



MEDINA COUNTY FAMILY FIRST COUNCIL MINUTES OF MAY 26, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT

1.	Anderson, Jeff	Ohio Department of Youth Services
2.	Barlow, Betty	Oaks Family Care Center
3.	Castele, Lynne	Family Representative
4.	DePasquale-Hagerty, Dianne	Medina Creative Housing
5.	Dockrill, Diane	Solutions Behavioral Healthcare
6.	Grace, Debra	Wadsworth Salvation Army
7.	Hardin, Beverly	Society for Handicapped Citizens
8.	Jenks, Michael	ADAMH Board
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.	Putka, Tim	Catholic Charities
17.	Quallich, Kristine	Medina City Schools
18.	Radecky, Debra	Office for Older Adults
19.	Ray, Billy	Family Representative
20.	Robertson, Pat	Family Representative
21.	Simon, Betsy	Family Representative
22.	Solar, Nick	City of Brunswick, Chair
23.	Stepp, Randy	Medina City Schools
24.	Strebler, Lisa	Medina County Health Department
25.	Tahajod, Sharon	Family Representative
26.	Titterington, Phillip	Juvenile Court
27.	Williams, Bradford	Solutions Behavioral Healthcare, Chair-Elect

GUEST PRESENT

1.	Reed, Kellie	Family Representative Guest
----	--------------------	-----------------------------

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 AND INTRODUCTIONS

Nick Solar called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Nick thanked the University Center for allowing us to meet here. Introductions were made.

2. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Vincent DeGeorge discussed his report (copy attached to original minutes). Highlights include:

- Help Me Grow and Youth ICAT issues have been very challenging.
- Please contact your legislators on Help Me Grow issues.
- The second year of the Ohio Children's Trust Fund grants were discussed at the Wellness Committee meeting.
- Family First Council is a recipient of an award from WRAAA that will be presented on June 2, 2009. Vince distributed copies of the letter (copy attached to original minutes).
- Frances Strickland will host another forum with the Department of Education and Family First Councils today at 1:30 p.m. in Akron.

- The WIA Youth Board provided criteria for youth summer employment. If you need someone for the summer, contact Workforce Development.
- Parent advocacy continues with parent mentors and families participating in the ICAT service coordination process.

Mike Jenks requested a list of legislative individuals and who are most appropriate to send letters to. We can generate a letter so Council members can send it out.

Debbie Kubena-Yatsko asked if anyone else is attending the award ceremony. Vince noted he and Sandy Calvert will be there. If there are any other Council members attending, he will acknowledge the individuals in the room. The cost is \$95 per person.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Billy Ray made a motion to approve the minutes and committee reports. Will Koran seconded. The motion passed. Nick Solar abstained.

4. ACTION ITEM

Nick Solar announced the Administrative Committee met last week and interviewed Amy Perrine, Chris Ruf, Vince DeGeorge and John Waddell. All were asked the same five questions. The Administrative Committee was unanimous in their recommendation. Lynne Castele made a motion ***to accept the recommendation of the Administrative Committee to recommend to the Medina County Commissioners the acceptance of the proposal from Christine Ruf, as the lowest and best, for the Coordinator of Family First Council.*** Sharon Tahajod seconded.

Discussion on the motion

- Debbie Kubena-Yatsko questioned the budget and is leery of entering into a contract without the budget to review.
- Mike Jenks noted we are working with uncertainty, but there is the need to carry on the way we do business. The Administrative Committee is beginning a process to engage discussion and negotiation. He feels comfortable that it is cognizant of the reality of the situation.
- Will Koran asked "Why were the proposals not distributed to the entire Council?"
- Lynne Castele reminded Council that HB 289 states the Administrative Committee is charged with this process. We did announce that this meeting was taking place and invited anyone to attend.
- Nick Solar noted that one person other than Administrative Committee attended.
- Debbie Kubena-Yatsko asked if there will be a vote needed to approve the contract. Nick Solar stated yes.

There being no further discussion on the motion, Nick Solar called for a vote. Twenty-seven individuals were in attendance today; 21 voted yes, 1 voted no, and 5 abstained. The motion passed. The Administrative Committee will discuss a contract with Christine Ruf and it will be brought back to Council.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

i). ADMINISTRATIVE

Nick Solar noted that the Administrative Committee conducted interviews at the last meeting (see Action Item).

ii. FAMILY ADVISORY

Sharon Tahajod has the schedule for four of the Back to School Rallies. She still needs the date for Cloverleaf. Family First Council is not the lead this year. We will have a table at the rallies and assist in signing up agencies. Sharon will circulate a sign-up sheet for agencies to commit. The United Way has a "Stuff the Bus" campaign.

iii. MEMBERSHIP

Judy Leuthaeuser – none.

iv. PUBLIC RELATIONS

Phillip Titterington noted pens with the Family First Council logo are on the sign-in table. Please take one on your way out. The Public Relations Committee will meet on June 9, 2009.

v. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Nick Solar reported the Planning Committee discussed the Strategic Planning Retreat in September. A steering group will try to meet with Dale Fortner in the next few months. The First Lady will return to Akron this afternoon and several people will attend the forum.

(a) **SUBCOMMITTEES**

1. **WELLNESS**

Diane Dockrill announced the Wellness Committee met on May 1, 2009. The committee discussed the Ohio Children's Trust Fund and decided to award the same amount for the second year of the grant. Two agencies asked to keep their own bookkeeping so we divided the Wadsworth Salvation Army and Catholic Charities. The CareTeams are looked upon favorably, having gone through the PfS process, and are working efficiently. We are looking at the best direction for sustainability. The Committee is requesting reserve funds to keep the CareTeams running. We have had to postpone the request to the Administrative Committee and will reapply next month.

(i.) **CARETEAMS**

Kris Quallich reported the Sustainability Committee met and discussed the CareTeams. Wadsworth has 30 students in their program. Juvenile Court has seen a huge benefit with the CareTeams in place. This sends a message to the child that we are all on the same page. What is the expense of CareTeams? It is the inverted triangle - every agency giving a little bit but getting a lot out of it. Some resources are slated as family funds within the schools. There will be a meeting in mid-July once the budget is known. We are not branching out until we see what the funding is.

Nick Solar noted that the CareTeams were mentioned in the Planning meeting this morning. The need is there but the money is not, yet we are still collaborating. The Strategic Planning Retreat in September may make it clearer.

Debra Grace announced that one of the CareTeam students from Wadsworth spoke in front of 200 people on what the CareTeams did for him.

2. **SENIOR FOCUS**

In the absence of Sandy Calvert, Nick Solar noted the six committees set up from the recommendations are up and running.

3. **YOUTH ADVISORY CONSORTIUM**

Jan Manes discussed Help Me Grow is going to be determined by the budget at the state level. Once the budget is determined then we can move forward. At the last meeting our guest was Louise Brown from Job and Family Services. We continue to work on the YAC brochure. Once our goals and objectives are determined, then we can produce a piece that is available for people to view.

Suzanne LeSure questioned rumors there will be changes in the clinical community at the state level in child protection. Chris Ruf noted that Louise Brown did speak of new rules on what they can investigate. Suzanne inquired if they are posted anywhere. Vince DeGeorge noted that the criteria have changed. Karen Bennett would have more information. Jan Manes will investigate where the information can be found.

(b) **AD HOC COMMITTEES**

1. **BYLAWS**

Lynne Castele reported that the committee hoped to have the Bylaws done and to approve this month. Lynne thanked everyone for the questions and comments. Two items were sent to other committees to discuss changes: Membership and Administration. After meeting on June 12, 2009, we will send out the final copy - this will not be a draft. Lynne was asked to compile the rationale on how we determined the changes. Lynne and Jayme will go through and explain why we made the changes. We will look at the organizational chart from HB 289. We gave everyone two months to meet with their respective committees and submit questions or comments. Our committee is Ad-Hoc and would like to put this to rest. The Bylaws Committee has spent hours and hours reviewing the document. The three year clock starts when the Bylaws are approved. We have not thought of everything and that is what amendments are for. Thank you to everyone for their time and we hope you are happy with the product. All of the grammar and English corrections have been made. We will meet one more time (and hopefully the last time) on June 12, 2009 at the Medina Metro Housing Authority. Lynne has a copy of Roberts Rules of Order to circulate to Council members if they wish to review it.

Nick Solar thanked Lynne as she started as Chair of the Bylaws Committee in 2007 when she was Chair-Elect of Council. Then in 2008 Nick was the Chair of Bylaws. Now it is 2009 and it is back to Lynne Castele and Brad Williams as Co-Chairs of the committee.

2. MID-ICAT

Chris Ruf reported the Mid-ICAT committee met in May. The committee looked at the proposed forms, are ready to use them and the meeting on June 9, 2009 will include running through a mock Mid-ICAT case.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

i) **Suzanne LeSure** – Cornerstone Wellness association with CFIT is coming to the end. This is one of the biggest shifts in mental health care. CFIT has touched the lives of agencies in the community. Over the years they have been very helpful and did a lot for the community. Suzanne suggested writing letters to CFIT to thank them for their service over the years. Suzanne LeSure made a motion for Nick Solar, Chair of Council, write a letter to the staff and agency. Lynne Castele seconded. The motion passed. Mike Jenks will assist with the names and addresses.

ii) **Sharon Tahajod** – Who decides to cancel meetings or reschedule? Is there a process to cancel a meeting? Sometime in the future we may be affected by a flu epidemic or weather that can impact a Council meeting. Lynne Castele answered, “The Bylaws state there has to be a quorum or business cannot occur.” No action items can be approved. The Chair of Council will then make a decision to table the item.

Discussion included:

Lisa Strebler

She can share information coming from the Health Commissioner to the Chair. The H1N1 virus is a good example of how information was shared. The Health Department will be working on the issue. It was a good learning experience with this flu season.

Suzanne LeSure

Does our web site have the ability to post information as individuals to communicate about services? It would be good if we had that information.

Phillip Titterington

If you have a pandemic, is this the place to post it? Word gets around quickly. Look at e-mail for information sharing or an emergency type listing. Before we make any decisions we need to look if this is the place to have it.

Mike Jenks

In an emergency the leadership models are put into effect.

Nick Solar

If the power is out then it eliminates e-mail. We can invite Buck Adams to a Council meeting to discuss how we can integrate with the County's plan.

Lisa Strebler

Agrees with the idea of bringing Buck Adams in to discuss this. Depending on the scale of things, the Emergency Operation Center would be the hub.

Kris Quallich

The schools across the county are not coordinated for an emergency plan and it would be nice to be coordinated with the county.

Lisa Strebler

There is no information on who is closing. This issue needs conversation.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

i) **Pat Robertson** – \$20,000 was cut from the Commissioner's budget to the Medina County Historical Society.

ii) **Sharon Tahajod** – The United Way of Medina County is sponsoring a “Stuff the Bus” campaign from June 21 – August 21, 2009 to collect school supplies. If you know of a business that would like to have a donation box or put up a poster, contact the United Way.

iii) **Betty Barlow** – The Oaks Family Care Center is offering sessions for men and women with power and control issues. There are also groups for women in relationships and invisible bonds.

iv) **Diane DePasquale-Hagerty** – The ribbon cutting for our facility at Reagan Parkway and Huntington will be on June 29, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

v) **Kellie Reed** – Thank you to everyone for welcoming her to this group.

vi) **Debra Grace** – Thanks to Sharon Tahajod for continuing to do sign ups for the rallies. The Wadsworth Salvation Army will have car seat checks and the Benefit Bank at their rally.

vii) **Judy Leuthaeuser** – The schools are out and it is a busy times for the libraries around the county. Library Live Newsletters are not being published in the Gazette but will be in grocery stores and various buildings around the county.

viii) **Jeff Anderson** – An Ohio Department of Youth Services staff member was killed last month. This is the first staff member to be killed by a youth in 28 years. The youth was charged last week. This is a sad situation and our institutions are very chaotic. There will be a motorcycle rally on June 14, 2009 in Akron, for William Hesson's family. He has three children and one on the way.

ix) **Nick Solar** – Thanked everyone and the citizens of Brunswick for their support. Nick thanked Jayme for setting up the room as it was set up classroom style. After the Family Advisory Committee meeting it needs to be arranged as we found it.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Debbie Kubena-Yatsko made a motion to adjourn. Kris Quallich seconded. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Jayme McCourt