

**Medina County Family First Council
Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2008**

MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Anderson, Jeff..... Ohio Department of Youth Services
2. Barlow, Betty..... Oaks Family Care Center
3. Calvert, Sandy Hands Foundation
4. Castele, Lynne..... Family Representative, Chair
5. Dell'Anno, Amy Family Representative
6. DePasquale-Hagerty, Dianne..... Medina Creative Housing
7. Giles, Joyce Medina General Hospital
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. LeSure, Suzanne Cornerstone Wellness
18. Leuthaeuser, Judy Medina County Library
19. Lohn, John Medina County Juvenile Court Judge
20. McGuire, Beth..... Hospice of Medina County
21. Quallich, Kristine..... Medina City Schools
22. Radecky, Debra Office for Older Adults
23. Ray, Billy Family Representative
24. Robertson, Pat..... Family Representative
25. Schreiber, Kim Family Representative
26. Shema, Timothy Domestic Relations Court
27. Simon, Betsy..... Family Representative
28. Solar, Nick City of Brunswick, Chair-Elect
29. Strebler, Lisa..... Medina County Health Department
30. Tahajod, Sharon Family Representative
31. Titterington, Phillip Juvenile Court
32. Williams, Bradford Solutions Behavioral Healthcare

GUESTS PRESENT

1. Carmon, Gail..... Alternative Paths
2. Rainey, Jennifer..... Family Representative

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 9:05 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made.

2. ELEEMOSYNARY (CHRISTMAS) PROJECT – FAMILY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Pat Robertson announced that the Family Advisory Committee and Family First Council have adopted three families for the holidays this year. Please review the circulating list and consider donating a gift. An

envelope is attached for cash or checks (make checks payable to "Medina County Family First Council"). The preference for wrapping and tagging the gifts is indicated on the sheets. Please bring what you promised to the next Family First meeting on November 25, 2008.

3. PRESENTATION – FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SURVEY RESULTS

Lynne Castele presented a Power Point slide show about the Family Engagement Survey (copy of the presentation attached to original minutes). If you wish a copy of the presentation please contact Jayme McCourt and she will e-mail it to you. Regional meetings were in September and October and more data is being input for the final report on strategies and implementation of a Family Engagement Center.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Vince DeGeorge distributed and discussed the Executive Director's Report (copy attached to original minutes). In order to accommodate a request from the Administrative committee, the report was revamped and is broken down by three priorities designated from Family and Children First Council at the state level.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. ADMINISTRATIVE

On behalf of Mead Wilkins, Phillip Titterington reported that the Administrative committee discussed the CY2009 budget proposal and the Help Me Grow budget update.

B. FAMILY ADVISORY

See item 2 - Eleemosynary (Christmas) Project.

C. MEMBERSHIP

Beth McGuire reported that the Membership committee finalized the ballot for 2009. The ballot will be emailed to Council after today's meeting. Be prepared to vote at the next meeting or submit your sealed ballot to Beth before the next meeting. The next Membership meeting will be November 12, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. at the Robertson Bereavement Center. Discussion will include the Bylaws Committee recommendations and the Council's election process.

D. PUBLIC RELATIONS

Phillip Titterington announced the following:

- Phillip unveiled the new logo that was conceptualized at the last meeting. The color blue is to be consistent with the web site.
- The committee is working on a cable television show with the assistance of Nick Solar. The first guest will be Vincent DeGeorge and will be formatted as a question and answer session about Family First Council. The committee will distribute tapes of the show to the regional stations in Medina County for broadcast.
- We continue to work on the web site and need more data for the sharing page.
- The committee is working on "branding" and will be developing materials soon.
- We are reviewing the letterhead of Family First, Help Me Grow and Senior ICAT.

E. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Lynne Castele noted that the committee is reviewing the OFCF Cabinet Council, First Lady's 88 County FCFC Visit, Prioritized Challenges and Issues, July 2008 report. Some recurring themes are being noted by several counties. Our Council needs to prioritize three short-term and three long-term goals by December 15, 2008. The committee identified some needs and goals and will continue to review it at the November meeting. Superintendent Dale Fortner will be our guest at the November 25, 2008 Planning meeting to discuss the Strategic Planning retreat in September of 2009.

i. a. WELLNESS

On behalf of Diane Dockrill, Vince DeGeorge reported that the Wellness committee finalized a proposal to the Medina County Commissioners requesting \$28,625 for the 2009 budget for teen pregnancy prevention and CareTeam after school programming. Ohio Children's Trust Fund grant reports are due in December. The programs are continuing, but with a limited budget.

i. a. (1) CARETEAMS

Kris Quallich of the Medina City Schools announced that Cornerstone Wellness is partnering with the Medina CareTeam. The next sustainability meeting is Friday, October 31, 2008. Between the two middle schools, Medina is serving about 40 students.

Debra Grace of Wadsworth Salvation Army, announced that the Wadsworth CareTeam is also up and running. Funding is through CFIT, Wadsworth Salvation Army and the Wadsworth City Schools. Wadsworth is operating the same as last year and is serving about 40 children.

i. b. SENIOR FOCUS

Sandy Calvert announced the following:

- The Senior Needs Assessment is complete. The survey will be posted on the Family First web site by the end of the week (www.familyfirstmedina.org).
- The Director of Senior Programming at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) is interested in providing services to Medina County. Tri-C has plans for a building in Brunswick. Sandy is on the Strategic Planning Committee for this endeavor.
- Sandy has been selected to serve on the Governor's Senior Civic Engagement Council.
- Senior Focus was not selected for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Grant.
- Senior Focus has applied for an older Ohioan grant through the ADAMH Board.
- The HANDS Foundation web site will go live in the next few weeks. There will be modules on substance abuse in later life and educational pieces on older adult issues.

Questions raised were "Who will address the senior issues?" and "What role will Family First Council play in the senior needs?" Senior Focus is currently working on recommendation 4 and 6. Vince DeGeorge noted that we have good coalitions in place now. Senior Focus will look at the survey and advise Council. Joyce Giles also noted that there are collaboration efforts in Medina County at this time.

i. c. YOUTH ADVISORY CONSORTIUM

Lisa Strebler noted the following:

- There was a Youth Advisory Consortium meeting on October 7, 2009.
- The consortium spent time talking about its structure.
- Discussion at the meeting included how to encourage others to participate and incentives for participation.
- Survey/focus group/data collection note concerns about changes in economic conditions.
- Numbers are increasing of people seeking services and first time seekers of services.
- Planning for Head Start.
- There are Ohio Department of Health budget cuts.
- We will continue to look at the challenges of continuing the Clinic with budget cuts.
- Factors include how successful the Health Department's levy is.
- The next meeting will be November 4, 2008.
- The committee is working on getting the minutes for publication when the others are distributed for the Family First Council meetings.

Chris Ruf noted the following:

- Help Me Grow's (HMG) General Revenue Funds (GRF) was reduced by \$4,800. GRF funds pay for newborn home visits.
- \$4,800 will be reduced from the HMG contribution to the FFC Administrative funds.

- Draft policies were received and are now going to public forum. Draft policies are on the HMG State web site. Funds are being reduced but we are expected to do more. Chris will go to the public hearings.
- Effective 11-1-08 the new rules go into effect. Children who are determined to have a delay must have a 25% delay or 1.5 Standard Deviation to qualify for Part C services. HMG is required to use new tools by either the Bayley or Battelle method to determine eligibility. Medina has decided to use the Battelle.
- HMG is working with Cornerstone Wellness. HMG has families that present with a multitude of problems (not just the children). HMG is asking families if they wish to have someone come in to talk to them.

ii. a. BYLAWS

Nick Solar reported that the Bylaws committee met on October 17, 2008. The review continues to be an ongoing process. We are going on a year of review and are still moving forward. We have received requests from other committees which has us re-reviewing certain portions of the bylaws. Once the draft is completed, we will present it to the committee chairs for review. Thank you to Jayme McCourt for note taking and providing a working document every month noting the changes. Our next meeting is November 14, 2008.

ii. b. MID-CAT

Christine Ruf reported that the Mid-Cat committee met on October 14, 2008. The committee is looking at the needs and resources available for this age range. The committee worked on team members, forms, who will receive the forms and the criteria for referral. The committee is making good progress. Our next meeting is on December 9, 2008 at the Medina Library.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Questions were raised on the senior survey results and what does Family First Council want to do next.

- Groups that meet will move forward regardless of FFC's involvement. There is a lack of money available as every agency and school is being hit. It is a lot of work but we will move forward. We need to find better ways to serve our county and fine tune the resources to the community. What is a cost effective alternative? Share the data on what is collected.
- There is no money for Mid-Cat but that group wants to move forward. We don't want families going agency to agency looking for information when the resources are not there.
- Pick one or two items to work on and significantly make a difference in this county. United Way is looking at senior issues. Pick one - not the whole list.
- FFC is not in a position to fund programs, but it doesn't mean they don't support the programs. There are other ways besides funding. The Bylaws is based on the support of programs.
- Policy needs to change at the state level. If FFC is to be more lifespan driven then continue to advocate.
- The HANDS Foundation is not based by state mandates and is in a position to find resources. Who in the end will own it? Who will follow up on the recommendations? Seniors are 1 in 5 of the population of Ohio. The current Ohio administration has placed an importance on senior issues. The Office of Aging is now on the Cabinet of FCFC.
- Ask Senior Focus what they want from FFC.
- Present to Planning for discussion.
- Make it part of the Strategic Plan for 2010.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Lynne Castele noted that at the beginning of the year Council made a motion to be part of the review process of the Executive Director. There will be a meeting in December to look at the approval of the contract for 2009. We are looking at vehicles to provide feedback. E-mail or US mail your input by December 1, 2008 to Lynne Castele. Lynne will collate the data for the upcoming meeting. All data will remain anonymous. Jayme McCourt will e-mail the deliverables to FFC, so you know what it is that was asked of Vince.

9. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- A. **Chris Ruf** – Please sign up for a day of bell ringing for the Medina Salvation Army.
- B. **Beth McGuire** – She presented “Utilizing Outcome Measurement for Bereaved Children” to the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO). We utilized developmental assets and outcome measurement data we collected for the last 7 years. November is National Hospice month.
- C. **Judy Leuthaeuser** – VOTE!
- D. **Pat Robertson** – Thank you for signing up on the list for the Christmas project.
- E. **Julie King** – The United Way is involved with Financial Stability Partnership. Ohio Saves is geared towards building and retaining assets for families. The project will offer financial planning. The Medina Saves Kickoff will be on November 13, 2008 at the Medina Library. If every family saved \$300 for an emergency, our agencies would not be overwhelmed. A Medina Saves Pledge card makes it a personal responsibility. United Way is partnering with neighboring housing services to provide home foreclosure prevention services. Call 330-764-HOME (4663). JFS had to discontinue funding for 211 and we are looking for funding to continue the service. Thank you to MMHA for their assistance in funding 211 this year.
- F. **Amy Dell’Anno** – Asked for guidance to approaching area business for funding for an after school club for social skills. A suggestion was to try big box stores.
- G. **Lisa Strebler** – Flu shots are available at the Health Department. Please vote for the Health Department levy.
- H. **Phillip Titterington** – Juvenile Court’s second annual Build-A-Bear will be held on November 5, 2008. We are making about 88 bears for distribution.
- I. **Debra Grace** – Wadsworth Salvation Army is gearing up for their annual Red Kettle Campaign. The Salvation Army commissioned a local artist for 200 signed and numbered lithographs that will be sold for about \$75. Christmas cards are available with the same design at 5 for \$10. E-mail Debra Grace and she will send you a photo of the painting. The Wadsworth Salvation Army will be hosting a silent auction.
- J. **Sienna Jackson** – Thank you for signing up to ring the bell in Medina for the Medina Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign.
- K. **William Koran** – Please vote for the Medina Schools levy.
- L. **Dianne DePasquale-Hagerty** – Medina Creative Housing has broken ground at Reagan Parkway and Huntington Road on a 16 unit HUD 811 Supportive Living for Individuals with Disabilities housing project. All units are filled and there is a waiting list. Medina Creative Housing will be building an 8 HUD 811 unit in Brunswick scheduled to start in late spring 2009. Brunswick High & Middle Schools bring their MH Classes to Medina Creative Housing’s Life Skills Training Center in Brunswick for life skills training. Medina Creative Housing has started an alternative After School Latchkey Program for children with disabilities at the Life Skills Center which is from 2-7 pm five days a week. The program will be offered on days off from school as well. The program offers flexible scheduling for families. Participants work on social skills, life skills and homework. Thank you for adopting a Medina Creative Housing family for the holiday.
- M. **Sharon Tahajod** – Voting is very powerful. Please be informed, careful and considerate on whom you vote on. Your voice counts so take it seriously.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Joyce Giles made a motion to adjourn. Pat Robertson seconded. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Jayme McCourt