



MEDINA COUNTY FAMILY FIRST COUNCIL

MINUTES OF JUNE 23, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT

1.	Andregg, Carol	Family Representative
2.	Barlow, Betty	Oaks Family Care Center
3.	Carmon, Gail	Alternative Paths
4.	Geissman, Patricia	Medina County Commissioner
5.	Gordon, Jan	OSU Extension
6.	Hardin, Beverly.....	Society for Handicapped Citizens
7.	Jenks, Michael	ADAMH Board
8.	King, Julie.....	United Way of Medina County
9.	Koran, William	Medina County ESC
10.	Kubena-Yatsko, Debbie	Medina Metro Housing
11.	LaForme, Gregory.....	Medina County Achievement Center
12.	LaMar, Michelle.....	Community Services Center
13.	LeSure, Suzanne	Cornerstone Wellness
14.	Leuthaeuser, Judy.....	Medina County Library
15.	Manes, Jan.....	Medina County Board of MR/DD
16.	Meador, Barbara	Community Action
17.	Nowak, Brian.....	Medina County Drug Abuse Commission
18.	Pendlebury, Dee	Ohio Department of Youth Services
19.	Putka, Tim	Catholic Charities
20.	Radecky, Debra	Office for Older Adults
21.	Ray, Billy	Family Representative
22.	Robertson, Pat	Family Representative
23.	Schreiber, Kim.....	Family Representative
24.	Simon, Betsy	Family Representative
25.	Solar, Nick.....	City of Brunswick, Chair
26.	Strebler, Lisa.....	Medina County Health Department
27.	Tahajod, Sharon.....	Family Representative
28.	Titterington, Phillip.....	Juvenile Court
29.	Wilkins, Mead.....	Medina County Job and Family Services

STAFF PRESENT

1.	McCourt, Jayme	Family First Council Administrative Assistant
2.	Perrine, Amy	Family First Council ICAT Coordinator
3.	Ruf, Christine	Family First Council Coordinator and Help Me Grow Project Director

1. WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Nick Solar called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Introductions were made.

2. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Nick Solar informed Council that Vince DeGeorge is on vacation. We wanted to recognize Vince on what he has accomplished in Medina County with his 12 years of service. A framed mat is being circulated to sign or write a message to him. Nick displayed a plaque and read the message to Vince. Vince's last day will be on June 30, 2009. At this time there are no plans for a reception for him. Attempts were made to do something. If it is arranged, you will be notified. Commissioner Geissman noted that the Medina County Commissioners passed a resolution in appreciation for Vince's service to Medina County. A copy of the Executive Director's report is attached to the original minutes.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

4. ACTION ITEMS

i) Will Koran made a motion to approve the Wellness Committee's recommendations for the Ohio Children's Trust Fund continuation of the grant for FY 2010 totaling \$52,391

▪ Battered Women's Shelter	\$5,642
▪ Catholic Charities	\$9,000
▪ Children's Center of Medina County	\$5,410
▪ Oaks Family Care Center, Lodi	\$19,993
▪ OSU Extension	\$7,346
▪ Wadsworth Salvation Army	\$5,000

Gail Carmon seconded. Betty Barlow, Tim Putka, Jan Gordon, Betsy Simon and Mead Wilkins abstained. The motion passed.

ii) Will Koran made a motion to approve the contract for the Family First Council Coordinator for FY 2010. Gail Carmon seconded. Discussion on the motion:

- Mead Wilkins: The contract will reflect the deliverables that were contained in the proposal.
- Mike Jenks: What is the amount of the contract and are there provisions for modification?
- Mead Wilkins: The contract is for \$16,000 which is \$40,000 less than the last coordinator. FFC has been allowed to transfer 10% of HMG administrative fees to FFC to pay for expenses. HMG is unfunded at this point except for mandated services. With a bare bones budget it is \$50,000 in the red and the plan is to pull \$50,000 from the reserves. There are no other program costs in the budget. Chris Ruf will have two contracts, one with FFC and one with HMG. We need to extend HMG for 90 days and the continuation of Chris Ruf with the Part C staff. We need to dip into the reserves to keep HMG going until the budget is determined. Pulling \$68,000 out of the reserves keeps HMG and the current FFC staff. This is one third of the reserves.
- Mike Jenks: There is an enormous level of uncertainty but it is necessary to keep the current staffing.

Betsy Simon abstained. The motion passed.

iii) Jan Manes made a motion to approve the 90 day Help Me Grow budget from July 1, 2009 to September 30, 2009. Debra Radecky seconded. Discussion on the motion:

- The budget for Help Me Grow is \$38,000 with \$18,000 coming from the Family First Council reserves. The \$20,000 will be from Part C funds.
- The budget is for minimal staff that is mandated by federal funding of Part C.
- If funding is restored, then it will be presented to Council as a new action item.

Tim Putka, Betsy Simon and Lisa Strebler abstained. The motion passed.

iv) Suzanne LeSure made a motion to approve the contract for the HMG coordinator for 90 days from July 1, 2009 to September 30, 2009. Will Koran seconded. Tim Putka and Betsy Simon abstained. The motion passed.

v) Mead Wilkins made a motion to approve a transfer of \$1,600 from the Family First Council 2009 miscellaneous fund to the 6 month HMG budget to allow Christine Ruf to continue through the end of June 2009. The demand has been tremendous on her time and this will allow her to work until June 30, 2009. Debbie Kubena-Yatsko seconded. Tim Putka and Betsy Simon abstained. The motion passed.

vi) Betsy Simon made a motion to approve the Family First Council Budget for FY 2010. Debbie Kubena-Yatsko seconded. Discussion on the motion:

- Mead Wilkins: We are operating on a deficit budget and will be able to sustain for two years as we are. This is a bare bones budget. There is some funding for the retreat but it is basically staff services.

The motion passed.

Suzanne LeSure thanked the Administrative Committee for the hard work on the motions that were brought to the table today.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. ADMINISTRATIVE

Mead Wilkins covered the Administrative Committee in the aforementioned action items.

B. FAMILY ADVISORY

Sharon Tahajod circulated sign-up sheets for the Back to School Rallies. On October 14, 2009 Family First Council's Family Advisory Committee is hosting a Resource Council lunch. Pat Robertson is spearheading it. We are working on the venue, menu and presentation of benefits to agencies for family involvement and advocacy. Anyone wishing to speak at the lunch please contact Sharon or Pat.

C. MEMBERSHIP

Judy Leuthaeuser noted the Membership Committee did not meet last month. The next meeting is July 8, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. at the Medina County District Library.

D. PUBLIC RELATIONS

Phillip Titterington announced the next Public Relations meeting on July 14, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. at Job and Family Services.

E. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Nick Solar reported that the Planning Committee met today to discuss the strategic plan. A task force will be meeting with Dale Fortner on July 23, 2009 at the Wadsworth Salvation Army to discuss the agenda for Family First Council's September 25, 2009 retreat. It was discussed in the meeting how Council goes over committee reports, but we don't talk about the difficulty in getting to that point. The next Planning Committee meeting is on July 28, 2009.

i. SUBCOMMITTEES

a. WELLNESS

In the absence of Diane Dockrill, Nick Solar reported for the Wellness Committee. The minutes from the last meeting were forwarded with the announcement of the meeting. The information is reflected in Action Item **i**.

(i.) CARETEAMS

Phillip Titterington reported that the three schools that have CareTeams are compiling a program summary and budget to provide to the Administrative Committee.

b. SENIOR FOCUS

In the absence of Sandy Calvert, Nick Solar reported for Senior Focus. Most of the six recommendation committees are up and running. Sandy is attending all of the meetings to make sure they are not duplicating work. The Safety Committee is working on the Vial of Life.

c. YOUTH ADVISORY CONSORTIUM

Jan Manes noted that the Youth Advisory Consortium met in May and June. The consortium meets the first Tuesday of the month from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Medina General Hospital.

ii. AD HOC COMMITTEES

a. BYLAWS

In the absence of Lynne Castele, Nick Solar announced the Bylaws Committee will meet on July 10, 2009 and this should be our final meeting. The final bylaws should be presented at the July Council meeting if all goes well.

b. MID-ICAT

Christine Ruf reported that Mid-ICAT held a mock case to see how our forms worked. It was an MR/DD case that affected the family and the community. The agencies at the meeting made a plan for the individual. There was support for the family, support for the individual, and law enforcement contacts. This was the first pretend trial. We are looking at confidentiality issues. In August Mid-ICAT will look at a real case. We are pre and post testing and will share the information with the Planning Committee for goals and outcomes. The last meeting started out as a mock trial but turned into a real case. Everyone did what they were supposed to do. The processes were thought out. We have met for over a year and this group is doing well. The next meeting is in July and everyone is welcome to attend.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nick Solar – At the Council meeting in May of 2009, Suzanne LeSure made a motion to send letters to individuals at CFIT thanking them for their service to Council and to Medina County. The letters were mailed out on June 18, 2009.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Debbie Kubena-Yatsko – What is the application status of the state plan that is due in July? Jayme McCourt will investigate the status of the application. (Submitter's note: The information for the report is being gathered and will be an action item for the July 2009 Council meeting.)

B. Mike Jenks – The funding cuts are affecting the most vulnerable citizens. We should be sending something to Columbus about cutting the areas of health and human services. We need to advocate for keeping the funds for our county and our services. Mike Jenks made a motion for the Chair to write a letter on Council letterhead to implore the state to address the governor to restore the funding to keep the safety net that represents the most current and need of our society. Julie King seconded. Discussion on the motion:

- Carol Andregg: We would need addresses to send letters to the state senators and the governor's office.
- Will Koran: Ron Amsted, the Governor and the Speaker of the House are all listed on the state website. Will suggests sending e-mails now as they are quicker.
- Suzanne LeSure: Are we sending letters as individuals or collectively?
- Mike Jenks: This could be as a Council member or you as an individual. Mike Jenks will forward information and e-mail addresses. Everyone needs to send something, both as organizations and individuals. Whatever you feel comfortable sending, e-mails, phone calls or letters, we need to do something.
- Debbie Kubena-Yatsko: Forward the letter to the Council members that the Council Chair is sending to the governor's office.
- Nick Solar will work with Mike Jenks on the letter.

The motion passed.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. **Judy Leuthaeuser** – The state has decreased the library's budget by 50% which equals a quarter of the budget or \$2 million in cuts.

B. **Suzanne LeSure** – Cornerstone Wellness is providing social skill training this summer. Cornerstone can take up to 20 girls and boys in a group two times a week for 1-1/2 hours. This program is for 10 to 14 year-olds with a mental health diagnosis. The groups will meet at Claggett Middle School. Cindy McQuown at Cornerstone needs the referrals immediately.

C. **Tim Putka** – Catholic Charities has moved to 740 East Washington Street, Suite E-4. The phone number is the same.

D. **Pat Geissman** – Commissioner Geissman has started a new task force for food pantries. We are working with Sandridge Foods and looking at fundraising options. The need is approximately \$100,000. Anyone that would like to serve on this committee is welcome. We would like to keep the food that Sandridge is donating (approximately 1,500 pounds a week) in Medina County. We are looking at refrigeration and to be able to utilize all of the food Sandridge has available. There are several options and it looks very promising.

E. **Betty Barlow** – The Lodi Resource Center is providing free lunches five days a week for kids. The Oaks is looking for retired nurses and teachers to help expand our services by going into the homes for high risk individuals. People need to know what services are available because as staff is reduced and programs are reduced, we need to know where we can refer individuals. The Father Initiative is promoting dads staying involved with their children. We also deal with power and control issues for men. We accept referrals from anyone that may have those issues. We do not need to have court actions for referral. If you have pregnant clients, please refer them to the Oaks. A Parent project will start on July 13, 2009 that is sponsored through Juvenile Court. The Oaks also does individual counseling.

F. **Barb Meador** – Please remind everyone that Community Action still has programs. We have Head Start, both early and pre-school, and a Mom and Dads group that meet two times a month. We have free car seats for those eligible.

G. **Debbie Kubena-Yatsko** – Medina County received an additional \$49,000 in emergency funds. The Housing Authority can assist with one month's rent, mortgage or utilities. This is targeting the newly unemployed. The funds must be spent by Oct 31, 2009. If you have clients please refer them to the Housing Authority.

H. Julie King – The United Way is sponsoring a “Stuff the Bus Campaign” this summer. There are depository boxes in Brunswick, Wadsworth and Medina. There are 700 children that will need back to school supplies and backpacks. We are hoping to supply 500. A list of supplies and locations are on the United Way web site.

I. Debra Radecky – On September 16, 2009 there will be a Lifelong Learning seminar and open house. We are looking for people to teach a one night class or ongoing classes in history, art, etc. If you have a skill to share, please do.

J. Sharon Tahajod – Ten years ago Shawn Tahajod was born. He was deathly ill and Sharon was told he probably would not survive. Shawn is now completely stable and healthy except for one leaky heart valve. Shawn is going into 4th grade, reading at 7th grade level, his math skills are at a 5th or 6th grade level and he played Beethoven at his piano recital. Council has meant a lot to the Tahajod family and Council’s work is important.

K. Lisa Strebler – The Health Department is a part of human services. We have had loss of funding for newborn home visits. We are asking the Board of Health to use the general funds to be able to continue the service for low income at-risk families in our county. These are funds raised through the levy to use as a bridge until we find grants. The dental grants will also be cut.

L. Jayme McCourt – With all of the budget cuts, there are still some projects that continue to thrive. Brunswick’s Relay for Life raised over \$100,000 for the American Cancer Society. The Kira’s Pirates team raised over \$7,500 for the event.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Debbie Kubena-Yatsko made a motion to adjourn. Pat Robertson seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m. The next meeting is July 28, 2009.

Respectfully submitted by:
Jayme McCourt