

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

1. Andregg, Carol ..... Family Representative
2. Barlow, Betty..... Oaks Family Care Center
3. Castele, Lynne..... Family Representative, Chair
4. DePasquale-Hagerty, Dianne..... Medina Creative Housing
5. Dockrill, Diane..... Solutions Behavioral Healthcare
6. Gordon, Jan ..... OSU Extension
7. Grace, Debbra ..... Wadsworth Salvation Army
8. Hardin, Beverly ..... Society for Handicapped Citizens
9. Jackson, Sienna ..... Medina Salvation Army
10. Jenks, Michael..... ADAMH Board
11. Johnston, Charlie..... CFIT
12. King, Julie ..... United Way of Medina County
13. Koran, William..... Medina County ESC
14. Kubena-Yatsko, Debbie..... Medina Metro Housing
15. LaForme, Gregory ..... Medina County Achievement Center
16. LeSure, Suzanne..... Cornerstone Wellness
17. Nowak, Brian ..... Medina County Drug Abuse Commission
18. Putka, Tim..... Catholic Charities
19. Radecky, Debra..... Office for Older Adults
20. Ray, Billy ..... Family Representative
21. Simon, Betsy..... Family Representative
22. Solar, Nick ..... City of Brunswick, Chair-Elect
23. Strebler, Lisa..... Medina County Health Department
24. Tahajod, Sharon ..... Family Representative
25. Titterington, Phillip ..... Juvenile Court
26. Wilkins, Mead ..... Medina County Job and Family Services
27. Williams, Bradford ..... Solutions Behavioral Healthcare

**GUESTS PRESENT**

1. Baker, Chris ..... Hospice of Medina County
2. Hartman, Don ..... Office for Older Adults
3. Morman, Angie ..... MCSESC
4. Nimmo, Nancy ..... MCSESC
5. Sedlacek, Tom..... Ohio Department of Youth Services

**STAFF PRESENT**

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Lynne Castele called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made. Lynne circulated a sign-up sheet for members to select a committee they would like to serve on.

**2. PRESENTATION – AUTISM IN MEDINA COUNTY**

Angie Morman of Medina County Schools Educational Service Center provided brochures on autism (copy attached to original minutes). Autism kits available through Angie Morman. The Medina County Schools are looking at designing preschool especially for autistic children.

**3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – VINCENT DeGEORGE**

Vincent DeGeorge gave Debbie Kubena-Yatsko a plaque commemorating her service as Chair of Family First Council for 2007. Vince discussed the Executive Director's report (copy attached to original minutes).

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

Carol Andregg made a motion to approve the minutes. Brad Williams seconded. The motion passed.

#### **5. ACTION ITEMS**

**A.** Will Koran made a motion to terminate a Help Me Grow MR/DD contract with one service coordinator with 30 days notice. Mead Wilkins seconded. The motion passed. Greg LaForme and Betsy Simon abstained.

**B.** Diane Dockrill made a motion to approve a Help Me Grow Catholic Charities contract for that same service coordinator position through June 30, 2008. Julie King seconded. The motion passed. Tim Putka and Betsy Simon abstained.

Mead Wilkins made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Vince DeGeorge's contract. Greg LaForme seconded. The motion passed

While in Executive Session, Suzanne LeSure made a motion to assure that some mechanism is in place for Council members to be part of the Executive Director review process. Debra Grace seconded. The motion passed.

Greg LaForme made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mead Wilkins seconded. The motion passed.

**C.** Greg LaForme made a motion to approve a 3% increase and a 60 day extension for Vincent DeGeorge's current contract with Family First Council. Billy Ray seconded. The motion passed.

#### **6. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **A. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

Mead Wilkins reported that one child had been the focus of several agencies coordinating payment and care.

##### **B. FAMILY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Sharon Tahajod would like to challenge the committee to have a food drive for the March meeting. Please bring a nonperishable food item, e.g. peanut butter, canned goods, macaroni and cheese, diapers, paper products, cereal, tuna, etc. A committee vs. committee challenge to see who can bring in the most items. The Family Advisory committee is working on back to school rallies.

##### **C. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

No report.

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

Phillip Titterington reported that the Public Relations committee received several logo ideas from the Career Center. The committee gave additional guidance to the Career Center and requested more choices. The web site will now have a "Medina County Data Starting" page. This will provide an area to share data with other agencies. Family First Council purchased PDF software so we can publish data on the site without having the data compromised. Since we are Lifespan Council, any Lifespan data or information can be put on the page. State links can also be on the page. Updates are as often as each agency wants to submit their data. Any information, statistics, or data for public view, we want on the site. We are starting with the Health Department data, then information on PfS and EScore. We will continue to E-mail agenda and financials as those will not be on the website. A letter requesting data from members will be sent out shortly.

**E. PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Lynne Castele noted that the Planning Committee met last week. There was no meeting in December and the last meeting in October was concerning the workshop. The committee wrapped up the information from the workshop. Janice Houchins, Regional Coordinator for the Northeast District of Ohio Family and Children First Councils, was at the Family First Council last month. Janice provided us with a listing of Medina County's concerns from Mrs. Strickland's visit. The Planning Committee reviewed the list. The Committee reviewed the strategic plan. All of the line items are on track and moving in the right direction. The next meeting is on April 16, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. at Medina General Hospital.

**F. EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNTY COLLABORATIVE GROUP**

Christine Ruf reported there are mandated members for this committee, and there was no meeting last month. Last month state personnel were here because Help Me Grow was cited for two cases that Help Me Grow did not provide services to. They were here to tell Family First Council about this. Medina County ESC has the staff to help with special services, but the state indicated that Help Me Grow cannot contract with them. Help Me Grow must provide service delivery within 30 days. Help Me Grow can refer individuals to the ESC or other agencies but Help Me Grow cannot contract to pay for these services.

**G. WELLNESS COMMITTEE**

Diane Dockrill provided a written report from the Wellness Committee (copy attached to original minutes). The committee meets once a month and anyone is welcome to attend.

**H. PfS IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE**

Will Koran reported that Kris Quallich is expecting her third child at any time and is not available for reporting.

**I. BYLAWS COMMITTEE**

Nick Solar thanked Lynne Castele for filling in for him at the January 2008 meeting. At the meeting on February 8, 2008 we sat with House Bill 289 on one side and the bylaws on the other side. The committee sign-up sheet that is being passed around is due to the fact that all members are required to sit on one committee. The bylaws are a work in progress. We meet on the second Friday of the month. The next meeting is March 14, 2008 and anyone is welcome to join us.

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**A. Debbie Kubena-Yatsko** – Thank you to the Family Advisory Committee for initiating the food drive. A Food Drive Fact Sheet is attached to the original minutes.

**B. Dianne DePasquale-Hagerty** – Medina Creative Housing is working on a Life skills camp for 2008-2009.

**C. Mike Jenks** – There is quite a massive financial dislocation from the state. Please encourage people to be aware of the financial status at the state level.

**D. Will Koran** – The state cut the schools funds by 10% this year and then 10% next year.

**E. Mead Wilkins** – The agencies had no real input in these cuts. Two psychiatric hospitals are being closed without any input.

**F. Betty Barlow** – The Oaks is taking applications from parents with difficult children. There is no cost through the Juvenile Court. It is a 12 week course. Parents are feeling helpless in dealing with difficult children and this parent course can help.

**G. Julie King** – [housingmedina.org](http://housingmedina.org) is a web site that is a free list for rental housing in Medina County. It is an easier way to search for affordable housing. Landlords can post their information on it with all of their data about the units. Links on the website include fair housing, landlord dispute, and foreclosure. Medina Metro Housing is helping along with the commissioners. A 211 flyer was distributed

(copy attached to original minutes). 211 is your way to get the people to your services. The data base is only as good as the information provided. Calls in 2007 were increased. The United Way has seen a downturn in charitable contributions. The United Way is short \$150,000 of their goal on the recent drive. The United Way will undertake a high media tour, ads in the paper, and mailings to try and fill the gaps. February 11 was the second anniversary 211.

**H. Don Hartman** – Debra Radecky had surgery and is doing well. She is scheduled off for six weeks. Office for Older Adults is starting plans for Senior Day May 20, 2008 at the fairgrounds.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Debbie Grace made a motion to adjourn. Carol Andregg seconded. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by  
Jayme McCourt