

**Medina County Family First Council
Planning Committee Meeting
January 27, 2009**

Attending: Lynne Castele, Vincent DeGeorge, Diane Dockrill, Debra Grace, Suzanne LeSure, Judy Leuthaeuser, Debra Radecky, Christine Ruf, Nick Solar, Phillip Titterington, Mead Wilkins, and Bradford Williams.

Nick Solar welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:40 a.m. Debra Grace made a motion to approve the minutes from November 25, 2008. Debra Radecky seconded. The motion passed.

1. First Lady's Family and Children First Council Regional Forum – Vincent DeGeorge

Frances Strickland, the First Lady of Ohio, visited eighty-eight Family and Children First Councils in 2007. The Ohio Family and Children First staff compiled information on how individual counties operate and how they incorporate family engagement. This is the second round of visits by Mrs. Strickland. The visits are set up by region and there are five counties in our region: Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, and Wayne. The meeting will be March 4, 2009 in the afternoon with the location to be determined. We have been asked to invite up to six people to participate in this forum. The copy of the e-mail and supporting documentation is attached to the original minutes. The names need to be submitted by January 30, 2009

The individuals that are slated to participate are: Vincent DeGeorge, Christine Ruf, Debra Grace, Nick Solar and Mead Wilkins. A Family Representative will be determined at the Family Advisory meeting after the Family First Council meeting. (Submitters note: At the conclusion of the Family Advisory Committee meeting, it was determined that Betsy Simon would be the Family Representative attending. The following day, Mead Wilkins noted that he cannot attend on the date specified. Randy Stepp was invited and has accepted the invitation.)

Discussion included:

- Cuts in funding from the state.
- Collaboration.
- No duplication of services.
- Medina County addresses issues locally.
- Social Security and Disability.
- Private not-for-profits are used regularly.
- One of our priorities is lifespan.

Some of the regional forums will have taken place before the next Planning Committee meeting in February. We can discuss how the forums were structured and what we can expect at our regional meeting.

2. Strategic Plan – Nick Solar

Nick Solar announced that the Strategic Planning Retreat is less than nine months away. Please note to save the date on September 25, 2009 and keep getting the word out at Council meetings. Jayme McCourt will send an e-mail to cancel the Family First Council meeting on September 22, 2009 and make September 25, 2009 a regular Council meeting plus the Strategic Planning Retreat.

Jayme McCourt was in contact with the Western Reserve Masonic Community regarding logistics of the day and meals for the retreat. Diane Dockrill offered to be the food consultant for the event. Jayme will contact Dale Fortner for his recommendations for room set up. We will wait until after the snow melts to visit the facility so we can adequately plan for the event.

Food suggestions were:

- Bagels, pastries, juice, coffee, tea, and water for continental breakfast.
- Afternoon beverage.
- Coffee and/or liquids available thorough the day.
- Dessert at the afternoon break.

Discussion on the event included:

- Where the actual strategic plan will be in the process.
- We will come out of the meeting with some kind of document from Dale Fortner.
- We need to provide to the state a Strategic Plan for 2010.
- Reviewed the prior month's minutes and discussed options.
- Funding.
- Provide strategic plan to members via e-mail.
- Invitation list.

3. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted by,
Jayme McCourt