



PACT 4 FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE SERVING KANDIYOHI,
MEEKER, RENVILLE AND YELLOW-MEDICINE COUNTIES

PACT 4 Bulletin

April 2006 - Focusing on Early Childhood News, Programs and Funding

Incredible Years Program

A Parent's Story.....

I had the privilege of attending the Incredible Years program through Renville County Public Health. I am always looking for ways to help my children and strengthen the parent/child relationship, as well as maintain discipline in a positive manner.

The Incredible Years program gave me tools and ideas on how to relate with my children on rules and maintain good communication. By spending focused individual attention with my children we have built a secure bond. Through positive discipline my children show feelings of security and involvement in what happens to them.

I am amazed that even my 11 year old son still tells me he loves me and comes to me with personal questions and concerns. I am overwhelmed with the amount of love and respect he shows.

I have also had a much easier time with helping my toddler to learn proper behaviors.

I see myself as a much happier parent because I have more positive parenting skills.

*Suzanne Crain
Renville County Parent*



Pictures courtesy of Suzanne Crain

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Registration form available on our website: www.pact4.org

PACT 4 Families Annual Meeting
Thursday April 6th, 2006
Blue Heron, Willmar MN
Dinner and Program begin at 5:30pm

(see page 11 or the Calendar of Events on pages 10 & 11 for dates and announcements)

2006 Executive Board

Loren Hacker, Canby School District
Serves through 07–2nd Term
(507) 223-7226 /
lhacker@canby.mntm.org

Mary Potter, YMC Family Services
Serves through 06–3rd term
(320) 564-2211 / maryp@co.yellow-
medicine.mn.us

Carmen Clementson, KC Family Ser-
vices
Serves through 08–2nd term
(320) 231-6232 /
carmen_c@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

Jill Bruns, RC Public Health
Serves through 08–2nd term
(320) 523-3723 /
jill_bruns@co.renville.mn.us

Deb West, KC Probation
Serves through 08–1st term
(320) 231-6218
d_west@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

Gerald Brustuen, Renville County
Human
Services
Serves through 06– 2nd term
(320) 523-2202 /
jerry_b@co.renville.mn.us

Arliss Stenger, Parent (MC Resi-
dent),
(Vice - Chair)
Serves through 07–2nd term
(320) 453-8153 / as-
tenger@meltel.net

Eugene Bonyng, Woodland Centers
Serves through 07–2nd term
(320) 235-4613 /
ceo@woodlandcenters.com

Becky Romosz, Parent (KC Resi-
dent), (Chair)
Serves through 06–2nd term
(320) 235-2204 / becro-
mosz@yahoo.com

Val Mersch, Fiscal Agent (non-
voting)
val_m@co.renville.mn.us

Toni Braness, Collaborative Director

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

by Toni Braness, PACT 4 Director

Well, it looks like Spring is finally arriving. It's getting lighter earlier in the morning and getting dark later in the evening. I even saw my first robins this week. Now I hear the forecast for this week include weather in the 50's. Wonderful!!

I want to remind you if you have not already sent in your registration for the Annual Meeting to get it in as soon as possible. Our theme this year is "Celebrating Collaboration, Celebrating Success, Celebrating Community...Looking Towards the Future". We will be honoring the three schools that first piloted the PACT 4 School Based Social Worker program. Libre Academy of Litchfield will give an overview of their sober school. Also, the three schools that are piloting the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program will present on their experiences and activities to date. The Executive Board has an abbreviated meeting from 3:00-3:30, the Chief Elected Officials meet from 3:30 - 5:00, and the dinner and program start at 5:30. The registration form is on our website if you've misplaced your copy. Please get these in by Monday, April 3rd.

Back in November, Our Executive Board discussed the need for family liaisons. An RFP was sent to local agencies plus MACMH and PACER. Woodland Centers was awarded the RFP and the three liaisons started this month. They were introduced at March's Full Collaborative meeting, and their names are Kathie Fransen, Gracie Nieto, and Polly Ann Peters. They are now accepting referrals. The referral form was sent out in an email, and it's also available on PACT 4's website. Referrals can be for children and families with learning disabilities, mental health issues, behavior issues, families that are first-time in the system. Children do not need to have a mental health diagnosis as they did in the past to have a family liaison. The liaison's roles is to empower families to effectively advocate for themselves, assist in navigating systems and build partnerships and coalitions among service providers. Contact Kim Hanson at Woodlands if you have more questions about this. Kim's number 320-235-4613 ext. 423.

On March 28th, Kathleen Crowley and Rodolfo Matos of the National Evaluation Team conducted a site visit on the SHARE grant. The purpose of the visit was to clarify their understanding of SHARE and for us to become familiar with them and what they do. During this visit they gathered information on the planning of the grant, the current status of implementation, the community partnerships and the service structures that have been and are being developed. Many thanks to those who took time out of their busy day to come and provide input. The visit went very well. More information will be included in the next newsletter.

See you at the Annual Meeting Thursday, April 6th.

The Meth Committee continues to work toward encouraging parents to talk to their kids about meth and build awareness of the toll free hotline 866-7NO-METH and the www.8667nometh.com website.



"What have you done today to eliminate poverty?"

My Name: Is "Meth"

This was written by a young girl who was in jail for drug charges, and was addicted to meth. She wrote this while in jail. As you will soon read, she fully grasped the horrors of the drug, as she tells in this simple, yet profound poem. She was released from jail, but, true to her story, the drug owned her. They found her dead not long after.

My Name: "Is Meth"

I destroy homes, I tear families apart, take your children, and that's just the start. I'm more costly than diamonds, more precious than gold, the sorrow I bring is a sight to behold. If you need me, remember I'm easily found.

I live all around you - in schools and in town. I live with the rich, I live with the poor, I live down the street, and maybe next door. I'm made in a lab, but not like you think. I can be made under the kitchen sink, in your child's closet, and even in the woods. If this scares you to death, well it certainly should. I have many names, but there's one you know best, I'm sure you've heard of me, my name is crystal meth.

My power is awesome; try me you'll see, but if you do, you may never break free. Just try me once and I might let you go,

but try me twice and I'll own your soul.

When I possess you, you'll steal and you'll lie. You do what you have to — just to get high. The crimes you'll commit for my narcotic charms, will be worth the pleasure you'll feel in your arms, your lungs, your nose. You'll lie to your mother, you'll steal from your dad. When you see their tears, you should feel sad. But you'll forget your morals and how you were raised, I'll be your conscience, I'll teach you my ways.

I take kids from parents, and parents from kids, I turn people from God, and separate friends. I'll take everything from you, your looks and your pride, I'll be with you always — right by your side.

You'll give up everything — your family, your home, your friends, your money, then you'll be alone. I'll take and take, till you have nothing more to give, when I'm finished with you, you'll be lucky to live.

If you try me be warned—this is no game. If given the chance, I'll drive you insane. I'll ravish your body, I'll control your mind, I'll own you completely, your soul will be mine.

The nightmares I'll give you while lying in bed. The voices you'll hear, from inside your

head. The sweats, the shakes, the visions you'll see, I want you to know, these are all gifts from me.

But then it's too late, and you'll know in your heart, that you are mine, and we shall not part.

You'll regret that you tried me, they always do. But you came to me, not I to you.

You knew this would happen, many times you were told, but you challenged my power, and chose to be bold. You could have said no, and just walked away. If you could live that day over, now what would you say?

I'll be your master, you will be my slave, I'll even go with you, when you go to your grave. Now that you have met me, what will you do? Will you try me or not? It's all up to you.

I can bring you more misery than words can tell. Come take my hand, let me lead you to hell.

Family Needs

Family needs is a section that features area families in need. If you are able to donate any of the listed items, please do so by contacting the referring agent or the Collaborative office at (320)231-7030.

We're working with a young mom in need of infant boy clothing, crib frame, blankets, baby items, etc. If you have any items to donate, please contact Bridget at 894-7498.

I have a family in need of clothing and shoes; the family has one daughter size 7/8 and shoes 12 1/2, and two boys one size 4T, shoes 8 1/2 and finally a boy size 9/10 and shoe size 2. Please let me know if you can help with this need.

Please call Heather Evenson at Bert Raney Elementary at (320)564-4082 ext. 118 or H.A. Hagg Elementary at (320)564-4424 ext. 305

I'm looking for any kid friendly information on bipolar....I have an 8th grader who I need to meet with about it.

Please call Justin Rewertz at Bridgeway School in Willmar 231-8565 or email rewertzj@willmar.k12.mn.us

LCTS Grants Are Impacting Our Communities.....



Courtesy of Nelson Photography
www.nelson-photography.com

Every parent gets angry. When you're feeling angry and get frustrated STOP...Take a deep breath. Count to 10...better yet 20. Admit you're angry and give yourself a time-out.

Family Home Visiting Program ~ Kandiyohi Co.

The Family Home Visiting Program serves approximately 40 families with young children through home visiting and the Incredible Years parenting class. Services are provided by public health nurses, family health mentors and parent educators.

Families who are identified, usually through referral from another program, are offered weekly visits by a public health nurse or a family health mentor who is working with the nurse. This ongoing visiting supports the family with parenting education, advice on health issues, resource information and referral and a supportive listening ear. Most of the nursing time for this program is funded

through insurance or medical assistance. The family health mentor is funded through this grant.

Incredible Years classes are a new component that was added this year and is receiving very positive feedback from participants. The classes are for those who are struggling to parent children with difficult behaviors. The classes focus on play and praise as a basic component of parenting. Sessions this year have been in Spicer and two in Willmar-one of which was offered in Spanish as part of the Literacy in Parenting Class. The classes are taught by trained community professionals are usually a social worker. The staff time for these classes

has been funded through the grant. PACT 4 Discretionary funding has also been accessed for child care during the class time.

Participant responses reflect the success of the program and include: "Please add more classes," "I've learned more about discipline, timeouts, reward, praise and playing," "I've become more involved with my kids," "Parents need to know that help is available!"

By Cheryl Johnson PHN, Kandiyohi County Public Health. For more info. email chery_j@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

Meeker County Healthy Families Grant

The Meeker County Healthy Families Grant works to prevent child abuse and neglect by reducing child maltreatment risk factors and by promoting healthy and positive parenting. Specially trained public health nurses provide in-home visits to identify strengths and weaknesses, model and teach positive parenting skills, promote parent-child attachment, provide home safety assessments, and facilitate the use of health care services. Visits with families are generally on a monthly basis, but some families receive more frequent visits, especially at start up, and as family situations warrant..

A goal of home visiting is to provide the families the skills and resources necessary to pro-

vide adequate home environments and appropriate parenting for their children.

The target population for the grant includes adolescent and single parents, parents with chemical dependency and mental health issues, and low-income households. A majority of the children served are infants and preschool age, although some families do have older siblings that are involved as well. Length of enrollment in the program varies by family, from months to years, dependent upon the goals being worked on.

Positive outcomes of the program have included improved parenting skills, increased connections to community resources, facilitation of mental health and chemical dependency counseling, improved safety in the home, increased knowledge about normal child

behavior, growth, and development, and lower rates of subsequent births to teen moms.

At this time, our sources for funding for Home Visiting are LCTS and county dollars. Other sources of funding have become extremely competitive and limited for home visiting dollars. We have carried out home visiting for 10 years, and do intend to continue the program into the future. We feel the program has positively impacted the lives of the families it has served, and the community at large, through improving parent/child interactions and linking families to necessary resources in the community.

By Pam Miller, PHN, Meeker County Public Health. For more info. email Pam.Miller@co.meeker.mn.us



Courtesy of Nelson Photography
www.nelson-photography.com

Universal Contact Through Public Health in PACT 4 Counties

In this program, public health agencies from the PACT 4 counties of Meeker, Renville, Yellow Medicine and Kandiyohi work with their community partners to identify and provide home visits to expectant parents and families with newborns. All referred pregnant women are screened to identify risk factors. Home visiting by a public health nurse is offered for prenatal education and support to the high risk families. After the birth of the baby, a visit is offered to all families.

The home visits include a public health nurse assessment of postpartum and newborn conditions, health education on parenting, emotional support,

advocacy, and referral to community resources. Families that have ongoing needs are referred into one of the high risk home visiting programs offered by each county. Funding for visitation comes from LCTS, insurance, medical assistance and tax levy. PACT 4 also pays for the printing cost of *The Joy in the Journey* (English and Spanish version), a parenting manual which is given to every family visited.

All families that receive services complete a follow-up survey. Some benefits of the visits that they have identified on surveys include support with breastfeeding, recognizing signs of depression, not to use soft bedding in the crib and

offering reassurance that they as new parents are doing a good job. Since LCTS funding began 10 years ago the number of families served has increased so that in some counties 95% of new parents accept a home visit. The quality of Universal Contact home visits have improved due to the LCTS funding and the networking and training provided by PACT 4.



There's nothing like a newborn baby to renew your spirit—and to buttress your resolve to make the world a better place.

Virginia Kelly, Nurse

May is Mental Health Month

Children's mental health affects how kids relate to family members, in school and in the community. Being a caring family and using community resources helps to nurture your child's emotional health. If you suspect your child has an emotional problem:

1. Know that these problems are real, painful and can be severe.
2. Mental health problems can be recognized and treated.
3. Many children have mental health problems.

Mental Health is how we

think, feel and act in order to face life's situations. It is how we look at ourselves, our lives, and the people we know and care about. It also determines how we handle stress, relate to each other, evaluate our options and make choices.

Like physical health, mental health is important at every stage of life. As a parent you need to be concerned about your child's physical safety and emotional well being.

Tips to Promote School Success

1. Make sure your child eats a healthy breakfast every day.

2. Get children to bed early and regularly.
3. Read, Read, Read (at least 15 minutes a day with your child or to your child).
4. Empty your child's backpack every day and read the notes from school.
5. Make sure your child's homework is done daily and send it back to school with your child.
6. Attend your child's activities and volunteer at school.
7. Visit the library together.



Green Ribbon stands for Children's Mental Health Awareness.



Not all community programs for youth are created equal. Researchers are measuring what youth already know that quality matters.



Bridging Research and Practice in Youth Development....

is the next in a Regional Forum Series on bridging research and practice brought to you by the University of Minnesota Extension Service.

Six forums will be held across the state focusing attention on community youth programs as places for positive youth development. These events are for youth workers who work with youth in their out-of-school hours, community leaders and others concerned with youth issues.

Not all community programs for youth are created equal. Researchers are measuring what youth already know that quality matters. This forum will review some of the research that helps after-school program providers articulate youth program quality with shared terms and encourage them to take action in improving positive youth outcomes.

Participants will receive copies of the most current research on youth program quality, a sampling of tools that can be used to measure and improve program quality and a basic understanding of some of the common elements in a high quality youth program.

Keynote speakers, Dr. Mary Marczak and Deborah Moore come from the Center for 4-H Youth Development at the University of Minnesota. Marczak directs the Research and Evaluation Unit at the Center. She has over 15 years of professional experience researching adolescent development and evaluating youth and family programs.

Deborah Moore is the Associate Director of the Minnesota Youth Work Institute. She has expertise in the areas of training and technical assistance on youth program quality and

design, youth program measurement and evaluation.

Moore begins more than 19 years of experience working in youth development as an Executive Director, board member, volunteer and indirect youth services.

In this part of the state, forums will be held May 5 in Marshall, May 9 in Moorhead and May 10th in St Cloud. Forums will be from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Contact Eric Vogel at vogel1007@umn.edu to get on the mailing list for further information.

Training Opportunities

April 27 Open Mic on KWLM 1340 AM at 10 AM will feature Mental Health awareness and more.

May 2nd at 7:00pm Autism Spectrum Disorders in Kandiyohi Health and Human Services Building (multi-purpose room) with Steven Thurber, psychologist.

The SHARE grant is developing the Suicide and Depression in Children Training. We will "kick it off" on May 3rd and presenters will be going to schools with the presentation. The communications plan for SHARE is being developed and we will ask for your help to give feedback on the messages and materials as they are developing.

May 3rd at 12:00pm When to Take Action for Suicide and Depression in children; Blue Heron on the Green ~ Wendell Veurink, Greater Minnesota Family Services.

Children's Summit Day is May 8 and is recognized nationally for children's mental health awareness.

May 23,, 8:30-3:30pm Helping Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders ; Stephen Olsen, Ph.D. in the multi-purpose home at the Kandiyohi County Health and Human Services Building. Pre-registration is required cost is \$20. Displays will be up at libraries in Olivia, Willmar, Litchfield and Granite Falls, also at ACMC,

Rice Hospital and Cash Wise.

The Meth Committee continues to work toward encouraging parents to talk to their kids about Meth and build awareness of the toll free hotline 866-7NO-METH and the website www.8667nometh.com. The committee is working toward having a Meth awareness month with presenters and displays to grow this local movement.

Evaluation Report

Early Risers is a SAMHSA model program funded by the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) Chemical Health Division that targets 2nd and 3rd graders who are at-risk of developing early behavior problems, including substance use. After four years of serving students, our Early Risers program will end on June 30, 2006. The program is coordinated by school counselor, social worker and family liaison staff in the Buffalo Lake Hector, Willmar and Yellow Medicine East school districts. Each spring students are identified for enrollment into the program through screenings, referrals, and parent requests. During the summer, Early Risers kids participated in day camp activities to prepare for the upcoming school year.

During the first six months and preceding summer of the 2005-2006 school year, sixty-two (62) students participated in the Early Risers program: 15 3rd graders at BLH, 16 2nd graders at YME, and 31 2nd graders in Willmar. A total of 4781 contacts were made with Early Risers students through daily check and connect support, weekly large-group sessions, after-school and evening activities, and the four-week summer camp. Additionally, parents of the Early Risers students participated in bimonthly parent education/information events called Parents Excited About Kids (PEAK) nights. PEAK topics included improving family interaction, family finances, and developing social skills.

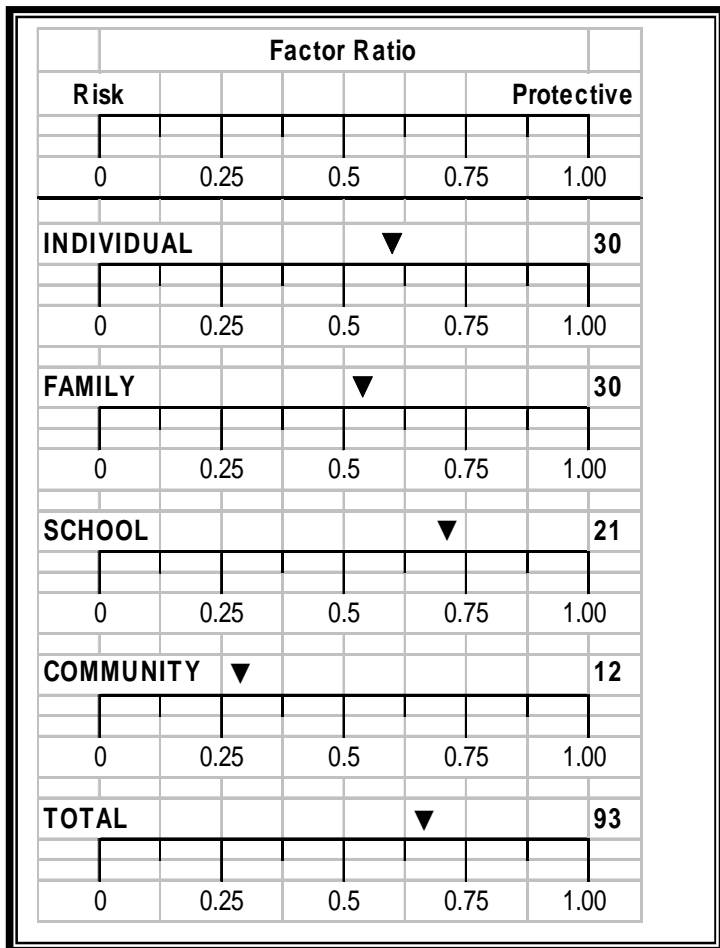
A portion of the evaluation of Early Risers is a pre- and post- Risk and Protective Factors (RPF) survey. The survey is conducted in the fall and spring. Provided here are some highlights from this school years preliminary Risk and Protective Factors survey. Final findings will be available in the summer of 2006.

Risk and Protective Factor surveys identify elements that might put a child at-risk or prevent at-risk status within four domains: individual, family, school, and community. Each element is assigned a scoring system that increases with protective factors and decreases with risk factors. The chart shows the ratio of average scores (denoted by a ▼) for each risk and protective factor domain. Bolded values on the far right are the total number of points available to each category.

The domain that has the lowest ratio (contributing the most to risk) is community (0.26). Community factors include whether or not a child is exposed to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, lives in poverty, lives in a supportive environment, and has access to neighborhood recreation activities. The domain with the highest protective ratio is school (0.74). School factors include whether or not a child achieves in school, parents value education or are involved, the child is committed to school, teachers have expectations of the child, the child is connected to school adults, and the

school climate for the child. Overall, students had an average protective ratio of 0.61.

The goal of Early Risers is to increase protective factors for youth in our area so that future chemical and drug use or other conduct problems are prevented. By using the model program, an increase in protective factors can lead to a positive self image, self-regulation and constructive coping, healthy problem-solving, positive peer interaction, positive attitudes toward learning, and parental ability to support and nurture their child's development. Stay tuned to further evaluation reports as we close out our final year of Early Risers.



*****Our Family Liaisons are ready for referrals. You can contact Kim Hanson at Woodland Centers at 235-4613 or email khomebased@yahoo.com. You can also check PACT 4's website www.pact4.org to download a referral form.



Full Collaborative Minutes

PACER Update

Dixie Jordan and Ranelle Nelson gave an update on their programs. PACER Center offers families of children and youth with disabilities the options, information, and support they need to achieve their goals. PACER Center was created by parents of children and youth with disabilities to help other parents and families facing similar challenges. PACER Center is staffed primarily by parents of children with disabilities and works in coalition with 18 disability organizations. PACER offers resources on education and disability issues to parents and professionals. PACER also produces accurate, understandable materials that range from newsletters, books and brochures to videos and extensive Web sites. Their contact information is:

PACER Center 8161 Normandale Boulevard, Minneapolis, MN 55437-1044

800-53-PACER; fax: 952-838-0199; E-mail:

pacer@pacer.org www.pacer.org

The Minnesota Statewide Family Network is a statewide non-profit parent-directed organization in Minnesota, whose mission is to expand opportunities and enhance the lives of children with mental health disorders and their families. They offer:

- ◆ Individual advocacy and referral for parents of children with mental health concerns
- ◆ Workshops on a variety of topics
- ◆ Resources on topics such as children's mental health, serious emotional disturbance, and others
- ◆ Technical assistance to parent groups and organizations
- ◆ Listserve to connect parents, parent groups and organizations, and networks in MN for information exchange
- ◆ Website with children's mental health information and links to other related sites

A unique part of this organization is the Youth Advisory Board. This board meets regularly and is run by youth who share their ideas and concerns regarding mental health services for children and youth. These teens create a youth leadership presence in MN as self-advocates, share ideas on existing services, and point to areas for needed improvement. MSFN contact information is:

MN Statewide Family Network 8161 Normandale Boulevard, Minneapolis, MN 55437-1044

866-204-1360; fax: 952-838-0199; E-mail:

cmhn@cmhn.org

Woodland Centers – Family Liaisons and Referral Process

Kim Hanson from Woodland Centers introduced Kathy Fransen, Gracie Nieto and Polly Ann Peters as the new liaisons hired through a contract from PACT 4. The referral process will be simple. Woodlands will accept referrals from anyone and it does not have to be only for those diagnosed mental health issues. They will be going through Kim, and she will assign the liaison. There won't be a specific liaison assigned to a specific county. They will co-team all four counties. Orientation has been arranged for the next couple of weeks and will include training. Because of that, Woodlands probably won't be taking referrals until about the last week in March.

5-8th Grade Drumming and Singing-

Group

5th thru 8th graders from the Upper Sioux Community were present today to perform. The song and dance performed today was one that they learned in their after school program. This program is called DaMakota! and is funded through an LCTS After School grant.

Grant and LCTS Update

Reminder that there's no noon Full Collaborative meeting in April. We hold our Annual Meeting instead. The title this year is: *Celebrating Collaboration, Celebrating Success, Celebrating Community. Looking Towards the Future*. The Executive Board will hold a condensed meeting from 3:00-3:30. The Chief Elected Officials Board will meet from 3:30-5:00. Social Hour will be from 5:00-5:30, and the dinner and program will be from 5:30-8:30. The Annual Meeting this year will be at the Blue Heron on the Green.

We received a conditional letter from the Chemical Health Division of the Dept. of Human Services. They will fund two counties, Yellow Medicine and Renville. The grant dollars will fund two separate grants.

These two counties were selected based on the needs shown on the MN Student Survey data. We did not have a choice of which counties were funded. These federal dollars flowing through the state are for a unique project: coalition building over five years to decrease the numbers of youth using alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Each grant will be hiring a full-time coordinator. This grant is very prescriptive of what it funds, how much, and other requirements.

For LCTS 4th quarter earnings, we received \$530,730. This shows how important it is to keep getting kids on the 4E list, and to keep as many of the qualified participants as we can doing random moments.

Priorities have been put on hold until after the legislative session ends, when it's known how much more LCTS will drop with the new, much stricter definition of at risk is in effect. Debb Sheehan will be going out to visit agencies to meet with mid-level management, very similar to what Chris Schmid did two years ago. Partners will be asked to choose their top five projects/programs to fund from a list of all those that PACT 4 funds. She will also meet with front line staff to get more perspective. When meeting with her, it's recommended that you think globally of what's best for kids and families in the community, not just a specific job. She will begin scheduling appointments the beginning of April. The Executive Board and CEO's will sit down this summer and start finalizing priorities for 2007-2009. This will show how important evaluation and outcome data from your LCTS grants are. Decisions will

be based on this data. Anecdotes alone are not sufficient anymore. Keep in mind that the focus of our collaborative is still on prevention and intervention and serving kids in need.

Committee Report

Early Childhood

No minutes received.

Community Education/Training & Technical Assistance Committee

Talked about development of a training program on how to implement programs. Looking for resources on Cyber safety for parents to monitor their children while on the internet. Bob Tews was going to be checking with Denise Kirkoff from Redwood Falls who has some experience in this area. Briefly discussed what is going on with Mental Health month in May. Updates on the progress of the SHARE grants training development of a presentation for school personnel on depression and suicide.

Mentors Committee

Bryan Thiery talked about a program that would provide free background checks for mentoring programs across the state. He will keep the committee updated on the program. Evaluation was discussed - talked about the parent, youth and mentor questionnaires and the data that's been reported. Bryan gave out tickets to the mentor coordinators to share with mentors and mentees. The tickets provide one free child's admission to the Jose Cole Circus which will perform on March 17 & 18 at the Willmar Civic Center. A report on the Service Delivery Meeting was held on Monday, March 6 was given. Discussion was held on funding and sustainability of our programs. Talked about different web sites available that we as coordinators could benefit from, including: www.notevenonce.com, www.montanameth.org, www.kidshealth.org

Lori Clasemann discussed the possibility of collaboratively working on a grant to help with sustainability of our programs. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 10 in Willmar at 10:30 in room 1010.

School Age Committee

Members shared examples of forms used in their communities when someone wants to make a referral for children's mental health services. Eric agreed to create a sample form using information from the examples that could possibly be used by all agencies in the PACT 4 area. The group discussed putting together a packet that could be given to all the PACT 4 school districts during May to promote Children's Mental Health Month. The referral form would be included in this packet along with a depression checklist that could be given to every student and a mental health checklist that could be given to every parent and staff member. Tammie will write a letter that will accompany the packet to explain the possible use of the materials within the school district. The group then decided to ask the SHARE advisors to distribute the information in May. The two schools, ECHO Charter and Community Christian who are not a part of the grant, will also be given a packet. Members discussed adding a 24 hour hotline number to the checklists that people could call if they have questions or con-

Minutes Continued from page 8



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cerns about mental health needs. Woodland Centers has a phone in their crisis unit that is answered 24 hours a day. The group decided that we should ask Janice to check with Woodland Centers to see if they would mind if we included their number on the checklists. Janice mentioned we should check with other counties to see if they also have hotline numbers we should include.

Janice mentioned she would like the school age committee to look at developing adequate policies regarding oversight and coordination of mental health and social services within the school. According to Element 6: Goal 6 of the grant, schools are required to have such a policy in place by the end of the first grant year. If members have time before the next meeting, try to do some research and see what other schools are using as policy and bring examples to the next meeting in May.

Service Delivery Committee

Received an update from committee reps. minutes are in the bulletin each month, so any new information available was given today. Received information on the three new family liaisons hired by Woodlands. The bulk of the meeting was spent talking about LCTS funding, and how much it may go down. We need to define the committee's role further and how we will be able to help agencies as their funding goes down and other resources will be needed. This committee will most likely be involved in the collaboration and coordination aspect of the various committees and partners of PACT 4, working together with less. It may not be helpful to meet until June or even possibly not until September. When determined, committee chairs will try to give a month's notice of the next meeting date.

Wraparound Committee

Trainings are scheduled. Char and Kenny Turck, PACT 4 Restorative Justice Coordinator, are meeting with the members of the Ministerial Association to talk about informal supports and other ways churches could be involved. The new Wraparound Expenditure forms are in and available at the PACT 4 office or at Full Collaborative meetings. Still working on recruiting more neutral facilitators. What is our new task? The committee still sees the importance of neutral facilitators. Char will use her trainings as a platform to brainstorm the need for neutral facilitators.

Evaluation Committee

Committee meets every other month. Did not meet in February, the next meeting is on March 27th at 10:30 a.m.

Parent Advisory Committee

Has not yet met this month. The next meeting is on Monday, March 13th at 6:00 p.m. at the YMCA.

Restorative Justice/Circle Sentencing

Trying to set up training for anyone interested in serving on a circle, both for new volunteers and current or old ones that may want a refresher. Hope to have it all set up for April. Each county, Kandiyohi and Yellow Medicine, could both use more volunteers.

Meth Advisory Committee

Received updated tracking information for Meth Hotline. Reviewed information related to grant from Minnesota Department of Health. 2 grants of one

million dollars each over 5 years are in final approval stages for Renville and Yellow Medicine Counties related to Chemical Health. A total of 9 grants are being awarded and the needs determined by the State included 2 of those 9 to those two counties. Specific information regarding the requirement of these grants will be provided at a later date. Clings and magnets were approved for purchase and they will be available soon. The clings will be the same as one of the billboards. Also other business cards used at the Ridgewater Health Fair will be available for distribution by the next meeting on March 22nd. The internet domain was purchased for distribution by the next meeting on March 22nd. The internet domain was purchased (www.8667nometh.com) and will be constructed within the PACT 4 website. This page on website will indicate other relative links, and information for website users. Kenny also requested information from committee members of links they would like to have considered for this web page as well as resource information/etc. The Ridgewater Health Fair was a success. Laura reported that an estimated 75 students visited the booth she and Roxanne set up. Display board, powerpoint presentation, and handouts were available as well as Roxanne and Laura answering questions of those visiting the booth. Women's Event scheduled for April 27, 2006 at Holiday Inn in Willmar and Mental Health Symposium on May 24th at Ridgewater on May 24, 2006 were proposed and committee agreed we should try to have booths at these functions as well. Laura and Roxanne are being requested again to help with this, but other volunteers from the committee would be welcome. Roxanne was not at this meeting. Laura had to check with supervisor but currently had dates open and would be willing to assist again. Radio spot: Committee decided to continue with newest ad and PACT 4 agreed to pay for the next six weeks out of Meth budget. Also suggested that other counties be contacted regarding donating forfeiture dollars as Kandiyohi County and City of Willmar Police did pay for last month's ad.

SHARE Coordinating Council

At the February meeting, Janice Madden and Ed Downey were in Washington for a Safe Schools grants meeting. The one thing they learned was that evaluation is extremely important. Also found out that we're very much ahead of other grantees in our progress, due to the surveys we did prior to getting the grant. The 3-minute Walkthrough Training planned at BL/H didn't occur. Janice has purchased various videos for schools to review. If the school likes them, the SHARE grant can purchase them for their school library. Meetings and trainings set up for school parent liaisons. There were preschool tuition dollars left over and those were distributed at the March meeting. The Flippen program rep came out to talk about their program. Next meeting of the Coordinating Council will be April 5th.

Executive Board

Conducted normal business routines, such as approving bills and reviewing Discretionary grants, wrap-around and flex funds. Reviewed the conditional letter of notice from DHS regarding the funding of two counties for the ATOD grant. Received updates on the SHARE grant, Parent Advisory and Meth Committees, and LCTS.

We have received notice that the two year spending requirement on LCTS dollars has been changed to 48-

months. This piece is very important to the planning process of future dollars. It was noted that there have been no referrals from public health or corrections staff of possible IV-E eligible kids. We will be looking at Appreciative Inquiry data, interviews with administration and staff, along with Legislative changes, knowing that there will be less money in the future and we need to establish our priorities."

Other

We received notice that we were awarded a Pohlard grant for summer camp scholarships, in the amount of \$10,000. Information will be emailed out to our group and will include applications and camp information. Pohlard Camp scholarships are for first-time kids ages 8-15 to attend a week-long camp; however, PACT 4's priority ages are 10-15. Only approved accredited camps can be paid for with these funds. The list of camps comes from the Pohlard Foundation.

Annual Meeting is on April 6th at the Blue Heron. Invitations have been mailed out and need to be returned by April 1st.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Shawna Steffen,
PACT 4*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 2006

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3	4 PRIDE 4 Youth Council, 5:30pm Room 1010 KCHHSB May is Mental Health Month Planning Committee - 10:30; Room 2045	5 SHARE Coordinating Council, 11:30-12:30 Blue Heron	6 Executive Board Meeting; CEO Board Meeting Annual Meeting @ the Blue Heron	7
10	11 Restorative Justice YMC Advisory Committee; Noon, Jimmy's Pizza, Granite Falls	12 Wraparound Committee; 9-10; Room 2045	13	14
17	18 PRIDE 4 Youth Council, 5:30pm Room 1010	19	20	21
24	25	26 Meth Advisory Committee, 9:00-11:00 Blue Heron - Lunch to follow Administrative Professionals Day	27	28



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 2006

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2 Executive board, 11:30-2:00; Room 2055 PRIDE 4 youth council, 5:30; Room 2045 Autism Spectrum Disorder Dr Steven Thurber; 7:00pm MPR	3 SHARE Coordinating Council; 11:30 Blue Heron When to Take Action on Suicide and Depression in students; Wendell Veurink 12:-00 Blue Heron	4	5
8	9 YMC Restorative Justice Advisory Committee; Jimmy's Pizza Noon; Granite Falls	10 Full Collaborative and Committee meetings KC Restorative Justice Advisory Committee; Noon, Blue Heron Willmar—KCHHSB	11 Advocating for your child; Nami; MPR 6:00pm	12 Comm Ed/T&TA Committee; 9:00 Room 2055
15	16 PRIDE 4 Youth Council; 5:30; Room 1010	17	18	19
22 Evaluation Committee; 10:00-12:00; Room 1010	23 Helping Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder by Dr. Stephen Olson of Park Nicolett Clinic; Cost TBA	24 Meth Advisory Committee; 9:00-11:00; MPR	25	26
29 Memorial Day Office Closed	30	31		

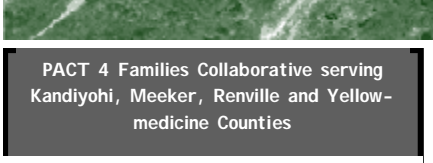
Mommy, I Love You
*Mommy, I love you
 For all that you do.
 I'll kiss you and hug you
 'Cause you love me, too.*

*You feed me and need me
 To teach you to play,
 So smile 'cause I love you
 On this Mother's Day.*

Author Nicholas Gordon



Courtesy of Nelson Photography
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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



Spring

Robert McCracken

Today is the day when bold kites fly,
When cumulus clouds roar across the sky.
When robins return, when children cheer,
When light rain beckons spring to appear.

Today is the day when daffodils bloom,
Which children pick to fill the room,
Today is the day when grasses green,
When leaves burst forth for spring to be seen.

