

PACT4 Families
Elementary & School Age Committee
September 9, 2009

Present: Sally Belgum Blad, PACT 4; Eric Vogel, U of MN Extension Youth Works Institute; Christine Hilbert, Willmar Community Ed & Rec; Deb Kleven, Willmar School; Lynn Dwyer, New London-Spicer School; Anna Tensen, Shelter House; Cheryl Loge, Litchfield School

Member updates

School Connectedness Conference

Impressions from members:

- Issues with preparation at E-Free Church.
 - Tech was ready but barely
 - Most other aspects of the physical preparation (chairs, tables, etc.) were not as agreed to.
 - The small group (140-150 people) made for increased participation from members.
 - Include conference venue in final planning meeting.
- All were impressed with the engagement of the audience
- Inform speakers of breadth of PACT4 programs so they can tailor their presentation to fill gaps without duplicating.
- Minimal application outside schools

Review of evaluation and comments from participants

Review financials from conference

2008-09 Monthly School Connectedness Highlights—What/how to highlight for October

- SHARE grant is done so school contacts may be changing. Need to identify new people.
 - School social workers?
 -
- Highlight possibilities:
 - Summary of all highlights to-date
 - School connectedness was found to be the strongest protective factor for both boys and girls to decrease substance use, school absenteeism, early sexual initiation, violence and risk of unintentional injury.

“School Connectedness: Strategies for increasing protective factors among youth” Center for Disease Control
 - Research has also demonstrated a strong relationship between school connectedness and educational outcomes including school attendance; staying in school longer; and higher grades and classroom test scores.

“School Connectedness: Strategies for increasing protective factors among youth” Center for Disease Control

Brain Conference

- One person needed from each PACT4 Committee to help with the conference
 - TBA. At this time, members present may not be able to attend.
- Booth from the committee
 - None from this committee
 - Possibility of a follow-up booth dealing with school connectedness. Use research and past school connectedness highlights.
 - Use leftover pens & notepads
 - Prep during October meeting. Sally resend highlights to Cheryl to have her office worker prep