

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

Attending: Sandy Calvert, Lynne Castele, Diane Dockrill, Debra Grace, Suzanne LeSure, Jan Manes, Debra Radecky, Christine Ruf, Nick Solar, Phillip Titterington and Mead Wilkins

Guest: Betsy Simon

1. Welcome

Nick Solar welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:40 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Phillip Titterington made a motion to approve the minutes from June 23, 2009. Mead Wilkins seconded. The motion passed.

3. Help Me Grow

Christine Ruf received the Help Me Grow final allocation letter late Tuesday night, July 21, 2009 and prepared a budget based on it. There is a question on who is the lead agency. Help Me Grow is operating with four staff members. We are delaying entering into contracts with staff until we receive more information. We are only providing initial evaluations. There are no home visits and we are not taking any at-risk applications.

Discussion:

- A balanced budget was needed at the state level in order to proceed at the local level.
- Help Me Grow is under the auspices of the Department of Health.
- Medicaid referrals.
- Medicaid match.
- TANF.
- DCO3 diagnosis.
- Budget process.
- Services and funding.
- Early childhood mental health.

4. Strategic Planning Retreat

Nick Solar thanked Debbie Grace for hosting the Strategic Planning Task Force meeting with Dale Fortner at the Wadsworth Salvation Army on July 23, 2009. The group discussed what Council wants and what Dale's expectations are for September 25, 2009. It was decided that we will not look at the Mission Statement but it will be on display to refer to. The group discussed the coordination of the meeting and seating possibilities. Dale will be on the stage and the tables will be in classroom style in front of the stage for breakfast and any Council business that needs to be tended to. Six tables that seat eight each will be set up so participants will face each other. On Friday, July 24, 2009 Nick Solar and Jayme McCourt visited Western Reserve and the Chapel where the September event will take place. They met Roberta Gifford and spoke about the room setup, food and logistics for the day. Jayme McCourt provided food pricing at \$15.50 per person which includes a continental breakfast, buffet lunch and afternoon snack for a total of \$697.50.

Dale spoke about trying to focus on 4 to 6 goals. This is the most reasonable number to work with. We get ahead of ourselves by looking at strategies before goals are determined.

Mead Wilkins inquired if this event will satisfy our PfS requirements. Chris Ruf noted that our Council must provide a PfS plan for 2011. She inquired of the regional coordinator if this could be our kickoff and was told it would not satisfy the requirements. Since only Council members would be there, we would need more community people to attend. YAC is looking at childhood needs and Mid-ICAT will have data but HB 289 has to have a plan that only looks at youth.

Information from the Planning Committee meeting in June was presented to Dale:

- Discussion on CATs.
- Take on a lot, but water down what we are doing. Over time it drains.
- Change has to come from within.
- Look at resources to keep it viable.
- We have been dependent upon government agencies and we have not had to provide funding.
- Agenda for retreat.
- How do we do our work in the recessionary climate?
- Building and changing the expectation of how the task force works.

- Focus on all - not on children, mids, or seniors.
- ICAT has the service coordination and dispute resolution.

Discussion:

- Continuity from the old Strategic Plan to the new plan.
- Starting from scratch.
- Don't mention funding because that is all we talk about.
- Senior Focus and Mid-ICAT operate without funding.
- Focus on goals achieved like the web site and data sharing.
- State the successes of the Strategic Plan over the last few years.
- Cost-free or cost effective-issues.
- We don't have time to look at the old plan, only time to move forward.
- We are not ignoring what's been accomplished.
- We could have each committee showcase what they have done over the last year in a quick manner.
- Time issues - we all know what we've done.
- We relay what is happening in the meetings.
- We need to incorporate some sort of healing process, based on recent events within Council.
- Some of the meetings have been tension-filled.
- People have feelings one way or the other.
- Let's make a fresh start.
- Dale knew the history of what has been going on with Council.
- How can he approach the healing process?
- Dale will start with an icebreaker.
- Working lunch.
- Parking in the back – event parking signs will be put up.
- What kind of data do we want at the meeting?
- We can bring anything we need for the day.
- Census data.
- Your data might want to drive your planning.
- State why Council should focus on it.
- We need to identify 4 to 6 goals.
- Data-driven goals from the beginning.
- Invite people to bring data to share.
- Feeling the time crunch.
- At the retreat we will get 4 to 6 goals but will we need data?
- Focus for the day – improve Council as a whole.
- Look at committee structure.
- Look at council meetings.
- Are we dollar-driven or family-driven?
- How do you streamline 48 players?
- As times change use those 48 more efficiently or look at adding layers but how do we use those 48 players as best as possible?
- As money goes away you will rely on those 48 people more and more.
- What do we expect out of Council members?
- Same expectations of both – elected and mandated.
- Working collectively together.
- We have some people that sit on 3 or 4 committees.
- We all have other jobs.
- The committees make council succeed.
- The committees are most effective with our layers of council.
- The smallest number of people do the most work.
- Who is carrying their weight?
- How do you get the dead weight off and get more active people in?
- A percentage of our members are mandated.

Lynne Castele noted that the updated bylaws will address attendance issues of mandated members. The Membership Committee lists the attendance of members up for election, but the people are still voted in. Membership is struggling with how to handle the situation. The bylaws state that you must be on one committee but there are no consequences. Maybe

one-quarter of the membership do the work of Council. Elected and statutory members are broken out in the bylaws. Every year during the elections process discussion includes adding more people. But that is not the answer.

Nick Solar added that the time we allot for a particular committee is approximately 1-1/2 hours. There is not enough time to get through the entire agenda. Items get tabled to the next meeting and this creates hard feelings between committee members. We need to have prioritization of the issues. Council is a small part of what we do during our business week. We struggle with issues when a quorum is needed. There is no easy answer. How do we accomplish the business we need to do under time constraints?

Discussion:

- Specific priorities from each council member.
- Sign up for what you are passionate about. What you have an interest in. There is more time involved than just the meeting; there is also driving time.
- There is no senior role in Council. Sandy was asked to do a report on the legislative breakfast. Membership is looking for seniors. The election process drives who is on council.
- In the past Council looked at family reps in an attempt to get diversity and representation. Membership is charged with submitting a slate of candidates.
- The strategic plan needs to identify that we have committed to lifespan and need to have all the players at the table.
- We have many dedicated caring bright people at the table. The goals should connect a new vision, then the specific action steps. Dale said come ready to work. We don't have all the same layers.
- Step back and identify ourselves again. Lack of resources or what we have to pull together – not just resources but people. The Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) is now looking at prioritizing what makes that a healthy child. Collaboratively and collectively work together. Identify what our needs are and continue to move forward.
- We need to be able to take it back to our own agency. Tie that in and you will get better buy in.
- Remind everyone on how we all link. We are a community base – remind that each area supports the greater good.
- What do you do for the family reps? They are here for a different reason. They have no job to go back to and report. Family reps are on many committees and it is volunteer time. They don't get paid for this. They have been told that their role is to bring forth gaps in services to identify what is working and what isn't. They are part of the dialogue and have no resources to bring to the table except community support. Family reps are much better received in Medina County than in the rest of the state.
- What is the role of the family reps? Maybe something that can be presented to full council.
- Family Reps are state mandated. They have their own regional and state meetings. They would need time to gather the information.
- The focus for that day is how Council is organized to help the families of Medina County and how we work collectively.
- There is only one more meeting before the retreat.
- Look at the structure. Look at how we utilize what we have to serve the best for the community.
- Identify who we are and how we operate.

5. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted by,
Jayme McCourt