



SERVING THE COUNTIES OF KANDIYOHI,  
MEEKER, RENVILLE  
AND YELLOW-MEDICINE

May 2007

Full Collaborative Meeting will be held May 9th at the  
Kandiyohi County Health and Human Services Building  
**PLEASE RSVP** to Shawna (320)235-8938 or email  
[Shawna.steffen@co.kandiyohi.mn.us](mailto:Shawna.steffen@co.kandiyohi.mn.us)

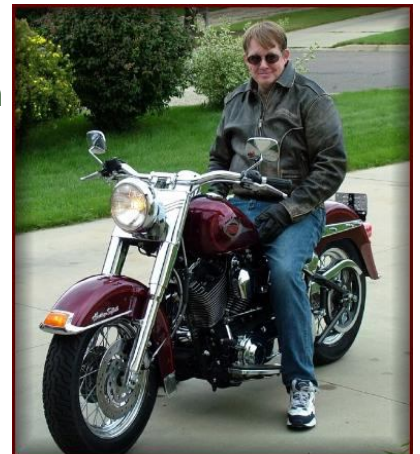
# PACT 4 NEWSLETTER

## PACT 4 Annual Meeting

The PACT 4 Annual Meeting was held on April 12th at the Kandi Entertainment Center in Willmar. Keynote speaker Pete Feigal captivated the audience with his personal story of living with depression and multiple sclerosis. Feigal's ability to disclose his struggles and triumphs with humor and wit made for an enjoyable business meeting. Feigal also gave away a number of his pointillism art pieces through a drawing and donated others for the parent retreat and to the PACT 4 office. The web link [www.art-that-moves.com](http://www.art-that-moves.com) has Pete Feigal's art work displayed and for sale.

The evening also featured two Celebrating Excellence Awards to Glen Jacobus and Cathy Maynus for reaching out to the tenants in the apartment building they manage. The LCTS school recorders were recognized for their efforts of gathering information for the random moment time studies. This process allows for grants to be awarded to the PACT 4 county area for programs that reduce out of home placements and help children succeed at home, in their school and in their community. Thank you to all who attended the Annual Meeting.

Danette Hendrickson,  
Social Marketing and Training Coordinator



**Pete Feigal**

## 2007 Executive Board

Loren Hacker, Canby School District  
Serves through 2007-2nd Term  
(507)223-7226 /lhacker@canby.mntm.org

Debi Brandt, Heartland CAA Agency  
Serves through 2009-1st term  
(320)235-0850 /  
debib@heartlandcaa.org

Carmen Clementson, KC  
Family Services  
Serves through 2008 - 2nd Term  
(320)231-7811  
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Jill Bruns, RC Public Health (Chair)  
Serves through 2008 - 2nd Term  
(320)523-3723 /  
jill\_bruns@co.renville.mn.us

Deb West, KC Probation  
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(320)231-6218 /  
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Gerald Brustuen, Renville County  
Human Services  
Serves through 2009 - 2nd Term  
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Arliss Stenger, Parent  
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Eugene Bonyng, Woodland Centers  
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(320)235-4613 /ceo@woodlandcenters.com

Becky Romosz, Parent  
(KC Resident), Serves through 2009 - 2nd Term  
(320)235-2204 /  
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Debb Sheehan, Director  
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### Chief Elected Officials

Dick Larson, Kandiyohi County  
Amy Wilde, Meeker County  
Jane Remiger, Yellow -Medicine County  
Bob Fox, Renville County

### PACT 4 Families 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.”*

# Director's Corner

Executive update for PACT 4 Annual Meeting, April 12, 2007

Friends and honored guests. I am here this evening to thank you for the opportunity to address you as PACT 4's new Director. Though I have only been at PACT 4 for a year so I am in a good position to discuss the year in review and three words come to mind: Challenge, Change and Children.

The Challenges have been many. You all no doubt know about the year of ups and downs administratively, but we have also been challenged with tremendous financial cut backs. Our source of flexible income through the Local Collaborative Time Study (LCTS) was cut by 71% in 2006 - a challenge indeed. This funding, measured by the number of children at risk of our of home placement, has been cut on a federal level causing trickle-down effects for our income. With a reduction in funding, we have had to cut back significantly in providing support to our partner organizations and their programs. So it is a challenge that is definitely having a ripple effect.

It has been a challenge too, in this case a useful one where we have had to reconsider who we are at the core. We have been pushed to identify where we hope to go as an organization. While all these questions are not yet answered, they have had to be asked with a directness and openness that requires us to look at ourselves honestly—even ruthlessly. We still have a way to go, but the path is becoming more clear. These challenges have tested and in the end, they have not found us wanting.

Change follows from the Challenges. We have come to recognize that we need to do things differently from what we did in the past; that we have to identify what it is that we do best and join together to become even better at doing it. We may not be able to do as many things as we would like, but we can focus our energies on what we do well. This is something that all organizations are required to address sooner or later.

And finally, I come to children. Well, what can I say about the children? The children along with their families are why we are all here; they are what we are all about at PACT 4. And, although there is never the opportunity to do all we would like on their behalf, PACT 4 has worked hand-in-hand with its partners to do all we can to make the world a better place for the children.

We have done many wonderful things for children during the past year. Beginning at birth, PACT 4 has sponsored family visits through the Public Health universal contacts, and training for young families through the “Incredible Years” program. We have supported kids in schools with subsidies for school social workers and their important interventions with children from pre-k through high school. PACT 4 also administers the SHARE grant that is working with 14 school districts on six different elements of safety, training, mental health and family connection.

Two new chemical health intervention grants have started up in Yellow Medicine and Renville Counties focusing on coalition building, prevention and early intervention activities. Circle Sentencing has continued in Kandiyohi and Yellow Medicine Counties to work with young offenders, and Wraparound activities have continued with family-focused teams.

Older youth have been served through an extension of a federal grant through the coaching approaches of PRIDE 4. Families and their children have been supported through family liaisons and the important focus of the Parent Advisory Committee. And our evaluation department has assisted us in better defining the needs of children and helped us to identify what programs are most effective.

As an organization we are like the rope that draws strength from its many strands—it is their intertwining that keeps the rope resilient and strong. As we continue to face new challenges, I take heart in knowing that our many partners are what truly keep us strong. Working with the leadership of our county governance and our Executive Board, along with the collaborative focus of our many partners, I invite you to look optimistically with me to the future of PACT 4 and to reflect positively on the past year where the challenges have moved us forward to meeting the changing needs of our children.

***May is Mental Health month and many people still don't understand how common mental health issues are and how it affects people. This is my letter to anyone suffering...***



Dear Person with Depression,

I am so sorry that you have gotten this disease depression. And I am writing to give you hope that you will get better, even though you are feeling very alone and can't imagine that you will ever feel good again.

First of all, you must understand that depression, is an illness. It is not a character flaw or a weakness that you have. For years, people thought of most mental illnesses in this light. Unfortunately, many people still do and there remains a stigma around depression and other mental illnesses. The brain is truly the last medical frontier and we are learning so much about it. I find it fascinating. Through new brain scans and other technologies, science can now document that mental illness has a physical, metabolic cause.

Your body is not making enough of certain hormones and chemicals that your brain needs to function the way that it should. As a result, you cannot think as clearly. You cannot make decisions as well. You cannot sleep. Your emotions are all over the map—from crying to anger. You have a short fuse and little patience. You feel unworthy. You have little joy in your life. You feel like a failure. Your whole body aches. What makes this disease so difficult and different from other diseases is that it affects the way you feel and even act. And it attacks your soul.

I know, because I have been there. Before I had depression, I always thought that if people with depression were just more positive in their thinking, if they were more faithful to God, if they would just put their chin up and get going, they would get better. That was before I was in a deep dark hole that was surrounding me and I just couldn't climb out. I prayed. I sang hymns and spiritual songs. I cried. I exercised. I self-talked and read many books. But when I almost slapped a client at work one day, I knew that I needed help. Through the medication, changing some of my behavior patterns and support from my family and co-workers, I was able to get on top of this disease and continue to be a good wife, mother, volunteer and administrator. You will be surprised how many people will come and talk to you about this disease and how they have also had it! Many people have had or will have this disease sometime in their life.

I have come to realize that nobody asks for or causes this disease. Do people with cancer, or diabetes, or hypertension ask for their disease? Do we tell these people just to put their chin up and get back to work, and they will get better? Do we judge them, thinking that they are weak and therefore got the disease? No way. But that is how you are feeling right now. Please just keep telling yourself that you did not ask for this, just like a diabetic did not ask for the disease.

The medicines that they give now for depression are pretty amazing. We have come a long way since I started in nursing nearly 30 years ago! The drugs do not make you a zombie, like the medicines in the past. These new drugs are like hormone replacement therapy. Your brain is missing a hormone; just like a diabetic is missing insulin or someone with thyroid problems is missing thyroid. Chronic stress zaps your body of these needed chemicals and for some genetic reason, there are some of us that can't make enough to keep up. The medication you will get will replace serotonin and other important brain chemicals to make you well. It may take some time to find the exact one or the right dosage, but they will help. Just like a diabetic, you will have your ups and downs and you don't improve overnight. But the drugs will do in months what it used to take years in therapy and rest to accomplish.

You will probably be confronted with the belief that Christians don't get depression. Hogwash! Christians get heart disease, multiple sclerosis, blood clots, ingrown hairs and hemorrhoids. Why wouldn't they also get depression? But because this disease attacks your soul and your feelings, you may feel that God has forgotten you. After reading the Psalms, I know that David suffered from depression, too. Many Psalms are about crying out to God, being in the depth of despair, feeling alone, hopeless and deserted. I know that God does understand. And you are not demon possessed or lacking any faith.

Right now, my wish for you is peace and hope. I am hoping that the doctors find the medicines that will be right for you. I am also hoping that you will be surrounded by family, friends, and co-workers who will support you in your journey. You are an awesome person. With time, you will be able to function better and thrive. Your brain and your soul need time to heal and be replenished. You will be a better person because of this disease. It will change you forever.

With love and understanding,

Jill Bruns  
Renville County Public Health



# Evaluation Update Ed Downey, Ed.D. Evaluator

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center** - By the time you read this, many of you will know that PACT 4 Families, in partnership with seven member school districts and Echo Charter School, has been awarded a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center grant to provide out-of-school enrichment activities for students who are at risk of not being successful in school. All of the participating schools will be using their portion of the funds to offer after school and summer programming. PACT 4 will provide a coordinator for the project and will conduct program evaluation to verify that project activities are resulting in positive outcomes for participants. The PACT 4 Evaluation staff are excited to be a part of this great effort on behalf of kids. The Minnesota Department of Education has established three goals on which all 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center grantees must focus. The goals are: 1) Increase academic achievement in one or more core academic areas; 2) Increase school connectedness of participants; 3) Increase capacity of participants to become productive adults. Because schools are busy places and teachers are very busy people, we wanted to make sure that the evaluation process for this grant will not become burdensome. Since almost all of the districts were already using achievement tests for reading and mathematics from the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA), we decided to use NWEA tests as our primary measure to evaluate progress on the achievement goal. Schools will do NWEA testing as they have all along and will forward anonymous test results for grant participants to PACT 4 for inclusion in our project evaluation. One change for the schools involved in this project is they will for the first time also use the science component of NWEA testing. To measure progress on the second and third required goals, teachers who refer students for participation in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center activities, will complete a Referral/Follow-up Form for each child at the time of referral and again at the end of the school year. This form will rate students on certain behaviors related to their involvement with school and their work habits. Again this pre and post data will be forwarded to the PACT 4 Evaluation department for inclusion in required grant reports.

**Special Education Time Study** - Because of declining LCTS dollars, the PACT 4 Executive Board has asked schools to assume a greater portion of the money spent to provide for School Social Work and Counseling services in schools. Prior to July 1, 2007 schools were covering 20% of the salary and benefits for the PACT 4 staff assigned to schools. After July 1, the schools will be covering 50% of those costs. In order to help schools in meeting this obligation, we wanted to make sure that they are receiving the maximum special education reimbursement from the state. We asked our staff to do a brief time study to determine the percentage of time spent with special education students or on special education issues such as helping teachers with special education referrals. Of the 13 school staff who provided us with data, the percent of time ranged from 100% to 9% with an average of 35.7%. If we throw out the highest and lowest cases we still have an average of 32%. We were somewhat surprised by this result since most of the PACT 4 staff were placed in schools with the intent of doing early intervention and prevention activities rather than more intensive work. We will share our data with the school superintendents so they can reflect the results in their personnel reporting to the state department.

**School-Based Staff Evaluation** - Also, because the Executive Board was interested in an evaluation of PACT 4 school services, we asked all school based staff to identify one or two goals which would show the impact of their work this school year and to establish measurable indicators for those goals. One of our staff members set a goal to improve the cooperative skills among the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students in the building she serves. The improvement is indicated by 90% of classrooms showing a two-point average increase on the "Cooperative Actions Self Evaluation" administered at the beginning and end of a four-week sequence of lessons. Following one four-week session, six out of eleven (54%) classrooms showed a two-point increase in cooperation among students on the self evaluation.

A second PACT 4 school social worker set a goal of having 2/3 of teachers report monthly that their pre-school and Kindergarten students will show an increase in using certain targeted social skills, introduced weekly in the group lessons presented by the social worker. Topics for January and February included handling bullying and tattling, emotional management, patience, calming down, dealing with distractions, and cooperation. To date, 100% of teachers have reported that their students have shown an increase in demonstrating the skills they learned from these sessions.

Results from other social workers are still coming in and we will share some of those in future Bulletin articles.

**Did you know?** In the 3+ years that the PRIDE-4 program has been working with youth with mental health issues, the coaches have helped more than 100 youth in addressing their transition needs.

# May is Mental Health Month

The May is Mental Health Month Committee has been working on a variety of projects to build awareness of May is Mental Health Month. Proclamations were sent to the PACT 4 county boards and to eight city councils. There will be displays at Rice Hospital, the Kandiyohi County Health and Human Service Building and APMC in Willmar. The electronic sign at the fire station in Willmar will also have the message: *“Every Child’s Mental Health is Important.”* On Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day, May 8th, there will be three presentations for the community. *“Help, Hope and Healing: A Discussion on Suicide”*, at noon at the Blue Heron; a presentation on Autism Spectrum Disorder at 6pm and at 7pm a presentation on Traumatic Brain Injury. The latter two will be held at the Kandiyohi County Health and Human Services Building, lower level. The committee is a group of partners from Woodland Centers, Kandiyohi County Public Health, Kandiyohi County Family Services, community members and PACT 4 Families Collaborative.

## Spicer Community Playground - A Request from Spicer’s Mayor

Spicer is building a new Playground in Downtown Park and we need your help June 6-10th! Volunteers can sign up for skilled labor (cutting, working with power tools and measuring) unskilled labor (carrying, assembling, sanding, shoveling, carpenter’s helpers) food service, childcare or as helpers. There is a job for everyone! The playground will be built using the old fashioned “barn raising” method during the 5-day construction days in June.



Donations are also needed. There are opportunities to sponsor a piece of equipment, make a cash contribution or purchase a personalized picket for the “Tot Lot” portion of the new playground.

The new playground will fill a need that is currently unmet for families in the region to play and learn together in a safe environment along beautiful Green Lake. For more information contact Spicer City Offices at (320)796-5562 or [spicer.js@tds.net](mailto:spicer.js@tds.net).

## Family Needs

I am currently working with a fifth grader and her family. They just moved to Willmar - they had planned on moving south so they got rid of everything. Priorities would be a winter jacket (large), beds, blankets, dishes, clothes (large), school supplies, furniture, etc. If you would have anything to donate, please contact me at (320)231-8471 ext. 7582. Thank you!!! Becky Sarsland

I am looking for bunk beds for one family. I am looking for 1-2 twin beds and 1 full bed for another family. Also looking for a bike for a 3rd grade boy. If you have any of these, please e-mail me at [carrie.silberni@mail.evw.k12.mn.us](mailto:carrie.silberni@mail.evw.k12.mn.us) or call me at one of the numbers below. Thank you! Carrie Silbernick EV/W Schools (320)453-2900 ext. 1204 (HS) or (320)453-6455 ext. 2106 (Elem)

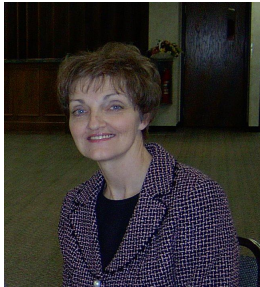
## Random Moment Recorders Thank You for Annual Meeting, 4-12-07

Recognized at the Annual Meeting were the Random Moment Recorders, who are the unsung heroes of our Local Collaborative Time Study. The Local Collaborative Time Study (LCTS) is a random moment time study administered by the MN Department of Human Services (DHS). It generates new federal dollars for Family Service and Children's Mental Health Collaborative.

Random moments are used to generate quarterly statistical information concerning the distribution of activities that are supported by Federal Title IV-E and Title XIX funding sources. This particular time study documents time spent by staff on various work activities at five randomly selected dates and times each quarter.



Carol Weispfennig, Recorder  
for Buffalo Lake/Hector  
Schools



Marlene Berg,  
Recorder for YME

At the time of random moment each staff person on the LCTS chooses an activity code to represent what best describes the activity they were performing at that date and precise time. The LCTS Recorder is the person who collects the activity code information from the staff when a random moment has occurred.

Suffice to say, these people must keep very detailed records to assure all the random moments are recorded and that each child is counted. Missed random moments may cause late or missed payments to our collaborative, so it is extremely important that the log sheets be turned in on time. Our Recorders are very diligent when it comes to the random moments, and as such we have very few "missed" random moments.

We want to celebrate, offer our thanks and appreciation, and publicly acknowledge the hard work and dedication of all of these Recorders. Listed below are our Recorders and the agencies they work for:

Gayla Fontaine/Mary LaPatka ~ Kandiyohi Co Public Health  
 Nina Stienessen/Marie Lang ~ Kandiyohi Co Community Corrections  
 Julie Schrum/Rose Anderson ~ Meeker Co Public Health  
 Natasha Simmonds/Carol Nelson ~ Meeker Co Probation  
 Linda Berntson ~ Renville Co Public Health/Renville Co Probation  
 Mary Hammer ~ Countryside Public Health/6W Corrections  
 Lisa Kramer ~ ACGC South Elementary  
 Nancy Thorp ~ ACGC North Elementary  
 Chellie Nelson ~ ACGC Jr/Sr High School  
 Nancy Jahnke ~ BOLD School District - Middle/High School  
 Julie Gass ~ BOLD School Dst-Elementary Campus  
 Thea Swanson ~ Buffalo Lake/Hector Schools-Elementary  
 Carol Weispefennig ~ Buffalo Lake/Hector Schools-High School  
 Sue Hanson ~ Canby Public Schools  
 Monica Wilke ~ Canby Public Schools  
 Eileen Rothmeier ~ Cedar Mountain Public Schools  
 Becky Stenger/Alice Teischer ~ Eden Valley/Watkins Schools  
 Marion Frank/Deb Kuechle ~ Eden Valley/Watkins Schools  
 Sharon Robertson ~ Litchfield Ripley Elementary School  
 Kelly Sundmark ~ Litchfield Ripley Elementary School  
 Mary Jo Johnson ~ Litchfield Ripley Elementary School  
 Janet Niehaus/Krista Benson ~ Litchfield - Wagner Elementary School  
 Tracy Johnson - Litchfield Middle School

Doreen Koralesky/Marjorie Sonsalla ~ Litchfield High School  
 Barb Baker/Mary Anderson ~ Little Crow Special Ed Coop  
 Helen Gronli ~ New London/Spicer Elementary  
 Sonya Peterson ~ New London/Spicer Elementary  
 Connie Lee ~ New London/Spicer Middle School  
 Mary Peters ~ New London/Spicer High School  
 Connie Maurice ~ Renville Co West Schools  
 Donna Fulls/Kelly Johnson ~ Renville Co West Schools  
 Barb Norbie ~ Willmar Public Schools - Jefferson Elementary  
 Lynette Cors/Kathy Fleegel ~ Willmar Public Schools Junior High  
 Suzanne Ruchti ~ Willmar Public Schools Kennedy Elementary  
 Peggy Gould ~ Willmar Public Schools Kennedy Elementary  
 Bety Danielson ~ Willmar Schools Lincoln Elementary  
 Lois Shaw ~ Willmar Schools Roosevelt Elementary  
 Ann Krueger/Donna Reima/Geri Ruud ~ Willmar Sr High School  
 Lori Boros/Becky Sorenson ~ Willmar Washington Learning Center  
 Kelly Schneck ~ Willmar Adolescent Treatment Unit-Cottage 10  
 Mary Ellen deCathelineau/Terri Schneider ~ Willmar ALC  
 Liz DeBlicke/Kathy Anderson ~ YME/MVCC Elementary  
 Marlene Berg ~ YME/MVCC - HA Hagg Elementary  
 Denise Stiech ~ MVCC - High School  
 Amber Knapper ~ YME/MVCC - High School

**Congratulations to the following programs that have been awarded funding for the next two years:**

**LCTS Awards  
2007-2009**

Following the LCTS grant process that began in December 2006, final funding decisions for General LCTS and Out-of-School-Time grants have been made. Thank you to all of the applicants—the proposals were top-notch, making for a very difficult decision-making process. Thank you to all of the community reviewers—your input and recommendations were valuable and highly regarded. I am grateful for your willingness to share your time and thoughtful consideration. Thank you finally to the county steering groups—your effort to coordinate the process in your county is greatly appreciated.

The newly awarded grants will begin on July 1, 2007 and will run through June 30, 2009. All grantee agencies should plan to send at least one representative to a mandatory **Grant Orientation Session on Thursday, May 17**. The orientation will be held from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services Building, in the multi-purpose room. If you have any questions about this session or your upcoming grant, please contact me at the PACT 4 office.

-Sarah Wennerberg,  
LCTS Grants Manager

<b>KANDIYOHI COUNTY</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>
ACGC School District	Cash for Kids
Goodwill/Easter Seals	Workforce Dev Mgr
Harmony (Shelter House)	Parenting Time Services
Heartland Comm Action Agency	Kids in Development (KID)*
Heartland Comm Action Agency	Circles of Support
KC Area Family YMCA	YMCA Mentor Program
KC Public Health	Family Home Visiting
NL/S School District	Committed to Excellence*
NL/S School District	After 3 and Me*
Rice Memorial Hospital	Pregnancy Ed for Teens (PET)
Shelter House, Inc	Project Impact-Youth Advocacy
Willmar Comm Ed & Recreation	Family Literacy
Willmar School District	Healthy Learners Program
Willmar School District	Child Guide Program
Woodland Centers	New Connections Youth Day Treatment
Woodland Centers	Non-County Home Based Services
<b>MEEKER COUNTY</b>	
ACGC School District	Cash for Kids
Dassel-Cokato School District	JUMPSTART
Dassel-Cokato School District	Preschool Tuition & Support
EV/W School District	After School Programs*
EV/W School District	IMPACT
Heartland Comm Action Agency	Circles of Support-MC
Litchfield School District	Middle School Summer School*
Litchfield School District	Jump Start Summer School*
Litchfield School District	Truancy Prevention Program
Litchfield School District	Scholarships for Preschoolers
MC Public Health	MC Healthy Families
<b>RENVILLE COUNTY</b>	
GFW School District	STAARS*
RC Public Health	RC Home Visiting
RC Public Health	RC School Attendance
RCW School District	MentorWorks Too-Kinship
RCW School District	Opening the Gates
<b>YELLOW MEDICINE COUNTY</b>	
ECHO Charter School	ECHO School Health
Western Mental Health	Canby School-Based MH Program
YMC Family Services	Intensive In-Home
YME School District	5-8 After School Program*
YME School District	Hispanic Family Liaison Program
<b>Four-County Grant</b>	
Countryside Public Health	Prenatal & Postpartum Universal Contacts
KC Public Health	Prenatal & Postpartum Universal Contacts
MC Public Health	Prenatal & Postpartum Universal Contacts
RC Public Health	Prenatal & Postpartum Universal Contacts

\* = Out of School Time (OST) grants



# PACT 4 Families – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center Grant

**Overview:** On March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007 the Minnesota Department of Education notified PACT 4 Families that the Collaborative is the recipient of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center grant for \$606, 881 for the first year extending from August 2007 to July 2008 with possible extensions up to five years. We were very excited and pleased to receive this information because the grant is a plus for helping kids who are struggling with school. Much effort and energy went into this process, and in light of the declining LCTS dollars, we need to maximize every opportunity we can to find resources to serve at-risk children, youth, and families. We were especially pleased to learn that out of 78 applicants, the Department of Education awarded only 15 grants and we were one of them.

The grant is a joint effort between PACT 4 and seven school districts and one charter school. The participating schools include:

ACGC Elementary and ACGC Secondary	Cedar Mountain elementary and Cedar Mountain Secondary
BLH Elementary and BLH Secondary	ECHO Charter Elementary and ECHO Charter Secondary
BOLD Elementary and BOLD Secondary	Eden Valley - Watkins Secondary
Canby Elementary and Canby Secondary	RCW Elementary and RCW Secondary

This project is unusual for PACT 4. Our normal practice is to open opportunities to all members but guidelines for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Centers restricted participation to schools with free and reduced lunch rates exceeding 40%. It began with a meeting on November 6, 2006 where PACT 4 invited school districts who were eligible to receive this funding to participate in a discussion about whether to pursue the grant and if so, who would be involved. After an additional five meetings, much brainstorming, many rewrites, and for our partners, much driving time, the grant was submitted on January 12, 2007.

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center Grant intent:** The focus of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center is to establish community learning centers that provide students with enrichment opportunities during those times when school is not in session, and provide a range of high-quality services to support student learning and development, which may include tutoring and mentoring, academic enrichment, music, arts, sports, cultural activities and community service opportunities. At the same time, centers help parents by providing a safe environment for students during non-school hours or periods when school is not in session.

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center Funding Priorities:** Grant guidelines included an absolute priority mentioned earlier that each funded project must serve students who attend schools that are eligible as Title I school-wide programs (40% or more of the student population is eligible to receive free or reduced price lunch). The state also established three competitive priorities. The first competitive priority was for schools identified for improvement under the No Child Left Behind requirements. No PACT 4 Schools fits this priority. The second competitive priority gave preference to grants submitted by at least one school district in partnership with one or more community agencies. Our grant clearly met this priority with PACT 4, a consortium of many partners teaming with several schools. We also did well with the third priority which gave preference to projects that involved secondary students. All of our grant school districts have plans to provide enrichment programs for secondary students.

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center Required Goals** The state of Minnesota established three goals that are to be the focus for all awarded projects. Those goals are: 1) Increase academic achievement of participating students in one or more core academic area; 2) Increase school connectedness of participants; and 3) Increase capacity of participants to become productive adults. In order to achieve these goals, the PACT 4 Learning Centers will offer high quality programming during after school hours as well as during summer. All eight sites will use licensed teachers to provide enrichment activities with assistance from para-professionals and will have a part time coordinator to facilitate local program planning and participant recruitment. PACT 4 Families will provide overall project coordination, supervision, and evaluation (for information about the grant evaluation, see the Evaluation Update in this newsletter issue). High quality activities to challenge and excite participants will include such things as book clubs, dramatized readings, technology fairs, community based research projects, job shadowing, environmental exploration, food preparation, peer teaching, reading to and assisting younger children with their learning, exploratory adventures into the community, and combining literacy and problem solving activities with other endeavors such as cooking and environmental studies.

PACT 4 Families will be hiring a part time coordinator to oversee the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center project. Until that hiring occurs you can address questions to me at 320-235-8931 or ed\_d@co.kandiyohi.mn.us.



# May 2007

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	<b>1</b> 5:00pm - 7:00pm PRIDE-4 Youth Council (2045) 6:00pm - 7:00pm PRIDE-	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>7</b> 9:00am - 3:00pm Executive Board - RETREAT (O-Neal's in Spicer-Upstairs)	<b>8</b> 12:00pm - 1:00pm Restorative Justice - YMC Committee (Jimmy's Pizza)	<b>9</b> 9:00am - 11:30am SHARE Advisors/Liaisons 10:00am - 12:00pm Early Childhood Comm. (2055) 10:30am - 12:00pm Commu- nity Ed/Trng & Tech Asst (MPR) 10:30am - 12:00pm Mentors Comm. (2045) 10:30am - 12:00pm School Age Committee (1010) 10:30am - 12:00pm Wrap- around Committee (2075) 10:30am - 11:30am Connect with Kids - Resiliency 10:30am - 11:30am Connect with Kids Video Training - Resiliency (MPR) 12:00pm - 2:00pm Full Col- laborative (MPR)	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>14</b> 6:00pm - 8:00pm Parent Advisory Mtg (YMCA)	<b>15</b> 5:00pm - 7:00pm PRIDE-4 Youth Coun- cil (1010 & 2057)	<b>16</b> 8:30am - 10:30am 21st Century Grantee Meeting (2057)	<b>17</b> 2007/09 LCTS Grantee Orientation 9am - noon; MPR	<b>18</b>
<b>21</b> Yellow Medicine County CMCA Training (Kilowatt Community Center; Granite Falls)  10:00am - 12:00pm Evaluation Committee (1010)	<b>22</b> Yellow Medicine County CMCA Train- ing (Kilowatt Commu- nity Center; Granite Falls)	<b>23</b> Incredible Years Training (MPR) 8:00am - 4:30pm	<b>24</b> Incredible Years Training (MPR) 8:00 - 4:30pm	<b>25</b> Incredible Years Training (MPR) 8:00 - 4:30pm
<b>28</b>  <b>Memorial Day Office Closed</b>  	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 8:30am - 3:30pm Geared for Growth Training (MPR)	

# June 2007



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				<b>1</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 11:30am - 2:00pm Executive Board (2055) 5:00pm - 7:00pm PRIDE-4 Youth Council (2045) 6:00pm - 7:00pm PRIDE-4 Support Group	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>11</b> 6:00pm - 8:00pm Parent Advisory Meeting (YMCA)  Yellow Medicine County CMCA Training 8:30am - 2:30pm	<b>12</b> 12:00pm - 1:00pm Restorative Justice - YMC Committee (Jimmy's Pizza)  Yellow Medicine County CMCA Training 8:30am - 2:30pm	<b>13</b> Renville County CMCA Training (Max's in Olivia) 10:00am - 4:00pm  9:00am - 11:30am SHARE Advisors/Liaisons 12:00pm - 2:00pm Full Collaborative Meeting (Farmer's Daughter, Litchfield)	<b>14</b> Renville County CMCA Training (Max's in Olivia) 10:00am - 4:00pm	<b>15</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 5:00pm - 7:00pm PRIDE-4 Youth Council (1010 & 2057)	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>



*Three things in human life are important: The first is to be kind. The second is to be kind. And the third is to be kind.*

*Henry James (1843-1916)*

\*\*\*\*All Events held in KCHHSB unless noted otherwise.



**SERVING THE COUNTIES  
OF KANDIYOHI, MEEKER,  
RENVILLE  
AND YELLOW-MEDICINE**

PACT 4 Families Collaborative  
2200 23rd Street NE, Suite 2030  
Willmar, MN 56201

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**We're on the Web!**  
**[www.pact4.org](http://www.pact4.org)**

If you have any questions regarding the content of this newsletter or would like to be included on the mailing list, please contact Cynthia at (320) 231-7030 or e-mail to [cynthia\\_c@co.kandiyohi.mn.us](mailto:cynthia_c@co.kandiyohi.mn.us)

**May is Mental Health Month**

**May 8, 2007**

**Children's Mental Health Awareness Day**

**Help, Hope and Healing: A Discussion on Suicide**

Kenny Turck, Joline Hovland and

Dr. Steve Thurber

**Noon- 1PM** Blue Heron on the Green, Willmar

Presentation is free, a buffet lunch is available at your own expense

\*\*\*\*\*

Evening Presentations will be held at

Kandiyohi County Health and Human

Services Building, Lower Level

2200 23rd Street NE, Willmar

**6:00 PM Autism Spectrum Disorders,**

Karin Marquardt, with an overview of the Southwest/central Service Co-op.

**7:00 PM Are You or Someone You Love Living with the Consequences of a Brain Injury?**

Laura Albert and Alisa Savelkoul, Facilitators of the WC MN Brain Injury Support

Group will lead the presentation.