

Medina County Family First Council Meeting Minutes January 23, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Andregg, Carol Family Representative
2. Ball, Gloria..... Wadsworth City Schools
3. Carlson, Steve..... Family Representative
4. Castele, Lynne Family Representative, Chair Elect, Family First Council
5. Dell'Anno, Amy..... Family Representative
6. DePasquale-Hagerty, Dianne Medina Creative Housing
7. Dockrill, Diane Solutions Behavioral Healthcare
8. Grace, Debbra..... Wadsworth Salvation Army
9. Hambley, Steven..... Medina County Commissioner
10. Hardin, Beverly..... Society for Handicapped Citizens
11. Jenks, Michael ADAMH Board
12. King, Julie..... United Way
13. Koran, Will Medina County Schools
14. Kubena-Yatsko, Debbie Metro Housing Authority, Chair, Family First Council
15. Larrick, Stephanie Medina Salvation Army
16. LeSure, Suzanne Cornerstone Wellness
17. Leuthaeuser, Judy..... Medina County District Library
18. Manes, Jan..... Medina County Board of MR/DD
19. McDaniels, Pat Community Action Medina/Wayne Counties
20. McGuire, Beth Hospice of Medina County
21. Meador, Barb Community Action Medina/Wayne Counties
22. Nowak, Brian..... Medina County Drug Abuse Commission
23. Putka, Tim Catholic Charities
24. Quallich, Kristine Medina City Schools
25. Radecky, Debra Office For Older Adults
26. Ray, Billy Family Representative
27. Robertson, Patricia..... Family Representative
28. Shema, Tim..... Domestic Relations Court
29. Simon, Elizabeth Family Representative
30. Solar, Nick..... City of Brunswick
31. Stepp, Randy Medina City Schools
32. Strebler, Lisa..... Medina County Health Department
33. Stultz-Costello, Cara Spencer United Methodist Church
34. Tahajod, Sharon..... Family Representative
35. Titterington, Phillip..... Juvenile Court
36. Wilkins, Mead..... Medina County Job & Family Services
37. Williams, Bradford Solutions Behavioral Healthcare

GUESTS PRESENT

1. Bluebond, Jon Medina County Board of MR/DD
2. Nimmo, Nancy..... Medina County Schools
3. Sander, Bonnie Medina County Marriage Coalition
4. Schmidt, Kathy Hospice of Medina County
5. Smith, Cheryl..... Community Care Network
6. Thwing, Chris WellCare
7. Vincent, Dan..... Medina County Schools
8. Brenda..... Family Advisory Eleemosynary Project Recipient

STAFF PRESENT

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

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Debbie Kubena-Yatsko called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Introductions were made. A new membership list is available for distribution. Please review your information and let Judy Leuthaeuser know of any changes or corrections. (Copy attached to original minutes.)

2. PRESENTATION

Cheryl Smith, Project Coordinator for Faith Based and Community Initiatives of the Community Care Network, presented a packet to the members. (Copy of the handouts attached to original minutes.) Their purpose is to strengthen family and community. The purpose of the Ohio Compassion Capital Project (OCCP) is to help faith-based and community organizations increase their effectiveness, enhance their ability to provide social services, expand their organizations, diversify their funding sources, and create collaborations to better serve those in need.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Debbie Kubena-Yatsko thanked members of the council and welcomes her upcoming year as Chair. Goals for this year include the Care Team, strategic plan implementation, MCAT, and bylaws.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Vince DeGeorge distributed a written report for ICAT and State/Other Issues. (Copy attached to original minutes.)

▶ After interviewing five applicants, Bill Schneider was hired as the full-time employee in the PfS Americorps program.

▶ The utilization of excess 2006 ABC 404 funds budgeted for our transformation plan has yet to be utilized. Approximately \$37,000 remains. Jayme McCourt is working on a brochure and application process for ABC.

▶ Amy Perrine has revamped the line items for the ICAT pooled funds, now tracking 10 different line items.

▶ The Regional State meeting will be on January 26, 2007.

▶ PfS and ABC will be in next year's budget. House Bill 289 requires the development of an outcome-oriented strategic plan which will be required to obtain the administrative funds.

▶ The Lodi Family Resource Center is open and youth wellness services are currently being offered. The Health Department had its first WIC immunization clinic. In the spring a FFC meeting may be held at the facility.

▶ Governor Strickland has made significant changes in his cabinet council. A plan to become involved in the biennium budget process via FCFC is in process.

5. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 2006 MINUTES AND NOVEMBER 2006 MINUTES

A motion was made by Julie King to approve the October 2006 minutes. Pat Robertson seconded. The motion passed. A motion was made by Diane Dockrill to approve the November 2006 minutes. Barb Meador seconded. A correction was made to item Public Comments 23(g). It is a HUD Grant rather than a HUD Grand. The motion passed with the correction. Nick Solar abstained.

6. ACTION ITEM

An independent contract Family Engagement Specialist position for the PfS Care Team at Wadsworth Middle School has been filled by Ken Bender. He was hired at \$25 per hour, 30 hours per week, not to exceed \$22,500 retroactive to December 1, 2006. His contract will expire on June 30, 2007. Will Koran made a motion to approve the contract. Debra Grace seconded. The motion passed. Gloria Ball abstained.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Debbie Kubena-Yatsko announced and confirmed the following chairs:

- Administrative.....Mead Wilkins
- Family Advisory.....Sharon Tahajod
- Membership.....Beth McGuire
- Wellness.....Diane Dockrill
- Early Childhood.....Jan Manes
- Senior Focus.....Joyce Giles
- Public Relations.....open

A. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mead Wilkins stated we are in good shape going into 2007. A copy of the budget was available for review. (Copy attached to original minutes).

B. FAMILY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Pat Robertson shared a letter from Debra Grace of the Wadsworth Salvation Army thanking the council members for their generous donations to one of the families we adopted. She also circulated a thank you note from the Wadsworth family. (Copies attached to original minutes.) Pat reported that there was an overwhelming response of clothing,

household items and games for the two families chosen for the Eleemosynary project this year. A special thank you to Vince DeGeorge for the use of his Kohl's charge card, allowing Pat Robertson and Chris Ruf to shop before all of the funds were collected, calculated and disbursed. \$400 was charged before Vince was reimbursed by the county. \$310 of the \$400 was spent on clothing for both families. A \$50 Kohl's gift card was given to the Medina family and a \$40 Kohl's gift card was given to the Wadsworth family. A total of \$751 was donated in cash or checks, including a \$100 unsolicited donation from the Medina County Drug Task Force. Of the remaining monies, gift cards to Buehler's were purchased (\$150 to the Wadsworth family and \$100 to the Medina family), and a \$100 gift card to Payless Shoes for the Medina family. Thank you to Tracy Hanzel at Community Action for the pickup and delivery of the gifts for the Medina Family. Thank you to everyone who donated.

Debbra Grace also thanked Terri Heckman for donating hand knotted fleece blankets to the Wadsworth family.

Brenda, the mother of the Medina family, expressed her heartfelt gratitude for the generosity and thoughtfulness for her family. She had not envisioned such an outpouring of kindness.

Lynn Castele welcomed Steve Carlson and Carol Andregg as Family Representatives to the council.

Diane Dockrill stated that Steve Carlson has been active and working with the Wellness Committee.

The October 24, 2006 minutes were available for distribution. (Copy attached to original minutes.)

C. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Beth McGuire stated that orientation for new FFC members was held on January 10, 2007. A copy of the October 11, 2006 and January 10, 2007 minutes were available for review. (Copies attached to original minutes.) Notebooks were compiled by Debbie Kubena-Yatsko for the new members. The next meeting will be February 14, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. at the Robertson Bereavement Center, 797 North Court Street, Medina. Items discussed will be the Implementation of HB 289 and its impact on membership.

Vince DeGeorge noted that we have a full array of Family Representatives on our council, including Lynne Castele as Chair-Elect, school personnel, as well as two school superintendents who are active. Welcome to Steven Hambley, Medina County Commissioner, as recent reorganization of duties has brought him to Family First Council.

D. PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Debbie Kubena-Yatsko announced that Colleen Rice is no longer with the Public Relations Committee. There will be a meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 6, 2007 at the Housing Authority. Anyone with an interest in this committee is invited to attend.

E. PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Debbie Kubena-Yatsko announced that there will be a Planning Committee meeting on the third Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be February 21, 2007 at 8:30 a.m. Place to be determined and announced. Items to be discussed will be incorporating PfS into the Strategic Plan and MCAT. A copy of the Strategic Plan was available for review. (Copy attached to original minutes.)

F. PROGRAM COMMITTEES

i. EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMITTEE REPORT

Chris Ruf reported for Jane Manes, stating that Help Me Grow has new policy changes regarding the Early Childhood Committee. All pre-schools in Medina County are full. A new pre-school program is being funded by Medina County schools. Thank you to Will Koran and MR/DD for their help on this project. Will Koran announced that there is one child currently in the program.

ii. SENIOR FOCUS COMMITTEE REPORT

Lynne Castele reported for Joyce Giles, giving out a brochure announcing a program on March 9, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on "Ethics of the profession and the professional." (Copy attached to original minutes.) Judi Fischer, MA, LPCC from Lakeshore Education and Counseling Services will be the speaker. Anyone interested in attending please contact Shannon Lees at 330-722-7751.

iii. WELLNESS COMMITTEE REPORT

Diane Dockrill distributed the Wellness Committee reports for December 1, 2006 and January 5, 2007. (Copies attached to the original minutes.) They are working on a RFP for teen pregnancy grantees and the Ohio Children's Trust Fund. Site visits by the Wellness Committee are being conducted and will continue. Anyone wishing to attend the Wellness

Committee meeting is welcome. They meet on the first Friday of the month from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. (grantees) and 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (the Wellness Committee.) Meetings are held at the Human Services Building. Diane Dockrill provided a list of meeting dates. (Copy attached to original minutes.)

iv. PfS CORE TEAM REPORT

Chris Ruf reported that the Family First Council Strategic Plan required under House Bill 289, as of July 1, 2007, will utilize the PfS process. The Initiative for Youth Care Team is in process at the Wadsworth Middle School. A mock Care Team trial will occur at 7:30 a.m. on January 24, 2007, and the official start date will be January 31, 2007. Chris Ruf and Vince DeGeorge went to the Fairless Schools to look at their program. The after school programs for kids have had test scores improved and the graduation rate has increased.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

9 NEW BUSINESS

None.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

a. Debbie Kubena-Yatsko - Medina County Feed-A-Family Food Drive will be in March. Buehler's will be a collection site. Please donate to those less fortunate.

b. Debbie Kubena-Yatsko - The Medina Housing Authority has received \$100,000 to assist for emergency housing in the next two years. They also received \$50,000 in temporary rental assistance.

c. Lynne Castele - A flyer containing dates and times for smoking cessation clinics being offered through Medina General Hospital was made available for the membership. (Copy attached to original minutes.) On behalf of Medina General Hospital, Lynne thanked everyone for their cooperation in the explosion that rocked the front of the hospital on Monday, January 22, 2007. No one was injured but power was knocked out to the hospital. Emergency generators were activated supplying power for life support equipment. Thank you to the Red Cross for providing 500 lunches. Thank you to Buehler's, the Nickles Bread deliveryman, police and fire personnel.

d. Randy Stepp - 2300 high school students were evacuated along with the kindergarten center when the power was down. Buses transported the high school students home, while the kindergarten class was called not to come in to school.

e. Brian Nowak - Dr. Waddell is working on smoking cessation programs. MCDAC is reviewing marketing RFP's on tobacco. The non-smoking law is still being worked on and enforcement is also an issue.

f. Julie King - The United Way 211 system received 1707 calls in 2006, a 23% increase over the prior year. A 2006 Year End Summary sheet was made available to the membership (copy attached to original minutes). Marketing plans include signs on transit buses, brochures and magnets. Please visit www.medina211.org and look at your agency to see if all of the information is correct. It would also be appreciated if agencies could set up a link to the 211 website from your website. Last year in Medina County, agencies provided more than \$500,000 in emergency aid for housing. A meeting of the Medina County Housing Network is scheduled on February 8, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. in the lower level of Job and Family Services. Discussion will include housing, shelters, and community standards.

g. Julie King - The Early Childhood Taskforce met last Thursday. Using the PfS process, a PCR survey is being conducted of early childhood agencies. There are 200 organizations on the provider list and only 12 PCR tools have been returned, so we could use everyone's help in getting those back. The taskforce has determined three goals: parental support and education, children entering kindergarten ready to learn, and quality early learning experiences. The United Way of Ohio has a new Executive Director, Barbara Sykes.

h. Nick Solar - Salvation Army donations in Brunswick were \$30,419. This amount was an increase of the prior year.

i. Philip Titterington - Thank you to MCDAC for assisting with 33 youths. Drug Court has hired another probation officer that will target youths with drugs and mental health problems.

j. Lisa Strebler - The Health Department's 800 number has received numerous calls on smoking violations. They have begun a partnership with the schools, offering free flu vaccines. There are 3,000 state supported doses that are free through the end of January. Dr. Alvin Jackson is now the new state level director. The Health Department has been working out-of-pocket at the Lodi Resource Center, offering smoking cessation clinics and vaccinations of individuals. The HPV vaccine is now a covered vaccine if you are eligible. Normal out of pocket fees are \$135 times 3 doses.

k. Dianne DePasquale-Hagerty - Medina Creative Housing is building a new unit on Huntington Street in Medina. "Medina Creative Living" has been established. A community life skills development center is hoping for an April 2007 opening. Save the date of March 9, 2007; dinner and a show "I love you. You're perfect. Now change."

l. Amy Dell'Anno - The Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities and the Mideast Parent Mentors and East Central Parent Mentors of Ohio is sponsoring a lecture by Matthew Cohen. He will speak on understanding and implementing the new special education law. The seminar will be held on Thursday, March 8, 2007

from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the McDonald Marlite Conference Center in New Philadelphia, Ohio. A brochure was available to the membership. (Copy attached to original minutes.)

- m. Mead Wilkins** - Job and Family Services will be hosting a retirement open house for Mary Vantz and Betty Gabriel on Friday, January 26, 2007 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. A banquet in their honor will be on Friday, February 2, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at the Weymouth Country Club. Tickets are \$25 per person. Contact Mead at JFS if you would like to attend. The organizational structure of the Social Services Division has changed. Louise Brown and Cindy Orlasky are the two Protective Services Administrators, each having two Protective Services Supervisors and staff.
- n. Cara Stultz-Costello** - Through the Mathew 25 Coalition there will be free legal aid clinics on the third Thursday every other month at various locations. (Copy attached to original minutes.)
- o. Judy Leuthaeuser** - Medina County Library is celebrating 100 years of service to the community. In March 2007 the groundbreaking for the Seville library will occur. The Brunswick and Medina libraries should be open in late fall of 2007. Highland's library should open in late 2007 or early 2008. The 10-year 1.25 mill operating levy will be on the May ballot.
- p. Beverly Hardin** - The Society for Handicapped Citizens will hold a camp for individuals with disabilities. There will be 7 weeks available.
- q. Nancy Nimmo** - A tutorial program with JFS foster care and adoptive families would like to be more active and have more children referred to them. There are currently 25 tutors on staff. Tutors travel to foster/adoptive homes. The tutoring is free to these families for 2 hours per week. They are currently serving 50 children
- r. Stephanie Larrick** - The Salvation Army thanks everyone for the generous donations over the holiday season.
- s. Debbra Grace** - The Salvation Army thanks Community Action and the Eli Center for all of the work in referring clients.
- t. Beth McGuire** - The Robertson Bereavement Center is offering workshops and education groups. Beth had a flyer available to the membership. (Copy attached to original minutes.) Life's Treasures, the Hospice thrift store, will take vouchers from local agencies and will in turn bill them for the items, i.e., if a client needs furniture, household items or clothing, they can come in with their vouchers and shop. We are just beginning this program and it is not formalized yet. Contact Amy Wermer at Hospice for more information. Please stop by and shop at Life's Treasures.
- u. Chris Ruf** - The PfS Core team meetings are currently on hold. There will be a full implementation meeting on February 9, 2007 at 8:30 a.m. in the Berry Room "A" at Job & Family Services.
- v. Jan Manes** - An invitation is extended to everyone to join the staff of MR/DD at its mortgage burning event on Thursday, January 25, 2007 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in celebration of 15 years at our current location.
- w. Pat McDaniels** - Thank you to the Health Department for providing free flu shots to residents in Wayne County.
- x. Barb Meador** - Tracy Hanzel is coordinating a child safety seat program and a Mom & Dad's group. The Medina Kiwanis is holding its membership drive on February 15, 2007 at Medina General Hospital. Breakfast is at 7:00 a.m.
- y. Tim Shema** - The County Commissioners prescription drug program is for maintenance drugs, not emergency medications. The county website has the information.
- z. Bonnie Sanders** - An invitation was extended by the Medina County Marriage Coalition to attend a breakfast meeting on February 14, 2007, 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the Weymouth Country Club. (Copy attached to original minutes.) In 2005, 971 couples were married and 705 filed for divorce. Please check out the website at www.mariagesavers.org for further information.
- aa. Chris Thwing** - WellCare of Ohio provided handouts to the membership. (Copies attached to original minutes.) WellCare provides benefits and personal care products to Medina County residents that are eligible for their services. Parental education classes are available also. WellCare was approved on October 1, 2006 to provide services in northeast Ohio. Please see the website www.wellcare.com.

11. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Nick Solar made a motion to adjourn. Beth McGuire seconded. The motion passed.

Next meeting is February 27, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 400 North Broadway Street, Medina, Ohio. A listing of meeting dates was available for review. (Copy attached to original minutes.) A February calendar of events was available for review (Copy attached to original minutes.)

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.
Respectfully submitted by
Jayme McCourt