

**Medina County Family First Council  
Planning Committee Meeting  
May 26, 2009**

**Attending**

Vincent DeGeorge, Diane Dockrill, Debra Grace, Suzanne LeSure, Judy Leuthaeuser, Jan Manes, Debra Radecky, Christine Ruf, Nick Solar, Phillip Titterington, and Bradford Williams

**Welcome**

Nick Solar welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Debra Grace made a motion to approve the minutes from April 28, 2009. Debra Radecky seconded. The motion passed. Nick Solar abstained.

**State Meeting Updates**

Vince DeGeorge updated the committee on:

- The HB 289 plan for our Council needs to be submitted in July. In the past we used the CareTeams as our plan.
- Budgets are being discussed in the Senate and they are saying the budget will be passed on June 30, 2009.
- There is dialogue that Help Me Grow may be eliminated.
- Mrs. Strickland's forum is today.
- Ohio Children's Trust Fund (OCTF) Grant application needs to be approved by the Administrative Committee (unable to present at the May due to other items being on the agenda). Vince can submit this to the state as an interim plan. The Wellness Committee met in May and they want to continue the present programs with minor modifications from last year. The only change is fiscal which will be split between Catholic Charities and The Salvation Army of Wadsworth. Diane Dockrill noted historically the grants were awarded to grantees for two years.
- The Wellness Committee is meeting on June 5, 2009.

The Planning Committee's consensus is to move forward with the plans for the second year of the OCTF grant. This cannot be brought to a vote because there are only 7 out of 15 Planning Committee members attending at this time.

**Bylaws**

Nick Solar announced the Bylaws are close to being completed. Two issues were forwarded to Judy Leuthaeuser as Chair of the Membership Committee. Judy e-mailed the issues to the individuals serving on the Membership Committee for clarification and explanation. There has been no response from the members on the committee at this time. Nick thanked the grammarians, Judy Leuthaeuser and Pat Robertson, for all of their help with spelling and punctuation.

**Strategic Planning Retreat**

Jayne McCourt e-mailed Dale Fortner about his availability for a meeting with the Retreat Team selected at the last Planning Committee Meeting. Jayne has not received a response to date. Debra Grace suggested contacting Robin Johnson at the Wadsworth Board of Education as she handles his schedule. Jayne will follow up.

Discussion on the Mission Statement:

- Should the mission statement be discussed?
- It should be more succinct and to the point.
- This should be determined by the Retreat Team that is meeting with Dale.
- Can we do this in one sitting?
- Announce to Council that the mission statement will be the first thing on the agenda.
- Shorten and make it memorable.
- Spend one hour maximum on mission statement.
- Striving for mission statement – once you reach it you need a new mission.
- Hone in on what we do.
- Work on it first to bring the group together.
- Who we are and what we are.
- The mission statement is from 1996.
- Planning can continue with it or a smaller group to work on it.
- Is there anything that can be done before the retreat for the mission statement?
- How do you structure the retreat?

Discussion on activities for the day:

- Working lunch? Yes and incorporate it within the program.
- Breaks? Yes, two. Mid-morning and mid-afternoon.
- Be concise.

Discussion on the budget:

- Help Me Grow may be working with a \$143,000 budget, down from \$693,000.
- Elder abuse funding at the state level may be eliminated.
- TANF funds are being shifted.
- Education issues are protected at this time.
- Family First Council is more important now in bringing the groups together if the budget is cut.
- Family First Council is a needed entity to bring agencies and the community together.
- What can you do on zero dollars?

Nick Solar                      Question:        What is the likelihood of Council going away completely?  
Vince DeGeorge              Answer:            Slim to none. Legislative action would be needed and it is in the Ohio Revised Code. The state allocates \$20,000 per year from General Revenue Funds to each of the 88 counties in Ohio. Mrs. Strickland challenges us to mobilize the community. We must have service coordination as this is in the Ohio Revised Code. Prior years funding was cut to \$18,500, but it should be \$20,000. To alter Council it would take an act of legislation.

### **Mrs. Strickland's Forum**

Nick Solar announced that Mrs. Strickland will be in Akron today at 1:30 p.m. to meet with individuals from the schools and Council. School staff attending is Randy Stepp, Will Koran, Catherine Aukerman, John Opperman and Kris Quallich. Council members attending are Nick Solar, Brad Williams, Vincent DeGeorge, Julie King, Sharon Tahajod and Christine Ruf. Council members that attended the last meeting were Nick Solar, Debra Grace, Vincent DeGeorge, Christine Ruf, Randy Stepp and Sharon Tahajod.

Nick Solar noted the individual attending the last meeting were not happy when they left. At the first meeting it seemed area councils are working fine the way they are. Debra Grace also commented that they left more confused than before. Mrs. Strickland and her staff had their agenda and they did not really listen to the people that came.

Discussion included:

- Funding allocated was discretionary dollars that schools received per pupil, and then it was a specified line item.
- Funding was proposed by how many students are on free or reduced lunches.
- It is virtually impossible to have one person in each school. It may be based on ratio.
- Urban areas may receive more money because they have the students with the most free and reduced lunches.
- Early childhood funding is being allocated by the number of children in subsidized day care.
- Our county is eligible for \$31,000 for early childhood mental health and has very strict guidelines on how the money can be used.
- Eligibility changes with Help Me Grow.
- Informed clinical opinion or physical or mental diagnosis.
- Medicaid billing is significant as well as reimbursement and diagnostic criteria.
- DC03 is the diagnostic manual for very young children.
- Help Me Grow will have to evaluate every new mother for maternal depression.
- Part C children will be the only ones served if they are eligible with a physical or mental health diagnosis.
- Our Council needs to stay strong on the local level.

### **Adjourn**

Diane Dockrill made a motion to adjourn. Phillip Titterington seconded. The meeting adjourned 8:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Jayme McCourt