

**Medina County Family First Council  
Planning Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, April 28, 2009**

**Attending:** Sandy Calvert, Lynne Castele, Vincent DeGeorge, Diane Dockrill, Debra Grace, Julie King, Suzanne LeSure, Judy Leuthaeuser, Debra Radecky, Christine Ruf, Phillip Titterington, Mead Wilkins, and Brad Williams

Brad Williams welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:40 a.m. Mead Wilkins made a motion to approve the minutes from March 24, 2009. Debra Grace seconded. The motion passed. Judy Leuthaeuser abstained.

**1. Strategic Planning Retreat**

Lynne Castele confirmed that the retreat will be on September 25, 2009 at the Western Reserve Masonic Community and Dale Fortner will be the facilitator. The Planning Committee needs to think about forming a task force to work on the retreat.

Discussion:

- Do we invite outside people?
- Community partners?
- School people?
- There is concern that the group is getting too large.
- The groups need to be manageable and workable.
- Outside people can bring things to the table that can benefit Council.
- Some individuals do not relate to what Council does that affects others in the community.
- The Library had community assessments and they asked individuals to advise the Library, but when planning was done it was with internal staff only. This can be too large if we invite outside people.
- When PFS was initiated we had core people then expanded it to outside people.
- Historically it was only Council and the Commissioners at planning retreats.
- Dale Fortner would facilitate whichever way we wish to pursue.
- It is important for us to narrow down what he wants us to do.

Mead Wilkins made a motion that only Family First Council members attend the Strategic Planning Retreat. Diane Dockrill seconded. The motion passed.

Mead Wilkins also noted that it is the Planning Committee's charge to pull it all together. What do you want to have in terms of food? Continental breakfast with fruit, muffins, bagel, coffee, juice. Lunch could be sandwiches and salads and ice cream for an afternoon treat. Jayme McCourt will explore pricing on the food.

Discussion:

- Dale Fortner's services should be about \$500.
- Should we revisit the mission statement?  
*The Medina County Family First Council is dedicated to supporting and strengthening families by providing or facilitating family-centered, coordinated, community-based, preventive and comprehensive services that identify and respond to health, human, and social service needs of Medina County families.*
- How are we going to take the pieces and parts and put them all together?
- Focus on what to do with what money is left.
- The Mission Statement should reflect what to do, not budgetary issues.
- Given the current funding climate, what are the top current risks?  
Help Me Grow for at-risk children and troubled youth at ICAT.
- The children that we serve and schools need to be involved.
- Organize the day by youth, mid and senior (Dale does that by breaking into groups).
- Dale received a great deal of information on Family First Council and he reviewed the material before he participated in the November 2008 Planning Meeting.
- There are lots of things happening and we need to encourage collaboration.
- Youth Advisory Consortium fits more with Help Me Grow rather than ICAT.
- Continuum of services.
- Wellness and prevention.
- Age groups but spectrum of services to the groups.

The group came to consensus that:

- We will not revisit Lifespan.
- Focus on what is left.
- Then break into groups focusing on youth, mid, and senior services.
- Obtain objectives for the next three years.

Julie King noted that the United Way has an action step document and we need to have who will be responsible for each step in Council's final document. Committees should be driven by the action step. Funding agencies will be in the room and you should be cautious on what you do. We need to agree on what is a doable number. Should we concentrate on one major thing? No one will want to let go of his or her favorite projects.

A suggestion was made that we have a few individuals serve on a steering committee and meet with Dale rather than the entire Planning Committee to prepare for the retreat. The following individuals volunteered for this: Vince DeGeorge, Chris Ruf, Debbra Grace, Sandy Calvert, Diane Dockrill (if available), Julie King and a Family Representative (which will be brought up at the Family Advisory meeting today). Submitters note: Betsy Simon was selected at the Family Advisory Committee meeting later that morning. The meeting can be held at the Salvation Army in Wadsworth. Jayme McCourt will coordinate the meeting.

## **2. Bylaws**

Lynne Castele reminded the committee members that the Bylaws Committee distributed a draft copy so it could be discussed within your individual committees. At this point, only the Membership Committee submitted changes. The Bylaws Committee will assume that if you do not respond to Jayme McCourt by May 1, 2009, then you are happy with the bylaws and the changes. The Bylaws Committee will present the final rendition of the Bylaws at the May 26, 2009 Council meeting. The organizational chart that corresponds with the changes will be presented at that time also. Please remind your members on your committees that we need the input. A vote will be taken at the May Council meeting to accept the changes.

## **3. Mrs. Strickland and the State Meeting**

Vince DeGeorge reported that he attended a state meeting on Friday, April 24, 2009. One of the topics of discussion was Help Me Grow. Mrs. Strickland was in attendance and discussion included the education plan and seven items of interest.

1. Strengthen Commitment to Education
2. Link Education to Prosperity and Social Well-being
3. Build on Strengths Within School Districts
4. Consult Creative Teachers to Enhance Teaching Collaboration
5. Personalize Student Education
6. Assessment That Guides Education – Evaluation and Outcome
7. Community Involvement and Engaged Parents as Partners

Most of the Executive Directors of Family and Children First Councils do not have the information. In the near future, Mrs. Strickland will have forums on the education plan. Invited to the forums will be five people from the schools including the superintendent from the largest district and the other superintendent who is on Council. Other invitees will be Council members from education and community relations. Some of these forums have already been held in other counties. Our Council needs to identify five individuals, not including Will Koran or Randy Stepp because they are already invited as part of the schools. Careteams, community engagement and service coordination are a good way to engage the schools and expanding some of the initiatives we've organized through the PFS process. The former belief that a family engagement person would be in each school is not accurate. This may be based on an allocation level per school on students who are on free or reduced lunches. Funding will be based on poverty levels. These issues will be discussed at this forum. Vince will keep Council apprised of any updates that are received.

## **4. Adjournment**

Mead Wilkins made a motion to adjourn. Diane Dockrill seconded. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Jayme McCourt