

**Medina County Family First Council
Planning Committee Meeting
June 23, 2009**

Attending

Julie King, Judy Leuthaeuser, Jan Manes, Debra Radecky, Christine Ruf, Nick Solar, Phillip Titterington, Mead Wilkins and Brad Williams

Nick Solar called the meeting to order at 7:45 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Jan Manes made a motion to approve the minutes from May 26, 2009. Debra Radecky seconded. The motion passed. Nick Solar noted that Vince DeGeorge is on vacation this week and he will return for his last day on June 30, 2009.

Help Me Grow

Christine Ruf reported that there has been no fiscal allocation from the state. The contracted agencies were told we cannot pay them. Catholic Charities staff were laid off, MR/DD staff is donated and Community Action staff may be approved with stimulus money. The Administrative Committee looked at a 90 day budget for HMG which would cover intake and referral staff, the second discipline person (nurse), evaluations for Part C kids and transition. Two full-time staff plus 20 hours for Chris, plus the costs to run HMG will be \$38,115. \$20,018 is Part C and \$18,097 will be from the FFC reserves. Intake and phones will need one full time person from Catholic Charities. We have 380 families with only 4 staff to handle those cases. There will be gaps in services. We will prioritize what can be done. We will have to do the initial evaluations and then transition. Families have been verbally told that they will not have a July visit. Any at-risk cases that call after July 1, 2009 we will take their names and call them back if there is funding. Hopefully will know more after 90 days.

Strategic Planning Retreat

Nick Solar noted the budget reflects \$2,500 for the Strategic Planning Retreat. \$500 is slated for Dale Fortner for his services as a facilitator. The remainder is the expenses for the day.

Discussion for the retreat:

- Full day.
- Half day.
- Lunch on each person.
- Lunch provided.
- Coffee.
- Have the Planning Committee do some of the legwork before the day.
- Do we have the resources to continue the way we operate now?
- What can be done with no or minimum funding?
- Limited resources of agencies.
- More important for Council to pull together to work together.
- How do you operationalize what is effective service delivery?
- Identify what Family First Council is.
- Family First Council is not a service provider.
- How do we work together in this recession?
- Pull resources together to meet the needs of the kids in the area.
- After the Strategic Planning event assign a task force to develop a new mission statement. Do this after the meeting after all of the events.
- How we work together with limited resources.
- Identify priorities in the mission statement.
- What can we do for the next three years with limited resources?
- Focus on what we can do with limited resources.
- Lifespan.
- The Planning Committee is to work on the Strategic Plan elements.
- Will spend 1/3 of our reserve this year and will be out of business in three years.
- Family engagement position may flow through Family First Council.
- What will the state require of us?
- School counselors?
- If Family First Council only has funding for three years, what do we do?
- Service coordination on ICAT is required.
- Funding discussion: \$20,000 from the state and agencies' contributions.
- Lifespan – do we work around consumer groups or life issues?
- United Way is dividing their issues between education, health and income.
- Is the work we do based on consumers or what it should be?
- What is the common thread between the CATS?
- Funding is specified to groups.
- Does funding drive the work?
- Some funds are driven toward specific things, e.g. juveniles.
- Engage the funding of the Community Fund or the United Way.
- Learn from best practices.
- People are your greatest resource.
- Not tapping the money.
- Not thinking outside of the box.

- Allows for prioritization.
- Can't be everything to everybody.
- Council's mission was to identify gaps in services.
- Why did you become a member?
- Why do you come to the meetings?
- What do we expect of you?

- What do you get out of being a Council member?
- What brings everyone together?
- No TANF funds.
- No GRF funds.
- Is Council a service provider?
- Do we provide services or coordinate them?

Things to bring up with Dale Fortner:

- 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.

Adjourn

Mead Wilkins made a motion to adjourn. Phillip Titterington seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Jayme McCourt