

**Medina County Family First Council  
Meeting Minutes  
February 24, 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. Castele, Lynne ..... Family Representative
6. Dell'Anno, Amy ..... Family Representative
7. Dockrill, Diane ..... Solutions Behavioral Healthcare
8. Gordon, Jan ..... OSU Extension
9. Grace, Debbra ..... Wadsworth Salvation Army
10. Hardin, Beverly ..... Society for Handicapped Citizens
11. Jackson, Sienna ..... Medina Salvation Army
12. Jenks, Michael ..... ADAMH Board
13. King, Julie ..... United Way of Medina County
14. Kubena-Yatsko, Debbie ..... Medina Metro Housing
15. LaForme, Gregory ..... Medina County Achievement Center
16. LaMar, Michelle ..... Community Services Center
17. LeSure, Suzanne ..... Cornerstone Wellness
18. Leuthaeuser, Judy ..... Medina County Library
19. Manes, Jan ..... Medina County Board of MR/DD
20. McGuire, Beth ..... Hospice of Medina County
21. Nowak, Brian ..... Medina County Drug Abuse Commission
22. Putka, Tim ..... Catholic Charities
23. Radecky, Debra ..... Office for Older Adults
24. Ray, Billy ..... Family Representative
25. Robertson, Pat ..... Family Representative
26. Shema, Timothy ..... Domestic Relations Court
27. Simon, Betsy ..... Family Representative
28. Solar, Nick ..... City of Brunswick, Chair
29. Strebler, Lisa ..... Medina County Health Department
30. Tahajod, Sharon ..... Family Representative
31. Titterington, Phillip ..... Juvenile Court
32. Unkefer, Carla ..... Community Action Wayne/Medina County
33. Wilkins, Mead ..... Medina County Job and Family Services
34. Williams, Bradford ..... Solutions Behavioral Healthcare, Chair-Elect

**GUESTS PRESENT**

1. Kinchy, Janice ..... Alternative Paths
2. Mowen, Teresa ..... Catholic Charities
3. Nimmo, Nancy ..... Medina County ESC

**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, INTRODUCTIONS AND COMMITTEE SELECTION**

Nick Solar called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Introductions were made. Judy Leuthaeuser circulated the committee selection list for Council members to choose a committee and to check for accuracy.

## **2. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Vincent DeGeorge discussed the Executive Director's Report (copy attached to original minutes). He is finishing up his eleventh year as Executive Director and distributed a list of completed deliverables (copy attached to original minutes). He noted that at times it has been challenging, but he has had good productivity with Council by always putting the community first. Vince thanked Amy Perrine for doing phenomenal work as the ICAT Coordinator and with the ICAT kids. Vince requested Nancy Nimmo obtain the status of the Family First funding request from the schools.

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

Beth McGuire made a motion to approve the minutes and committee reports. Debbie Kubena-Yatsko seconded. The motion passed.

## **4. ACTION ITEM**

### **A. EXTEND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S INDEPENDENT CONTRACT TO JUNE 30, 2009**

Lynne Castele made a motion to enter into executive session. Billy Ray seconded. The motion passed. Vincent DeGeorge, Jayme McCourt, Amy Perrine and Christine Ruf were excused.

Lisa Strebler made a motion to exit executive session. Pat Robertson seconded. The motion passed. Vincent DeGeorge, Jayme McCourt, Amy Perrine and Christine Ruf rejoined the meeting. It was noted while in executive session discussion included compensation and no decisions were made.

Greg LaForme made a motion to extend the Executive Director's Independent Contract to June 30, 2009. Carla Unkefer seconded. The motion passed.

## **5. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. ADMINISTRATIVE**

Mead Wilkins reported that the committee discussed Senior Focus and contractual issues.

### **B. FAMILY ADVISORY**

Lynne Castele announced that Betsy Simon will be the representative from the Family Advisory Committee attending the First Lady's Family and Children First Council Regional Forum on March 4, 2009. Family Advisory statutory members are Amy Dell'Anno, Billy Ray and Kim Schreiber. Lynne will Chair the "Donation Wish List" project. The list will be people or agencies to distribute your usable but unwanted items to.

### **C. MEMBERSHIP**

Judy Leuthaeuser noted the Membership Committee did not meet last month. Please review the circulating committee selection list and indicate your choices.

### **D. PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Philip Titterington reported the Public Relations Committee designed a letterhead with the new logo. The new logo is also on the web site. Phillip will be meeting with Nick Solar to discuss questions for the cable show. Please continue to send data for the web site.

### **E. PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Nick Solar noted that the Planning Committee met this morning. They discussed the First Lady visit and the individuals that will be attending on March 4, 2009. Planning also discussed lifespan and the need to support Senior Focus and Senior ICAT as they have been neglected. We are a lifespan Council and need to support it. Carla Unkefer spoke about Head Start and requesting letters of support. Vince will write a support letter for Head Start and how we incorporate it into HMG and with Youth Advisory Consortium.

i. **SUBCOMMITTEES**

a. **WELLNESS**

Diane Dockrill reported that the Wellness Committee met on February 6, 2009. The committee continues to gather data to apply for the Ohio Children's Trust Fund Grant. The grant is based on a variety of factors and the allocation may or may not be the same as last year. A recommendation will be forthcoming from the Wellness Committee to use some reserve funds from the carry-over line item for teen pregnancy prevention. Our next meeting is on April 3, 2009 and at that time we will finalize the recommendation and forward it to the Administrative Committee for discussion at their April 21, 2009 meeting.

(1) **CARETEAMS**

Vince DeGeorge noted that the Sustainability CareTeam Committee has a meeting on Tuesday March 3, 2009. Roger Wright presented CareTeam information at the Ohio Middle School Association for Principals and Guidance Councilors. Wadsworth's CareTeam is doing great and good statistics are coming out of Wadsworth. Medina's CareTeam is struggling. Medina is getting CFIT involved. The CareTeams fit well with the Governor's initiatives on educational initiatives.

b. **SENIOR FOCUS**

Sandy Calvert declared that Senior Focus does exist and it is moving forward. Thanks to the Planning Committee for their commitment to the older adults of Medina County. Senior Focus will be working on the six needs assessment and will be hosting a meeting soon.

c. **YOUTH ADVISORY CONSORTIUM**

Jan Manes reported that the Youth Advisory Consortium met on February 3, 2009. Discussion included:

- YAC is working on a mission statement.
- The mission statement is to coincide with the mission statement of Family First Council.
- Designing a brochure about what we are and inclusion of the FFC logo and all of the agencies involved (Jan circulated a draft brochure).
- The overall mid-year progress report will be attached to the YAC minutes.
- The booster seat law has been passed and implemented.
- The structure of HMG will not change until July 2009.
- Department of Education will be the overseeing agency of HMG.
- Creating a center for early childhood development.
- Next month's presentation will be by Cheryl Mason of Job and Family Services.
- The next meeting is March 3, 2009 at Medina Hospital.

ii. **AD HOC COMMITTEES**

a. **BYLAWS**

Lynne Castele announced that the Bylaws Committee is hoping for a draft to present to Council by the end of the month. House Bill 289 will be attached to the draft as a reference. The Bylaws must be in compliance with HB 289 and we struggled with the changes. Council has been operational for about two years since HB 289 was revised. Bylaws are asking the Chairs to discuss the changes with their committees and get back to the Bylaws Committee with changes, concerns, etc. It is a draft. We encourage everyone to review the entire document and specifically review their committee's portions. Some changes were made and were written according to HB 289. The Bylaws Committee has worked very hard to interpret what HB 289 states and to incorporate it into our bylaws.

b. **MID-CAT**

Chris Ruf reported that the Mid-CAT members agreed upon what agencies should be represented as the core team at the meetings: Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, Job and Family Services (Medicaid), a group facilitator, Drug & Alcohol, and a person with medical knowledge. Resource participants to be called in as needed are: EMS, legal, Workforce Development, law enforcement,

vocational, housing, health and mentors. At the last meeting we laid out a logic model. At our next meeting we will firm up the forms, the process for referral, risk assessment tools, strategies and paper flow. The next meeting is March 10, 2009 at 10 a.m. at the Medina Library. Mid-Cat and Senior Focus are initiatives from the PfS process.

Jeff Anderson noted that he has been attending the Mid-CAT meetings. This has been helpful because 18-21-year-olds have no place to live and no access to services. There needs to be a link from Youth ICAT to Mid-ICAT and the transition from youth to mid.

#### **6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mike Jenks questioned the time allocation of the Executive Director for Senior Focus. What hours would be allocated? Weekly, monthly or realignment of work? Vince DeGeorge will allocate his time toward the senior process but the need will be administrative. We will have to do more for less and find a way to work with it. Nick Solar noted that the Planning Committee wants to support Senior Focus and Senior ICAT. No decisions were made in the Planning meeting, but a motion was made to support it:

**The Planning Committee requests that Administration allocate resources and/or funding to support Senior Focus with the purpose of: 1 – Implementing recommendations of the Senior Needs Assessment Survey, and 2 – Strengthening the ties between Family First Council and Senior ICAT.**

The motion will go to the Administrative Committee for discussion on March 17, 2009.

#### **7. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

#### **8. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**A. Mead Wilkins** – Job and Family Services provided tax preparers to county residents. This is the third year for earned income tax credits and combined returns were over \$100,000.

**B. Nancy Nimmo** – She has been serving on Youth ICAT since April of 2008 and it has been a great experience.

**C. Debbie Kubena-Yatsko** – The Coalition of Medina County Food Pantries is not competing with Harvest for Hunger this year. Buehlers will be coordinating their drive with Harvest for Hunger. If you wish to coordinate a food drive, please contact Debbie. Leadership Medina May's class project is working with the food pantry.

**D. Billy Ray** – Judge Lohn had surgery on his legs and he wishes him well.

**E. Judy Leuthaeuser** – In March the Library will have Buehlers bags to fill with food. The Library Newsletter will no longer be in the newspaper but it will be available in other areas.

**F. Jayme McCourt** – If there are any residents of Brunswick, please vote for the levy in May. We need to keep our fire and police personnel.

#### **9. ADJOURNMENT**

Carol Andregg made a motion to adjourn. Debbie Kubena-Yatsko seconded. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Jayme McCourt