representative
29. Schreiber, Kim ..... Family Representative
30. Shema, Timothy ..... Domestic Relations Court
31. Simon, Betsy ..... Family Representative
32. Solar, Nick ..... City of Brunswick, Chair-Elect
33. Strebler, Lisa ..... Medina County Health Department
34. Tahajod, Sharon ..... Family Representative
35. Titterington, Phillip ..... Juvenile Court
36. Unkefer, Carla ..... Community Action Wayne/Medina County
37. Wilkins, Mead ..... Medina County Job and Family Services

**GUESTS PRESENT**

1. Dunbar, Cassie ..... Family Representative
2. Kinchy, Janice ..... Alternative Paths
3. KirbyWilkins, Jackie ..... Intellisolve
4. LaMar, Michelle ..... Community Services
5. Likens, Nancy ..... Wadsworth Center for Older Adults
6. Schneider, Cindie ..... HANDS Foundation
7. Williams, Charlotte ..... Parent Advocacy Connection, National Alliance on Mental Illness
8. Rist, Dawn ..... Solutions Behavioral Healthcare

**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**

Lynne Castele called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made.

**2. PRESENTATION – SENIOR NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

Dr. Jackie Kirby Wilkins spoke while showing a PowerPoint presentation on the Senior Needs Assessment. The PowerPoint presentation is available upon request.

**3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT – ICAT AND STATE/OTHER ISSUES**

Report attached to original minutes. Vincent DeGeorge introduced Charlotte Williams who is a Parent Advocacy Connection staff member who works with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). The Parent Advocacy Connection program works in all Ohio counties that invite them in. A parent advocacy member works along with the service providers.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Suzanne LeSure made a motion to approve the minutes and committee reports. Billy Ray seconded. The motion passed. Judge Lohn abstained.

**5. ACTION ITEMS**

**a. APPROVE ADDENDUM TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES AND HELP ME GROW CONTRACT**

Christine Ruf noted that the FY08 budget needs a line item adjustment. When the contract with MR/DD was canceled, HMG had to hire an additional person through Catholic Charities for one month. Mead Wilkins made a motion to approve the addendum to the Catholic Charities contract for an additional \$3,500. Diane Dockrill seconded. The motion passed. Judge Lohn, Betsy Simon and Tim Putka abstained.

**b. APPROVE FAMILY FIRST COUNCIL LEASE FROM JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES**

Carol Andregg made a motion to approve the lease from Job and Family Services for Family First Council not to exceed \$4,800 per year. Beth McGuire seconded. Mead Wilkins explained that Job and Family Services has hosted Family First Council for several years without financial compensation. With budget cuts, Job and Family Services needs to charge for the computer use, copiers, printers, technical support, phones, etc. The funding will come from the budget revision. We will be using some of our carry-over dollars and this will occur in the budgeting process. The Help Me Grow transfer of funds to Family First Council came in higher than expected. Joyce Giles and Julie King were opposed. The motion passed. Judge Lohn and Mead Wilkins abstained.

**c. APPROVE WELLNESS CONTRACTS FROM COMMISSIONERS FUNDS**

Beth McGuire made a motion to approve the Wellness contracts for the \$25,000 of the Commissioners Funds for the following disbursements:

i.	After School Care Teams	= \$12,500
ii.	Catholic Charities	= \$8,500
iii.	Edwards Middle School Boys Club	= \$4,000

Diane DePasquale-Hagerty seconded the motion. Diane Dockrill noted that the Sustainability Committee will be determining where the \$12,500 will be spent in the after school Care Teams. After looking at prior proposals the Wellness Committee is requesting that Catholic Charities receive \$8,500 and Edwards Middle School receive \$4,000. Catholic Charities is providing a sex education program and it is not an abstinence based program. Edwards Middle School after school program is for males where there is a lack of service delivery. Kent Morgan, the Principal at Edwards Middle School, currently has a program involving boys. The motion passed. Judge Lohn, Tim Putka, Betsy Simon, Steve Hambley, and Charlie Johnston abstained.

**6. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. ADMINISTRATION**

Mead Wilkins noted that Administration was covered Action Item b.

**B. FAMILY ADVISORY**

**i. BACK TO SCHOOL RALLIES** - Sharon Tahajod reported that the Family Advisory Committee was wrapping up the Back to School Rallies. Thank you to the Family First Council agencies that came to help and the Family Advisory Committee. The families were very grateful for the school supplies and assistance. Thank you to

Jayne McCourt for the thousands of pencils, shopping for supplies, making copies, e-mails, and going beyond the call of duty. Sharon presented Jayne with a bouquet of flowers in appreciation of her assistance with the Back to School Rallies. Pat Robertson thanked Sharon Tahajod for the countless hours she contributed to the Back to School Rallies. Pat also acknowledged Westfield Insurance as their employees contributed items for the bags and helped stuff them.

ii. **ELEEMOSYNARY PROJECT** - Pat Robertson is working on the Christmas project. Just a reminder that the holidays are on their way! The Family Advisory Committee felt that we give too much to one or two families. This year we are hoping to expand the gift giving to more families but fewer items to each child. Diane DePasquale-Hagerty has a family in mind as recipients. Please send information to Pat so she can compile a wish list for the families. The wish list will be distributed amongst Council at the October meeting. Bring your gifts to the November meeting so they can be distributed for Christmas.

iii. **FOCUS GROUP** – Lynne Castele facilitated a focus group of 12 people in June at the Family Advisory Committee Meeting. She will be attending a meeting on September 3, 2008 in Columbus to share ideas on a Family Engagement Center. On September 17, 2008 Lynne Castele, Sharon Tahajod and Vince DeGeorge will attend a regional meeting in Hudson.

#### C. **MEMBERSHIP**

Beth McGuire reported that nine Council members were e-mailed to apprise them that the application and information is on the web site for renewal of their membership. The minutes from August 13, 2008 indicate who is up for renewal. Gloria Ball has retired and resigned from Family First Council. The deadline is September 30, 2008 to submit your application. There will be no exceptions. An ad was placed in the Gazette on August 19, 2008. There is an opening for a family representative. If you would like to be the Chair Elect for Family First Council please contact Beth McGuire. Lynne Castele noted that Family First Council is very kind and supportive of the Chair position. The Family Representative are blessed and are treated very well. The Council is very supportive of our projects, including the Back to School Rallies and the Christmas project. Come and be Chair or encourage others to be Chair.

#### D. **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Phillip Titterington reported that the Public Relations Committee continues to look at logo ideas. When the strategic plan was reviewed at the Planning meeting this morning it was noted that the Public Relations committee should look at producing a cable show. Nick Solar volunteered his time to host the program. The dates and times of our meeting have changed to the second Tuesday of the month at 8:30 a.m. at Job and Family Services. Jayme McCourt keeps adding to the web site so keep sending data and information.

#### E. **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Lynne Castele reported that the Planning Committee met this morning before the Family First Council meeting. Planning will begin discussing the retreat next year to work on the strategic plan. Anyone is welcome to attend the Planning meeting.

##### i. a. **WELLNESS**

Diane Dockrill reported that the Wellness Committee met in August and will meet again on September 5, 2008. Thank you to Commissioner Hambley and the Board for the support of our programs.

##### i. b. **SENIOR FOCUS**

Joyce Giles noted that a collaborative program with Senior Net Services is being held on September 3, 2008 with about 35 people signing up to attend.

##### i. c. **YOUTH ADVISORY CONSORTIUM**

Jan Manes reported that the Consortium met on August 5, 2008 for its second meeting. It was a very informative meeting with Lisa Strebler giving a report on year-end services and Suzanne LeSure giving a report on early childhood mental health. We also received updates from Help Me Grow and Head Start. Lisa Strebler will help distribute minutes soon. The next meeting is September 2, 2008 at Medina General Hospital. We will be discussing the matrix to understand what each agency brings to the table. There is thought of renaming the group from Youth Advisory Consortium to include pre-natal through youth. We are in need of new members, especially parents. If you know of anyone wishing to join this group, please send their name to Jan Manes. The group is also planning the agendas and presentations for the coming year. Thank you to Chris Ruf for taking the minutes from the last meeting.

ii. a. **BYLAWS**

Nick Solar reported that the Bylaws Committee met on August 8, 2008 at Medina General Hospital. We continue to go over the bylaws to abide by HB289 for our Strategic Plan. Our next meeting is on Friday, September 12, 2008. The Organizational Chart has been revised, the one in black and white is old and the one in color is new (copies attached to original minutes). The Planning Committee advised Bylaws that Bylaws needed to look at the Organizational Chart as some programs or committees no longer exist. The entire meeting in July was devoted to this process. It was decided to make Subcommittees under Planning. We are aware that the Youth Advisory Consortium may change its name. Programs were also placed under Wellness. Ad Hoc Committees that are in progress now are Bylaws and Mid-CAT. On the new chart the ones colored gray are confidential meetings. All others are open to the public. The CareTeam is under Teen Pregnancy Prevention because they are under the Commissioner funds.

ii. b. **MID-CAT**

Vince DeGeorge reported that the Mid-Cat group is being organized and is still in the planning and discussion stage. Approximately 10-12 people have attended the last few meetings. There are no individual persons being discussed, so there is no confidential information being distributed. Kathe Shook and Joyce Giles came in to speak about Senior ICAT. A cost analysis and services utilized by a Mid-Cat person are being discussed. Discussion included needed services and available services. Our next meeting is Tuesday, September 9, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at the Medina District Library.

7. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

Sandy Calvert initiated discussion on recommendations gathered from the Senior Survey. There is no additional charge for Intellisolve and Jackie Kirby Wilkins to provide this. The consensus was that if it is no charge, then we would like to see the data. Commissioner Pat Geissman will donate her portion of the Commissioners Ball to Senior ICAT. Mike Jenks of the ADAMH Board will work to match the funds. Senior ICAT is hoping for an intensive case worker for 2009.

9. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- a. **Phillip Titterington** – Juvenile Court is again sponsoring a Build-A-Bear workshop for foster children.
- b. **Debra Grace** – The Salvation Army in Wadsworth served 240 children this year with the Back to School Rallies. This is one third more than last year. The Women's auxiliary is sponsoring a kick off event with Judge Mary Kovack and Tim Shema.
- c. **Julie King** – The United Way did another born learning trail at Hickory Ridge Elementary School. This is the fifth learning trail blazed. The United Way has partnered with FamilyWize for prescriptions and this coupon is being accepted at most major pharmacies for use in the reduction in pharmaceutical costs.
- d. **Sandy Calvert** – The HANDS Foundation has a program that grants senior wishes by meeting the needs for seniors who have no other recourses. \$42,000 for senior wishes was raised and we expect to be at \$65,000 by the end of the year. The HANDS Foundation is processing 10-15 senior wishes per week. Joyce Giles will have tickets for the upcoming HANDS Foundation Fling into Spring Gala scheduled in March of 2009.
- e. **Judy Leuthaeuser** – The Medina Library has finished the summer reading program. Over 6,700 children were reading this summer. This is the most children the library has ever had for this program. Twenty-four elementary schools across the county had over 25% of their enrollment registered in this program.
- f. **Will Koran** – Brunswick, Buckeye and Highland have received the "excellent with distinction" rating from the Ohio Department of Education. Medina and Wadsworth received an "excellent" rating. Cloverleaf and Black River were rated "effective".

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Joyce Giles made a motion to adjourn. Diane Dockrill seconded. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Jayme McCourt