

**Medina County Family First Council
Planning Committee Meeting
September 23, 2008**

Attending: Lynne Castele, Vince DeGeorge, Diane Dockrill, Joyce Giles, Debra Grace, Jan Manes, Beth McGuire, Debra Radecky, Christine Ruf, Nick Solar, and Mead Wilkins

Guest: Allison Gemzer

Lynne Castele welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:40 a.m.

1. Approval of the minutes from August 26, 2008

Debra Grace made a motion to approve the minutes from August 26, 2008. Joyce Giles seconded. The motion passed. Beth McGuire abstained.

2. Medina Recreation Center for Family First Council Meetings

Lynne Castele explained that in the hopes of attracting families with small children, the Family Advisory Committee has requested that Family First Council investigate holding our monthly meetings somewhere where babysitting could be provided. Jayme McCourt contacted the Medina Recreational Center and inquired about pricing for meeting rooms. The membership rental for the largest room is \$35 for members or \$70 for non-members, per hour. For a five hour rental it is cost prohibitive. It is not a viable option to move our meetings to the Recreation Center. Discussion ensued on babysitting and the requests from family reps. We are looking at current needs and future needs for babysitting so parents can attend the meetings. Mead Wilkins suggested considering having the child go to a private home or childcare center with a voucher to provide day care and reimburse for the provider for the time. Lynne Castele will speak with our Family Reps about these options.

3. Strategic Planning Retreat for Fall 2009

a. Budget

The budget allocated is \$4,000.

b. Location

Joyce Giles contacted the Western Reserve Masonic Community. Pricing would be about \$11 to \$13 per person for breakfast and lunch. We would need to provide them with dates very soon so that we can reserve the room. The room is classroom style and parking is not an issue. Western Reserve supplies all of the A/V equipment except for a laptop. There is no charge for the room if they provide the food. Joyce will inquire about September 25, 2009 and September 18, 2009 and an alternative breakfast menu.

c. Facilitator and Program

Debra Grace spoke with Dale Fortner about being the facilitator for the Strategic Planning Retreat. Dale is very willing to work with us. Debra will check with him on the dates and coordinate with Joyce on the room reservation. Debra will also speak with Dale about being there the full day and inquire about a stipend.

Lynne Castele distributed information on Wholonomy Consulting (copy attached to original minutes). Some Family Representatives have worked with this firm. They were a consultant at the Family Engagement Meeting in Hudson on September 17, 2008. They provide from an asset perspective, strength based strategic planning. They would work with our budget if we are interested. Janice Houchins

would like to be invited if we work with this consulting firm. The advantage to an outside firm is that they are objective and have no personal agenda.

Discussion and questions ensued on the program for the day and who should be invited to attend:

- Make the meeting in September as our regular meeting?
- 8:30 a.m. begin time. Registration 8:00 a.m. and go to 4:30 p.m.
- Would only council members be invited?
- 30-40 people attending.
- Pay speaker for travel expenses.
- Need goals and objectives.
- We want a document to come out of there that we will work with for the next few years.
- Follow the PfS process?
- Do we know what we are looking for?
- Strengths and positives and not getting into the negativity.
- What can we do short term and long term.
- Need to provide direction to the facilitator.
- Approach it differently than prior years.
- Need to consider what our obstacles are.
- Need someone that can control a group and not go off on a tangent.
- Keep on track and on a positive note, no negativity.
- What gaps are out there that Family First Council can fill?
- Facilitator would have to look at the previous plan.
- Need clear expectations on what we are asking the facilitator to do.
- What worked, what didn't work and move forward from there.
- Look at methodology.
- Do we invite the commissioners?
- Do we invite a business person?
- Do we invite the schools? Trying to involve the schools so invite the schools.
- Invite the superintendents? If Dale is facilitating, the superintendents might be there.
- Leadership Medina? Invite Lucy Sondells, the Executive Director of Leadership Medina.
- Invite some State Family First Council people – Janice Houchins and Angela Sausser Short.
- Invite Frances Strickland. She is making a second round of Family First Councils This may be well in advance that she may be able to accommodate our day.
- Agency people? Battered Women's Shelter. Churches. Judges. People that are not part of council that you can disperse amongst the membership.
- Bring other individuals in to open the thinking process.
- Be poised for change.
- Influential people.
- Community members that are committed to Family First Council.
- Ask Council to see who they would like to see there.
- Sheriff and law enforcement.
- What is the goal of this day?
- What would other individuals get out of this day?
- Have to have an investment in Family First Council.
- Should open with a presentation on Family First Council then plan for the future.
- Facilitator could give direction on this.
- Give mission statement.
- Power Point presentation exists for Mrs. Strickland's visit and for the Legislative Breakfast.
- Give this information as you invite.
- Informal leaders of the community.
- Who drives the changes within the communities?
- Other people in same agencies.
- Seating has to be conducive to strategic planning.
- Learning opportunity for the community then go for the strategic plan.
- New opinions from outside community individuals.

- Invite some service recipients.
- Community needs assessment.
- Surveys to service recipients then bring to the group.
- Ron Paydo is the number one most influential person from the Gazette listing.
- Invite politicians.
- Diversity and opinions.
- Pose questions to Council.
- Focus groups.
- Capturing areas that are not served by Family First Council.
- Get views of numbers of individuals that can be comfortably handled from Dale and then come back to Council.
- We have to be careful on what we ask for as we have a limited budget to work with.
- What are realistic expectations?

Debra Grace will check with Dale Fortner about the following:

- Ask him to attend the October or November Planning Committee meeting.
- Ask him to share what a budget would be for all day and prep work.
- Ask him to tell us what his experience is on Strategic Planning.
- What product would be created after the retreat?

4. Presentation for October Family First Council Meeting

Lynne Castele confirmed that September's presentation will be the logo discussion. Last month was the Senior Survey and the final results will be out soon. What Council business should be presented in October?

Mead Wilkins inquired about presenting the updated Bylaws at the October or November meeting. Discussion ensued on:

- Present the Bylaws to Planning and then bring portions back to their own committees to discuss with their members. Then talk about it at Council.
- Bylaws minutes are on the web site for everyone to read.
- Statutory members are accountable to their boards.
- House Bill 289.
- Our Council has not enforced the attendance issues with removal of a person from the board.
- If you put it in the bylaws then who enforces it?
- The Bylaws Committee is ad hoc committee and they are not permanent, so they are not around to enforce it.
- Need to have checks and balances across the board.
- Parts can go to Planning to bring back to your committees and then bring to full Council.

October could be the Focus Groups report from the Family Engagement meeting. November could be the Wellness Report and recommendations to the commissioners. Juvenile Court was to present "Reclaim Ohio" earlier this year but was unable to. Jayme McCourt will contact Phillip Titterington to inquire about their availability to present at the October Family First Council meeting. If they are able to present in October, then the Family Engagement Survey Report will be moved to early 2009.

5. Adjournment

Joyce Giles made a motion to adjourn. Beth McGuire seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Jayme McCourt