

Full Collaborative Meeting
Wednesday, September 10th, 2008; 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm
Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services Building; Willmar, MN

Present: Alex Espinoza, PACT 4 Guía Intervention Spec/Coach
Allen Stoeckman, YME School Superintendent
Alvaro Patino, PACT 4 Guía Program Coord.
Anber Mitchell, Renville County student
Amy Wilde, Meeker County Commissioner
Angie Mateski, Lutheran Social Svcs.
Ann Orren, PACT 4 Yellow Medicine Co. Coalition Coord.
Ann Stehn, Kandiyohi Co Public Health Director
Annie Tepfer, PACT 4 Renville Co. Coalition Coord.
Becky Romosz, Kandiyohi County parent
Bob Fox, Renville Co. Commissioner
Brian Skogen, Canby/PACT 4 School Social Worker
Carmen Clementson, Kandiyohi Co. Family Svcs. Supervisor
Char Erickson, PACT 4 Wraparound Coordinator
Cheryl Loge, Litchfield School Social Worker
Chris Sullivan, Renville County young adult
Cindy Louwagie, Countryside Public Health Nurse
Corinne Torkelson, Kandiyohi Co. Family Svcs. Supervisor
Debb Sheehan, PACT 4 Director
Diane Moots, parent
Diane Winter, Meeker Co. Public Health Director
Dick Larson, Kandiyohi County Commissioner
Donna Henning, Heartland Community Partnership Resource Spec.
Doug Runia, MACCRAY School Principal
Ed Downey, PACT 4 Evaluator
Elaine Bolland, Harmony Visitation Center Coordinator
Eric Vogel, U of MN Extension Youth Work Institute
Gwenn Garcia, West Central Integration Collab/PACT 4 Guía Prog.
Jane Remiger, Yellow Medicine Co. Commissioner
Janice Madden, Project SHARE Director
Jay Kieff, Kandiyohi Co. Family Services Director
Jessica Kruger, Lutheran Social Services
Jill Bruns, Renville County Public Health Director
Jon Marchand, Greater MN Family Svcs Programs Coord.
Judy Revier, Renville County Outreach Advocate
Juliane Boraas, Shelter House Youth Advocate
Julie Slaughter, Renville County parent
June Kahlstorf, EV/W IMPACT Coordinator
Karyl Mooney, Renville County parent
Kayla Hansen, Western MH/Canby School Counselor
Kim Hanson, Woodland Centers Unit Director
Laurie Bliss, YMC parent
Loren Hacker, Canby School Superintendent
Lynette Braun, Rice Hospital PET Program Coordinator
Lynn Kuehn, ECHO Charter School
Mark Sannerud, Project Turnabout
Mary Kay Sinner, Renville Co. Public Health Nurse
Maureen Mitchell, Renville County parent
Paul Carlson, NL/S School Superintendent
Pete Van Der Puy, Central MN Christian School Superintendent
Polly Ann Peters, PACT 4 Family Liaison
Rebecca Warpula, Dassel/Cokato Early Childhood Programs
Renee Brandt, Project Turnabout ATOD Prevention Coord
Rick Loseth, PACT 4 Families Supervisor
Robert Finneseth, LAMP-Kinship Program Director
Ron Kutzke, Meeker County Commissioner
Sally Belgum-Blad, PACT 4 21st Century Coord.
Tammy Thompson, Meeker Co. Probation Director
Tricia Buggs, PACT 4 Restorative Justice Coordinator
Virginia Sullivan, Renville County parent
Wendell Veurink, Greater MN Family Svcs Counselor
Wendy Walz, Litchfield School Early Childhood Prog.

1. Approval of Minutes

Chris Sullivan offered a motion to approve the July minutes as presented; Julie Slaughter offered a second. Motion carried.

2. Approval of Agenda

Karyl Mooney offered a motion to approve the agenda as written; Carmen Clementson offered a second. Motion carried.

3. Guía – Program and Staff Introduction

Spanish for guidance—Guía is the name of the Special Populations Chemical Prevention Grant that began in July. Three of the four staff have been hired and presented on their program. Staff include a project coordinator (Alvaro Patino); a school-based intervention specialist (Gwenn Garcia); a coach/intervention specialist (Alex Espinoza), and a coach/liaison (to be hired). The Guía program's primary focus is chemical health intervention for Hispanic/Latino youth. The program is designed with an array of supportive services that will adequately address and individualize the needs of Hispanic/Latino youth and young adults with chemical health issues and their families. The objective of the program is to compliment and expand existing services for Hispanic/Latino youth and their families. It will use four main models: Talking Circles, the Creating Lasting Family Connections curriculum, Check and Connect, and coaching. Talking Circles will meet twice per month. The Creating Lasting Family Connections is a parent/youth curriculum. Check and Connect is a truancy program that has been used for quite some time, and it allows providers to contact youth on a weekly basis to provide support. Coaching will work one-on-one with youth to transition from treatment to long-term sobriety in the community. The grant will serve Hispanic youth ages 14-22, male or female, who live in the PACT 4 counties of Kandiyohi, Meeker, Renville and Yellow Medicine. Those youth will have been identified as using illicit drugs or alcohol, or at significant risk of serious use. The grant will not focus on tobacco use. Referrals can be made by school counselors or social workers, county case managers, corrections, treatment facilities, parents or self-referrals.

4. After School Programming – 21st Century Community Learning Center

Sally Belgum-Blad, coordinator for the 21st Century Community Learning Center, presented findings from the completion of the first year of programming at schools participating in this grant. The grant began in August of 2007, and funding is provided through the federal No Child Left Behind Act. The money is intended to help kids who need an extra boost in order to become successful in school and become successful adults. In order to have participated in the grant application, schools

Mission: As a collaborative, we will work together to reduce duplication and provide a family-driven continuum of quality, innovative, and cost-effective services for children and their families. These services will be culturally sensitive and strength-based.

must have had a free and reduced lunch rate of 40% or greater. Of four fourteen partner school districts, ten qualified and eight ended up collaborating on the application. Last year, 532 students were served.

After completing Year One of the grant, evaluation results show that teachers report:

Grade Level	Attended 15-29 days	Attended 30+ days
	Homework completion/class participation	Homework completion/class participation
Elementary	61% improvement	79% improvement
Middle/High	33% improvement	55% improvement
	Student Behavior	Student Behavior
Elementary	39% improvement	80% improvement
Middle/High	3% improvement	53% improvement

This shows that retained students—those who attend 30 or more times during the year—show a big improvement in homework completion, classroom participation, and student behavior. Goals for the second year include: sustain recruited participant numbers, meet retention target of 281 participants, improve completion rate of participant school connectedness surveys, and continue to support and provide intentional high-quality programming.

5. Committee Reports

- a. Executive Board – the State Auditor gave his report, and we did extremely well. Strategic planning is now the focus as the Board prepares to bring back decisions to partners. The pros and cons of different funding decisions, how much—if any—to maintain in reserve, whether there are “sacred cows” that need continued funding, basic philosophy discussions and infrastructure versus programming are some of the challenges and decisions to come. Jill Bruns, chair of the Board, stated that all Board members are very committed to keeping the organization going, because “if it folds, we’re all in agreement that it would be virtually impossible to get it going again.”
- b. Adolescent Services Committee – heard about internet safety training in schools, discussed future trainings on getting information to parents, and each committee member will gather information on important topics to youth and will bring to the next meeting.
- c. Early Childhood Committee – met at Rice Hospital and discussed giving schools positive mental health books for families of children who go through early childhood screenings. Talked about sustainability of the Incredible Years program. Received early childhood coalition updates, and during the last half of the meeting, toured the new dental facility at Rice. This is a clinic run by the University of MN teaching college. Six dental students and six hygienist students are supervised by a licensed dentist. They’re swamped—the next available appointment is in November, so it’s obviously very successful. The U of M is the only dental college between here and Seattle, underscoring the serious dental shortage in this country, especially for low-income families for whom it’s needed and who have problems finding dentists that accept MA or MN Care.
- d. Elementary/Middle School-Age Committee – discussed preparing for the school connectedness workshop next year. Will be putting together baggies with pens and sticky notes to get the word out to schools, and perhaps connecting with schools weekly about school connectedness.
- e. Mentors Committee – discussed advertising and getting the word out about mentoring. Ideas included: window clings, newspaper ads and articles, flyers, getting and staying connected with communities. Also discussed how each member can support and help each other.
- f. Wraparound Committee – discussed an upcoming Wraparound orientation on October 31st for new workers or anyone else interested in learning about Wraparound.
- g. Parent Advisory Committee – talked about creating welcome packets for new parents to explain what the committee is about. There is a SAMHSA guide about children’s mental health services that would be helpful for new parents and this could be put in the packet. Discussed how to get each county’s LAC more active, and reviewed the new stipend policy.

6. Grant Reports

- a. Restorative Justice/Circle Sentencing – Tricia Buggs, Coordinator, has received three new referrals. There are currently four youth involved and two more possible referrals coming. Circles are in serious need of bilingual volunteers. If anyone is interested or knows of anyone who would be interested, Tricia can be contacted at the PACT 4 office.

- b. SHARE – the Advisors and Liaisons met in August and previewed videos that can be ordered. Their next meeting is in November prior to the Full Collaborative meeting. The Coordinating Council will meet after today's Full Collaborative meeting.
- c. Chemical Health Coalitions – Renville/Yellow Medicine Counties – both grants have been testing different posters and pictures with youth to find out what appeals to them. Posters will be distributed as part of the Most of Us campaign.
- d. 21st Century Learning Community Center – Nancy Brown Glenn from the State was here yesterday to conduct a site visit for the grant. The visit went extremely well.

7. Other

- a. Greater MN Family Services Annual Training – Nancy Thomas will be returning on October 16th for the 12th annual training. She will be presenting a continuation of last year's topic of Reactive Attachment Disorder. Brochures are available on Greater Minnesota's website and at the PACT 4 office. Registration is due October 13th, and the reduced rate for PACT 4 partners and parents is half of the cost listed in the brochure.
- b. Next Meeting – November 12th in Willmar.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Shawna Steffen, PACT 4.