

**Medina County Family First Council  
Meeting Minutes  
November 25, 2008**

**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, Chair
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. Johnston, Charlie ..... CFIT
14. King, Julie ..... United Way of Medina County
15. Koran, William ..... Medina County ESC
16. Kubena-Yatsko, Debbie ..... Medina Metro Housing
17. Leuthaeuser, Judy ..... Medina County Library
18. Lohn, John..... Medina County Juvenile Court Judge
19. McGuire, Beth..... Hospice of Medina County
20. Meador, Barbara..... Community Action
21. Putka, Tim ..... Catholic Charities
22. Quallich, Kristine..... Medina City Schools
23. Radecky, Debra..... Office for Older Adults
24. Ray, Billy ..... Family Representative
25. Robertson, Pat..... Family Representative
26. Schreiber, Kim ..... Family Representative
27. Shema, Timothy ..... Domestic Relations Court
28. Simon, Betsy ..... Family Representative
29. Solar, Nick ..... City of Brunswick, Chair-Elect
30. Strebler, Lisa ..... Medina County Health Department
31. Tahajod, Sharon ..... Family Representative
32. Titterington, Phillip ..... Juvenile Court
33. Wilkins, Mead ..... Medina County Job and Family Services

**GUESTS PRESENT**

1. Carmon, Gail ..... Alternative Paths
2. Green, Steve ..... Medina Creative Accessibility/Medina Creative Housing

**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**

Lynne Castele called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made. The Membership Committee collected the ballots for tallying. The slate announcement will be under the Membership report.

**2. ELEEMOSYNARY (CHRISTMAS) PROJECT – FAMILY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Pat Robertson thanked everyone for the checks and gifts and helping make the holiday special for the families. Family First Council adopted.

**3. MEDINA COUNTY SCHOOLS' ESC 2008 OESCA AWARD**

Will Koran announced that the OESCA recognizes someone from each County who makes a significant contribution to the schools. The recipient of this year's award is Vincent DeGeorge. Will Koran read the recommendation letter (copy attached to original minutes) and re-presented the award to Vince for Council's benefit.

**4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Vince DeGeorge distributed and discussed the Executive Director's Report (copy attached to original minutes).

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Debbie Kubena-Yatsko made a motion to approve the minutes and committee reports. Pat Robertson seconded. The motion passed. Judge Lohn abstained.

**6. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. APPROVE AMENDMENT TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES AND HELP ME GROW CONTRACT**

Carol Andregg made a motion to approve the amendment to the Catholic Charities and Help Me Grow contract (increased by \$4,835 for one staff member for family health benefits). Kris Quallich seconded. The motion passed. Mike Jenks, Judge Lohn, Tim Putka, and Betsy Simon abstained.

**B. APPROVE HELP ME GROW BUDGET**

Diane Dockrill made a motion to approve the Help Me Grow Budget (with above amendment and decreased general revenue funds). Debra Grace seconded. The motion passed. Mike Jenks, Judge Lohn, Tim Putka, and Betsy Simon abstained.

**C. APPROVE CHANGE OF FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30 EFFECTIVE 2010**

Will Koran made a motion to approve the change of fiscal year period ending June 30 effective July 1, 2009. Lisa Strebler seconded. The motion passed. Judge Lohn abstained.

**D. APPROVE CY 2009 FFC BUDGET FOR 6 MONTHS**

Debbie Kubena-Yatsko made a motion to approve the Calendar Year 2009 FFC Budget for 6 months. Kris Quallich seconded.

Discussion on the motion included:

- Funding from agencies.
- ICAT funds.
- HMG contribution of funds to FFC.
- Strategic plan funds.
- Teen pregnancy prevention funds.
- Mandates from the state.
- Reserve funds.
- Funding from OFCF.

The motion passed. Judge Lohn abstained.

**7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. ADMINISTRATIVE**

Mead Wilkins reported that the committee discussed the action items brought forth today.

**B. FAMILY ADVISORY**

Sharon Tahajod announced that Lynne Castele and Amy Dell'Anno will be Parent Mentors for NAMI. There is an extensive training and participation process to be a parent advocate. Pat Robertson thanked everyone for their generosity on behalf of the families that FFC adopted for the holidays. Pat will have a full accounting report at the January meeting.

**C. MEMBERSHIP**

Beth McGuire announced the outcome of the annual election. Welcome to Gail Carmon and Michelle LaMar as our newest members of Council. Nick Solar is now our Chair and Brad Williams is our Chair-Elect. The Membership Committee requested that the Bylaws Committee look at term limits. After review of the members, they were found to be equally distributed by term. The committees need to tighten up monitoring of attendance at meetings. Chairs of committees should alert the Executive Director to speak with individuals who are not attending meetings. This step should be taken before any formal action. It is imperative that attendance be taken and submitted to Jayme McCourt. The Bylaws Committee also clarified member designee and voting. A member can participate, count for attendance and vote. Sending a designee doesn't count for attendance and they are not eligible to vote. Judy

Leuthaeuser will be the chair of the Membership Committee for 2009. The next meeting is Wednesday, January 14, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. at the Medina Library.

**D. PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Phillip Titterington announced that there is no meeting in December. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 13, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. at Job and Family Services.

**E. PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Lynne Castele announced the date of the Strategic Planning Retreat is September 25, 2009. Save the date!

**i. SUBCOMMITTEES**

**a. WELLNESS**

Diane Dockrill reported that the Wellness Committee met in October and approved the request for funding that is being submitted to the Commissioners. The committee will be meeting on Friday, December 5 at the Human Services Center.

**b. SENIOR FOCUS**

Lynne Castele announced that Joyce Giles chose not to reapply to Council. She was Chair of Senior Focus and was on Council for 12 years. We wish her the best. Congratulations to Sandy Calvert for sitting on the Governor's Senior Civic Engagement Council.

Sandy Calvert thanked Mike Jenks for helping us achieve a continuation grant from the Older Ohioans Behavioral Health Network. Cindy McQuown and Sandy Calvert presented data from the 2008 Screen Ohio's Seniors at the All Ohio Counselors Conference. Sandy and Cindy have been asked to present the data from the Screen Ohio's Seniors Grant at the Older Ohioans Behavioral Health Network annual meeting in December. The Senior Civic Engagement Council met last week in Columbus to discuss Governor Strickland's executive order creating the Council. The Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging is planning their first conference on June 3, 2009. The Senior Needs Assessment Survey is on the FFC website. Dr. Jackie Kirby-Wilkins and Sandy met to discuss a regional approach to grant writing.

**c. YOUTH ADVISORY CONSORTIUM**

Chris Ruf announced that September and October 2008 Consortium minutes were distributed with the other reports. The official name decided upon is "Youth Advisory Consortium" (YAC). The consortium is looking at issues from prenatal to age 18. The next meeting is December 2, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

**ii. AD HOC COMMITTEES**

**a. BYLAWS**

Nick Solar reported that the Bylaws Committee met on November 14, 2008. Our next meeting is December 12, 2008. At that time we will have completed our first review of the current bylaws. The committee will look at the recommendations from other committees. Then we will present the draft bylaws to the chairs of the committees and then look at approving the document.

**b. MID-CAT**

Chris Ruf noted that Mid-Cat did not meet in November. The next meeting is at 10:00 a.m. on December 9, 2008 at the Library. At that meeting we will be looking at formatting the forms and whom to refer.

**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. MEDIATION PROCESS**

Chris Ruf noted that the family involved with the mediation that Vince discussed in his report is requesting more than what MR/DD can give. HMG is in the middle of the mediation process. A group met for 6 hours and could not come to a consensus of what to do. We do have a tentative plan in place and are waiting for the state to approve. It may stop the family going forward with administrative dispute. The child will turn 3 in February 2009 and will then be referred to the public school system. Many hours were put into this mediation process. HGM can't go into specialized services. Vince DeGeorge stressed that we cannot discuss the essence of the issues of the case because of confidentiality laws in reference to mediation. A fair deal was negotiated and could have been more costly. This was the best solution possible.

**B. INPUT ON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S EVALUATION**

Lynne Castele reiterated to Council that last month she asked for information and for input on the Executive Director's performance in his capacity. The Administrative Committee is meeting on December 8, 2008 to look at his contract. This information is needed no later than December 5, 2008.

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**10. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**A. Debbie Kubena-Yatsko** – The Housing Authority is looking to hire an accountant who must be degreed and have experience in government or non-profit accounting. The Housing Authority was awarded a state grant for emergency funding beginning on January 1, 2009.

**B. Judge Lohn** – There has been a 36% decrease in juvenile court felony cases. This is due to the collaborative effort of Family First Council and its members and by everyone banding together working towards the common goal. We have an outstanding juvenile court program. Thank you to Philip Titterington for all of his efforts.

**C. Betty Barlow** – She has seen teen pregnancy rates rising and older adult male offender rates are rising too.

**D. Sharon Tahajod** – Thank you to everyone who participated in the Christmas project.

**E. Philip Titterington** – Thank you to Judge Lohn for the kind words. Eighty-eight Build-A-Bears were made with 20 staff members and 21 youths participating.

**F. Nick Solar** – Thank you to the Family Advisory Committee and to Pat Robertson for coordinating the Christmas project. This is Lynne Castele's last Council meeting as chair. Thank you for the mentoring for the last 11 months.

**G. Lynne Castele** – This was her last official meeting as Council chair. Her official duties end on December 30, 2008. Thank you to everyone for their help. Lynne wished the best of luck to Nick and his leadership for the coming year. He will do a wonderful job.

**H. Vince DeGeorge** – Vince noted that one of the great things that he gets to do in serving as Executive Director is working with diverse individuals. Their values for families linked Lynne and Vince together and fitted very well. He enjoyed working with Lynne over the past year. Vince presented a plaque and a book "The Meaning of Life" to Lynne. The book has excerpts on what life is truly all about: keeping our families first.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted by:

Jayne McCourt