

**Medina County Family First Council  
Meeting Minutes  
January 22, 2008**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

1. Anderson, Jeff..... Ohio Department of Youth Services
2. Andregg, Carol..... Family Representative
3. Ball, Gloria..... Wadsworth City Schools
4. Barlow, Betty..... Oaks Family Care Center
5. Calvert, Sandy..... Hands Foundation
6. Castele, Lynne..... Family Representative, Chair
7. Dell'Anno, Amy..... Family Representative
8. DePasquale-Hagerty, Dianne..... Medina Creative Housing
9. Dockrill, Diane..... Solutions Behavioral Healthcare
10. Giles, Joyce..... Medina General Hospital
11. Gordon, Jan..... OSU Extension
12. Grace, Debbra..... Wadsworth Salvation Army
13. Hardin, Beverly..... Society for Handicapped Citizens
14. Jackson, Sienna..... Medina Salvation Army
15. Jenks, Michael..... ADAMH Board
16. Johnston, Charlie..... CFIT
17. Koran, William..... Medina County ESC
18. Kubena-Yatsko, Debbie..... Medina Metro Housing
19. LaForme, Gregory..... Medina County Achievement Center
20. LeSure, Suzanne..... Cornerstone Wellness
21. Leuthaeuser, Judy..... Medina County Library
22. Manes, Jan..... Medina County Board of MR/DD
23. McDaniels, Pat..... Community Action Wayne/Medina County
24. McGuire, Beth..... Hospice of Medina County
25. Meador, Barbara..... Community Action
26. Nowak, Brian..... Medina County Drug Abuse Commission
27. Putka, Tim..... Catholic Charities
28. Quallich, Kristine..... Medina City Schools
29. Radecky, Debra..... Office for Older Adults
30. Ray, Billy..... Family Representative
31. Robertson, Pat..... Family Representative
32. Schreiber, Kim..... Physical Representative
33. Shema, Timothy..... Domestic Relations Court
34. Simon, Betsy..... Family Representative
35. Solar, Nick..... City of Brunswick, Chair-Elect
36. Stepp, Randy..... Medina City Schools
37. Strebler, Lisa..... Medina County Health Department
38. Tahajod, Sharon..... Family Representative
39. Wilkins, Mead..... Medina County Job and Family Services
40. Williams, Bradford..... Solutions Behavioral Healthcare

**GUESTS PRESENT**

1. Baker, Crystal..... BWS
2. Bush, Katrina..... OD MR/DD
3. Call, Jennifer..... Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission
4. Flowers, Tina..... OD MR/DD
5. Glade, Audrey..... OD MR/DD
6. Houchins, Janice..... Ohio Family and Children First
7. Kinchy, Janice..... Alternative Paths
8. Kruga, Cathy..... Help Me Grow
9. Nimmo, Nancy..... MSSTAT
10. Wright, Debbie..... OD MR/DD

## **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.**

Chairperson Lynne Castele called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Introductions were made.

### **2. PfS COLLABORATIVE SURVEY**

Jayme McCourt distributed the Collaborative Survey to the Family First Council members while Vince DeGeorge gave verbal instructions. The completed surveys will be mailed to Kelly Spring at the OSU Center for Learning Excellence.

### **3. PRESENTATION – MEDINA SPECIAL STUDENTS TRANSITION ACTION TEAM**

Nancy Nimmo spoke about MSSTAT. Handouts are attached to the original minutes.

### **4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Vincent DeGeorge**

Vincent DeGeorge distributed and discussed his written report for ICAT and State/Other Issues. (Copy attached to original minutes.) The Americorps program has two half-time positions available. If any Council member knows of anyone that would be interested, please direct them our way. We sent notification out to several universities and churches. The Castele Foundation donated \$5,000 to use towards the Americorps program.

### **5. STATE REPRESENTATIVE FAMILY FIRST COUNCIL – Janice Houchins**

Janice Houchins, Regional Coordinator for Ohio Children and Family First Councils gave a synopsis of the Ohio First Lady visit. (Copy attached to original minutes.) Janice Houchins can be reached at 330-263-3632, [jhouchins@ag.osu.edu](mailto:jhouchins@ag.osu.edu). At the end of February, Mrs. Strickland will have visited 36 councils.

### **6. HELP ME GROW - Katrina Bush, Tina Flowers, Audrey Glade, and Debbie Wright**

Any county that was out of compliance was asked to submit a corrective action plan, i.e., timely receipt of services, policies and laws of service plans, reports of data each month. Discussion included a few cases that did not receive services in a timely manner and its being out of the local HMG agency's hands. It is an unrealistic to expect Family First Council to force agencies to provide services when Family First has no control over the agency. Paperwork is very cumbersome. Try to negotiate for a percentage of review for inspections.

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

Carol Andregg made a motion to approve the minutes. Billy Ray seconded. The motion passed.

### **8. ACTION ITEMS**

**A – 2008 budget** – Mead Wilkins stated that Amy Perrine will be staff and put into the Administrative budget. Agency contributions are at the 2004 levels, except for two, MR/DD and ADAMH Board, which are reviewing with their respective boards. We have a commitment to fund CareTeams through the end of the school year through the administrative reserves. Strategic plan dollars were rescinded. Sandy Calvert made a motion to approve the 2008 budget. Debbie Kubena-Yatsko seconded. Discussion on the motion: Sandy Calvert was told at the October 19, 2007 seminar that planning money was going to be available. Mead Wilkins stated that there is no direct impact on any services, as it was not earmarked for a specific plan. It would only reduce our reserves. FFC made a commitment in October but Council had to work with the budget as carry over funds continue to be used to balance the annual budget. Sandy Calvert stated that people have met since the October meetings and are counting on the funds. Opposed to the budget - Sandy Calvert. The motion passed.

**B – ICAT Coordinator** – Greg LaForme made the motion to approve the transition from independent contractor to county employee at a reduced annual cost. This position is filled by Amy Perrine. Diane Dockrill seconded. The motion passed.

**C – Help Me Grow** – Will Koran made a motion to approve fund transfer of \$3000 from Parent Support/Stipend/Misc. to Equipment to purchase two laptop computers. Greg LaForme seconded. The motion passed. Betsy Simon and Tim Putka abstained.

### **9. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Mead Wilkins noted that this year's budget was the hardest budget to work out. It was not done easily.

**B. FAMILY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Sharon Tahajod thanked Pat Robertson for chairing the Christmas project. Pat thanked the council for its extreme generosity. \$684 in cash and checks and a number of items were donated by members. Both families were very grateful and surprised. Thank you all for making this a success.

**C. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT**

Beth McGuire reported that there will not be a Membership meeting in February or March. The next meeting is April 9, 2008. Don't forget to sign in when you are attending a meeting! Please keep the strategic plan in front of you when you meet at your respective committees.

**D. PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Vince DeGeorge confirmed that the web site is up and running. The Career Center has a few logos for us to look at. Funds are allocated for Public Relations.

**E. PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Lynne Castele and Debbie Kubena-Yatsko noted that the Strategic plan will be discussed at the February Family First Council meeting. The committee met in December but no decisions were made. Vince DeGeorge is raising the issue of funds not being available to continue the ability of groups to develop a needs assessment utilizing the logic model.

**F. BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Lynne Castele stated that the committee is meeting monthly. We are making changes at each of the meetings. The next meeting will be February 8, 2008 at Medina General Hospital room #5. Nick Solar will chair the committee.

**G. EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMITTEE REPORT**

On January 30, 2008 a meeting of the Early Childhood Committee will be held. At that meeting the structure of the committee will be discussed. Suzanne LeSure received funding for our Incredible Year's Proposal. Funding will be over an 18-month period.

**H. WELLNESS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Diane Dockrill noted some significant changes with the Wellness Committee. The committee met in December and January. Due to TANF funding changes, five program recipients received certified letters telling them their funds are no longer available. Vince met with the commissioners to present a budget request. Steve Hambley was very supportive. The presentation to the commissioners is attached to original minutes. Development of the Lodi Resource Center was funded by PRC DR funds, and JFS teen pregnancy grants. This is a needed component for our community. The Health Department is beneficial to the Lodi Center. The total requested was about \$150,000. The Wellness Committee had to prioritize the wellness projects. Diane thanked everyone and invited anyone who would like to be part of the Wellness committee. They meet the first Friday of the month.

**I. PFS IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Debbie Kubena-Yatsko reported that the PFS Committee is in transition. Debbie can no longer chair this meeting so we are looking for a new chair. CareTeams up and running and doing well. Medina is doing school wide surveys. AI Root is completed and looking at analyzing the data. Kris Quallich stated that the Medina schools could run the CareTeams without outside assistance. Debbra Grace stated that the Wadsworth schools are looking for funding through the Salvation Army. The next meeting is not scheduled as a chair is needed first

**10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**12. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- A.** Sandy Calvert – Save the date for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Swing Into Spring on Saturday, March 15, 2008 to support the HANDS Foundation (copy attached to original minutes).
- B.** Chris Ruf – Medina Salvation Army Board is in need of letters of support for their after school Learning Zone.
- C.** Debbie Kubena-Yatsko – The Hunger Taskforce is now the Coalition of Medina County Food Pantries.
- D.** Judy Leuthaeuser - The new Medina Library is now open.
- E.** Debbra Grace – The Wadsworth Salvation Army has parenting workshops available in the coming months (copy attached to original minutes).

**F.** Jan Gordon – Parenting classes are starting soon.

**G.** Lisa Strebler– The child and adolescent clinic is open in Lodi on the third Monday of the month. It is not too late for a flu shot this year. The Health Department is in its second year of our obesity initiative. In the Buckeye School system the Health Department is looking at nutrition education and it is hoping to expand the program to other schools in future years.

**I.** Janice Houchins – Save the date for the statewide Family Representative meeting on April 29, 2008.

**J.** Kris Quallich – Medina City Schools has an Operating Levy on the March 4, 2008 ballot. The sales tax cannot be used for anything but buildings. The tax cannot be used for staff or operations.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

Tim Putka made a motion to adjourn. Debbie Kubena-Yatsko seconded. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by  
Jayme McCourt