

PACT 4  
FAMILIES  
COLLABORATIVE

THE NEXT FULL  
COLLABORATIVE  
MEETING IS:

December 8, 2010

Kandiyohi Co. Health & Human  
Svc Bldg in Willmar

11:45 am to 1:45 pm

Cost: \$6.00

RSVP requested:

320-231-7030 ext. 2961 or

Email:

shawna.steffen@  
co.kandiyohi.mn.us

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# PACT 4 NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2010



"Can I have that?" "I need one of those." "All my friends are going!" Sound familiar? If you're the parent of a teen or tween, you may already know that marketing and media can influence young peoples' choices about what to buy, do, or believe. But just how much are youth affected by marketing for alcohol and tobacco?

- Research shows that alcohol advertising contributes to an increase in underage drinking.<sup>1</sup>
- Tobacco marketing more than doubles the odds that children under age 18 will use tobacco.<sup>2</sup>

Sometimes marketing tactics are obvious: commercials, Web banners, and full-page magazine ads. But other times, the tactics are less clear. For example, your child might see a display promoting beer at your local convenience store or sports event. Or her best friend might have a duffel bag sporting the logo of a tobacco company. Marketing and ads are part of our everyday activities and, many times, we don't even know that we're being targeted.

All this ad exposure affects your child's decision about whether to use alcohol, tobacco, or drugs. As part of their decision-making processes, youth must sort through the media's "mixed messages" and think about how those ideas compare with what they've learned from Mom and Dad and other caring adults. Be an active part of their learning and get involved in prevention activities in your community to help your child make smart, healthy choices.

What can parents do?

- Be aware of how much advertising your child sees and hears. Use marketing messages to start a conversation about alcohol, tobacco, and drugs. [Find moments to talk with your child about marketing and media](#) and go over your family's rules about substance use.
- Know why kids use alcohol, tobacco, and drugs. In a recent survey, 73 percent of teens reported that the number one reason for using drugs is to deal with the pressures and stress of school.<sup>3</sup> [Help your child learn to manage his stress](#) and [build coping skills to deal with things that go wrong](#).
- Talk with your child about alcohol, tobacco, and drugs. Research shows that kids who learn a lot about the risks of drugs at home are up to 50 percent less likely to use than those who do not.<sup>5</sup> Yet, only 32 percent of teens report that they are getting this vital message from their parents.<sup>6</sup> [Get accurate information](#) and start a conversation with your child.
- Get involved with prevention activities in your community. You'll find these activities in schools, community centers, youth groups, and your local health department.

<sup>1</sup> The Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth. [Alcohol Advertising and Youth](#), last referenced 9/16/08.

<sup>2</sup> Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. [Tobacco Company Marketing to Kids](#), last referenced 9/16/08.

<sup>3-6</sup> The Partnership for a Drug-Free America. 2008. [Study: Number One Reason Teens Use Drugs Is To Cope With School Pressure](#), last referenced 9/16/08.

**"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

### What a Difference a Family Makes

#### Family (fam-uh-lee, fam-lee), noun

Working as the director of a family services and children's mental health collaborative, you would think I could define a family very easily. But when I chose to write about family support for this column, I found myself running to several on-line sources to "get it right." The best definition I could find was from a Canadian educational website called Family Ties. They say, "Our families all "look" different and it's always been so. A family care-giving unit might consist of a couple; a mother, father and children; a single parent and child; grandparent and grandchildren; a sibling group; a circle of friends; or however that family defines itself. Families are who you love."

It's never easy when a family member is diagnosed with a mental health problem, substance abuse or behavioral disorder. We tend to get sidetracked by peripheral worries or even fall into denial—after all, our families are the closest people to us. It's natural to think, "This can't happen to us." But it can.

Holidays can act as triggers for emotional meltdowns, substance abuse relapses, and added stress for children, youth, and adults. Relationships can cause turmoil, conflict, or pressure at any time, but tensions are often heightened during the holidays. Family misunderstandings and conflicts can intensify—the people who can be of greatest support during times of greatest need, can also be the source of increased demands and stress, sometimes when simply trying to help.

What can we do when we are trying to make this the most memorable time for family interactions and gatherings? Offer love and understanding to your family member, and listen to his or her thoughts and feelings with an open mind. (This isn't easy, but try to let go of your preconceived notions and just listen to the other person's words.) If your relative is having a hard time talking, think about getting therapy together as a family—your relative's mental health provider may even suggest and facilitate this. If the affected family member is a child, seek specialized information so that you can fully understand the situation and what you can do to make it better—and remember that love is a powerful tool.



*Debb Sheehan, Director*  
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## Sources:

<http://www.edu.pe.ca/southernkings/familydefinition.htm>

<http://www.samhsa.gov>

#### Living with Disability: The Family Perspective

This training highlights the unique issues that families of young children with special needs face when looking for child care. Participants will explore the family perspective and discuss the topics of grief and "loss of dreams." the session will explain similarities between all families including those with children with special needs and those without and emphasize the need for acceptance and respect of diversity for family structures, values, and members.

**Date:** Tuesday, January 11, 2011; **Time:** 7:00—9:00pm; **Location:** Vinje Lutheran Church, 1101 Willmar Ave SW, Willmar MN 56201

**Instructor:** Tari Niemeyer; **Cost:** \$18.00; **Register by:** January 4, 2011

Co-Sponsored by: Arc of Kandiyohi County

# Renville County ATOD Grant

## Holiday Parties Can Be Safe

The hustle and bustle of the holiday season has begun! There will be lots of shopping, baking and decorating to do, and most importantly, spending time with family and friends. Of course, this means attending office parties, parties at the home of friends and family, and possibly hosting your own party. Your role as a responsible party host can keep your friends and loved ones safe. Of course, the easiest way to do this would be not serving alcoholic drinks. But if alcoholic beverages are an option for your guests, there are some things you can do to ensure your social responsibility.

- Encourage conversation and games that keep the focus on fun – not on alcohol.
- Prepare plenty of foods so guests won't drink on an empty stomach and avoid too many salty foods which tend to make people thirsty.
- Never serve alcohol to someone under the legal drinking age, and never ask children to serve alcohol.
- Take keys at the door and only give them back to a sober driver.
- Offer a variety of non-alcoholic beverages including mocktails. Great recipes can be found at [www.drinks.mixer.com](http://www.drinks.mixer.com).
- If preparing an alcoholic punch, use a non-carbonated base, like fruit juice. Alcohol is absorbed into the blood stream faster with a carbonated base.
- Don't let guests mix their own drinks.
- Stop serving alcohol 90 minutes before the party ends. Time is the only thing that will sober up someone.
- If, despite your efforts, some guests have too much to drink, drive them home or arrange for alternate transportation.

### Myths and Facts About Drinking

**Myth:** Coffee can sober up someone who has had too much to drink.

**Fact:** Only time sobers. It takes about one hour to oxidize each drink.

**Myth:** Hard liquor is more intoxicating than beer or wine.

**Fact:** A 12-ounce can of beer, a five-ounce glass of wine, a 12-ounce wine cooler contain the same amount of alcohol and the same intoxicating potential as 1 ½ oz. of liquor.

**Myth:** Someone who has had too much to drink will look intoxicated.

**Fact:** Someone's physical appearance can be misleading. One drink can impair someone's ability to drive. Judgment is the first thing affected when someone has been drinking and important motor skills are next.

**Myth:** Alcohol is a stimulant.

**Fact:** Alcohol is a central nervous system depressant. Although the initial effects of alcohol may be euphoric and seem stimulating, the cumulative effect of alcohol actually depresses the brain. The ability to make good judgments and decisions are depressed first, following by loss of coordination and motor functioning. If over-used, alcohol can depress the central nervous system so much that breathing and heart-beat will cease.

**Myth:** Alcohol is a great way to relax and reduce stress.

**Fact:** Alcohol is a central nervous system depressant. Although the initial effects of alcohol may be euphoric and seem stimulating, the cumulative effect of alcohol actually depresses the brain. The ability to make good judgments and decisions are depressed first, following by loss of coordination and motor functioning. If over-used, alcohol can depress the central nervous system so much that breathing and heart-beat will cease.

The RAPAD Coalition of Renville County wishes everyone a relaxing, safe and happy holiday season!!!

Source: [www.MADD.org](http://www.MADD.org)

Renee Brandt, Coordinator

## Wraparound

**EACH YEAR** about this time I receive calls from businesses, churches, and/or individual families who want to "sponsor" a family for the holidays. It is always a privilege to be able to make some connections with families. The thank you notes that I later deliver are usually full of gratitude and hope.

At a recent Wraparound meeting, I was reminded that the holiday season can be more stressful than joyful. As team members brainstormed ideas and offered help, both practical and emotional, it was a good reminder that there is power and hope in giving.

**HOPE.** What a powerful word. The strength-based approach in Wraparound provides a great forum for instilling hope for families when that is lost. I saw this in action at the aforementioned Wraparound meeting, and I have seen it happen many times. It is a privilege to be part of a process that can give families hope.

Char Erickson, Coordinator  
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Funding for the PACT 4 Families Collaborative 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers grant program is provided by the federal government through the No Child Left Behind Act and is administered by the Minnesota Department of Education.

## 21st Century Community Learning Center

### Renville County West School District

Greetings from Renville County West! Our "Know your World" (KYW) program continues to grow. As of last week we now have 38 participants in the elementary program and 24 in the high school program. Our programming days are on Tuesdays and Thursdays. At 3:00 students go outside or they go to the gym for unwinding; 3:15 is snack time and conversation; 3:30 to 4:00 is homework time. The remaining hour is a fun activity planned around our unit of study for that month!

We launched this KYW year on September 5th. Our focus for the month was on science. Our topic of study was space exploration. The Exploradome from the Minnesota Planetarium was viewed by students in grades K-7. The students researched planets and chose one. Planet creations with paper mache' made for a fun but messy family night. Both young and old got their hands dirty constructing their planets. Galaxies were visited with PowerPoint presentations followed by solar system artwork. Our space saga ended in an out-of-this world presentation at Southwest State University's Planetarium.

November saw the introduction to acting and readers theater. Students were able to ham it up while improving reading fluency and expression in their various roles. Six groups of students performed six different plays

complete with costumes and props. The finale to our reading unit was a trip to the Children's Theater in Minneapolis for an interesting version of "Cinderella".

December will be community service month. Students will be visiting the local nursing home where they will play bingo, read to or just visit with residents. Christmas cookies will be made and distributed to shut ins and soldiers abroad.

The new year will welcome in more learning fun and exciting experiences in KYW. Do you "Know Your World"?

*Carrie Freiborg*  
RCW Site Coordinator



Making paper at Demo, Inc.

## Juvenile Justice/Mental Health

The Juvenile Justice / Mental Health planning team received the disappointing news that PACT 4 is not among the recipients of Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) funding to pursue programming for justice-involved youth with mental health concerns. PACT 4's 2010 grant application stressed that Phase II funds would be dedicated to the continued planning and eventual implementation of the programs that each county planning committee identified during Phase I planning. On a positive note, the feedback that PACT 4 received from BJA identifies the strengths of the programs each county proposed, and recognizes our extensive history of agency collaboration. These observations, together with a review of the programs that did receive PHASE II funding in 2010, lead to the conclusion not that our programming goals are without merit, rather that they fall outside the parameters of this specific funding source.

It is important to emphasize that lack of funding does not mean the good work we've begun must come to an end. Aspects of the programming identified by each county planning committee can be implemented without additional money, so long as there is continued collaboration among the people and agencies that this planning grant helped draw together. This year of planning has emphasized that improving services for justice-involved youth with mental health concerns is important. Progress toward meeting the needs of these youth will continue so long as the conversations initiated during the past year continue as well.

*Greta Smolnisky, Coordinator*

## Evaluation

The Local Collaborative Time Study (LCTS) process has been a substantial source of funding for PACT 4 and its partners for over twelve years. While the amount of money earned through this mechanism has been reduced in recent years because of changes in the way the state administers the program, the limited dollars we now receive still have a major impact on our communities. LCTS funds are used to help pay for social workers in PACT 4 schools, to support the Wraparound process in our communities, and to fund other prevention and early intervention agencies. We are currently in the second year of a two-year grant cycle and will soon start the process that will award funds for projects that run from July 2011 until June 2013 (see announcement below). Before starting this new cycle, we thought it would be good to share some highlights from the year-end reports that came to our office this summer.

*Dr. Ed Downey, Evaluator; ed\_d@co.kandiyohi.mn.us; (320) 231-7030 ext. 2977*

### LCTS Year-End, Year 1 (7.1.2010 – 6.30.2010), Showcases:

- Universal Contacts Story - A universal new baby visit was made to a third-time mom who had recently moved into the county. One new baby visit was made and breastfeeding teaching was done on the benefits of breastfeeding. Mom was encouraged, as all families are, to call if ever she has questions. She called the nurse at 5 ½ months postpartum because she was considering weaning baby because baby wouldn't take the bottle. After listening and assessing over the phone, the nurse shared tips that may make breastfeeding easier and also highlighted the benefits for baby's health. Mom was encouraged to continue breastfeeding and did so until 8 months. One year later Mom called about mold in her basement. Information was shared over the phone about mold abatement which Mom accomplished. One year later (during this past LCTS grant period, 7.1.2010 – 6.30.2010) Mom called about the HINI shot, asking about the benefits. After that conversation, Mom came to the Public Health Flu Shot Clinic where both she and her children received the shot. Summary: One universal new baby visit gave this family a trust in Public Health that continues to positively influence the health of her family.
- The LCTS grant enabled us to continue our Hispanic Liaison program; 92 Hispanic youth were served from January 1, 2010 – June 30, 2010. The program is extremely important to Hispanic families as well as the school district. Liaisons provide in- and out-of-class support for the students and their families, offer accurate translation services, and serve as vital mentors and models for Hispanic youth (and all other youth) in the district. The liaisons support the message that higher education is vital for success in one's life.
- Harmony Visitation Center, a neutral, safe and interactive environment for children and their parents who need supervised visitation services served 101 children from January 1, 2010 – June 30, 2010.

Survey responses from child participants:

- \* 9 year old boy: What do you do during your visits that you think is fun? *"Playing with my Dad."* What would make your visits better? *"I don't think they need to be better."*
- \* 5 year old girl: What do you like best about the Center? *"The games and going outside."* Is there anything you don't like about the center? *"Yes... him."*
- \* 8 year old girl: What do you do during your visits that you think is fun? *"Nothing."* Is there anything you don't like about the Center? *"Having to see stupid man. I call him that."* What would make your visits better? *"Not having to go."*

Survey responses from parent participants:

- \* Mom – *"I could not even imagine going back to the way things used to be (before using the Center's supervised visitation service). The improvements in my child are absolutely priceless. The safety – dropping him (son) off and not having to worry about verbal issues, health concerns, etc. I know he is okay during his visits. That's huge!"*
- \* Dad – *"I'm glad to see my child in a healthy environment. I want to thank everybody at the Center for all the help and dedication to make it easier through the visit."*
- \* Mom – In response to the survey question, "Do you feel there is a parenting skill you were able to improve upon due to involvement with visitation or exchanges (at the Center)": *"The patience that I need to rebuild the relationship with my daughter."*

**"PACT 4 Families Collaborative is pleased to announce the upcoming 2011-2013 Local Collaborative Time Study (LCTS)/ Reserve Funds Grants. PACT 4 will again be awarding LCTS/Reserve Funds to collaborative members through a competitive grant process. The funding request maximum for the two-year grant period of July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2013, is \$60,000 (up to \$30,000 for each 12-month period). Grant application materials will be available on the PACT 4 website ([www.pact4.org](http://www.pact4.org)) beginning December 1.**

**Both new applicants and existing grantees are encouraged to attend the LCTS/Reserve Fund Grant Proposal Informational Session on Wednesday, December 8, following the Full Collaborative meeting, in Room 2055."**

## November Full Collaborative Highlights

**Election of Executive Board members**—There were three people running for three open positions. There were no nominations from the floor. Collaborative members typically vote and the results are sent as a recommendation to the Chief Elected Officials Board to ratify. Since there were no additional nominations, a motion was made by Jill Bruns to accept those nominees running for the Executive Board. The motion was seconded by Loren Hacker. Board members elected were: George Dubie (mental health position); Karen Norell (school position); and Laurie Bliss (parent position).

**Child and Community Safety Through a Restorative Philosophy** — Presenting from Yellow Medicine County were Mary Potter, Jane Remiger, Julie Marthaler, Susan Arvidson, and Emily McGonigle. They shared their journey of changing practices in order to help families and promote community connections. The unexpected result of this change was a reduction in out-of-home placements and healthy community relationships. In 1999, Yellow Medicine County's out-of-home placement costs were \$402,285. In 2004, they hit a high of \$583,984. In 2009, after trying this new approach to "doing business", costs dropped to \$70,107. In 1999, family-based counseling costs were \$74,474 and in 2009, they were \$42,668.

### Committee Reports:

**Executive Board** – Renville County will continue as the fiscal host for PACT 4. The board approved the 2011 budget and spent a lot of time on a new joint powers agreement and by-laws.

**Chief Elected Officials Board**—met and received an update of grants in existence and their sunset dates, gave approval for another year to apply for grants, and ratified a new joint powers agreement. This will need to be sent to each county board for chairperson signatures. Looked at the proposal from McLeod County and moved to approve it pending receipt of their formal application to join PACT 4. The CEO Board also examined and approved the 2011 budget which included all five counties. **There will be two new CEO Board members beginning in January, so following December's collaborative meeting, a "send off" party will be held for Jane Remiger (Yellow Medicine County) and Amy Wilde (Meeker County).**

**Adolescent Services** – made plans to meet jointly with the Elementary/Middle School-Age committee in December in order to combine efforts. Both committees will examine SHARE data to find a future focus.

**Early Childhood** – discussed 2011 goals, sustainability of the birth to five mental health grant efforts and the DC-Zero to Three overview that will be held in place of next month's committee meeting.

**Elementary/Middle School-Age** – discussed recruitment and how to get people to the table. The committee has learned that if there is no active project, fewer people show up. School connectedness is perhaps the best focus, to keep the concept of that going and work further on promoting it.

**Wraparound** – discussed the possibility of developing a half-hour overview of Wraparound to bring to agencies and schools to help them learn about it. The committee also discussed how to develop more neutral facilitators and the skills training in January.

**Parent Advisory Committee** – debriefed the October 11 guardianship training conducted by Greta Smolnisky. Included in the goals for 2011 is hosting another free training for parents, as this one was quite successful.

**Rewards/Success Committee**—The intent of the committee is to identify and nominate at least one award to collaborative participants serving children, within the scope of the mission of PACT 4, to recognize those at agencies that are doing good things for kids and families. If interested in participating in setting the framework for this process, let Debb know. We'd like to provide at least one award to give out at the annual meeting in April.

### PACT 4 Grant Reports:

**Renville County Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs (ATOD)** - Annie Tepfer, DFC Grant Coordinator. For the past four and a half years, Renville County has had a state grant funding prevention efforts on drug and alcohol use among adolescents. Recently, the county received a Drug-Free Communities grant to continue those efforts, as well as add tobacco prevention efforts into the mix. The RAPAD Coalition was established to focus on preventing underage drinking in Renville County and includes active participation from 12 sectors of the community. The goal of the coalition is to reduce underage access to alcohol and underage alcohol consumption. The coalition activities consist mainly of environmental strategies, which aim at creating an environment that makes it easier for people to act in healthy ways. Why are prevention efforts necessary? Compared to youth who wait until they are 21, youth who drink at the age of 15 are four times more likely to become dependent on substances. Also, the adolescent brain is still developing - research indicates that our brain development isn't complete until our mid 20's. The last part to develop is the prefrontal cortex, which effects impulsivity, self-control, risk-taking, and the ability to predict consequences. In addition, underage drinking costs the State of Minnesota \$340 million each year.

<h2>December</h2>				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		<b>1</b> ■ Office Staff Mtg; 1:30-2:30; #2057 OFFICE CLOSED DURING MEETING	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> ■ Wraparound Orientation; 9:00-Noon; #2057
<b>6</b> ■ Willmar RJ Circle #2; 5:30-7:00; Lakeland Ctr	<b>7</b> ■ Executive Board Mtg; 11:30-2:00; #2055 ■ Willmar RJ Circle #4; 5:30-7:00; Lakeland Ctr	<b>8</b> ■ PACT 4 Comm. and Full Collaborative meetings-Willmar; Early Childhood meets at 9:00 at the WEAC & all others at 10:30 at the KCHHSB; check website for details on committee times (RSVP) ■ LCTS Informational Grant Writing Workshop; 1:30-3:00; #2055 ■ Willmar Transition Circle; 5:30-7:30; Lakeland Ctr	<b>9</b> ■ Willmar RJ Circle #3; 5:30-7:00; Lakeland Ctr	<b>10</b>
<b>13</b> ■ 21st CCLC Coordinators Mtg; 9:00-11:00; #2057 ■ Parent Advisory Mtg; 5:30-7:30; The Y (RSVP)	<b>14</b> ■ New London RJ Circle; 5:30-7:00; Peace Lutheran Church	<b>15</b> ■ CASII Training; 8:30-Noon; #2055	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>20</b> ■ Willmar RJ Circle #2; 5:30-7:00; Lakeland Ctr	<b>21</b> ■ Willmar RJ Circle #4; 5:30-7:00; Lakeland Ctr	<b>22</b> ■ PACT 4 Coordinators Mtg; 10:00-Noon; #2035 ■ Willmar Transition Circle; 5:30-7:30; Lakeland Ctr	<b>23</b> ■ Willmar RJ Circle #3; 5:30-7:00; Lakeland Ctr	<b>24</b> ■ Christmas Eve; PACT 4 OFFICE CLOSED
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> ■ Bridge Builders Brown Bag Lunch Mtg; 11:30-1:30; MPR ■ New London RJ Circle; 5:30-7:00; Peace Lutheran Church	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> ■ New Years Day Observed; PACT 4 OFFICE CLOSED

<h2>January</h2>				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<b>3</b> ■ Willmar RJ Circle #2; 5:30-7:00; Lakeland Ctr	<b>4</b> ■ Executive Board Mtg; 11:30-2:00; #2057 ■ Willmar RJ Circle #4; 5:30-7:00; Lakeland Ctr	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>10</b> ■ Parent Advisory Mtg; 5:30-7:30; YMCA (RSVP)	<b>11</b> ■ 21st CCLC Advisory Mtg; 8:30-10:30; #2045 ■ New London RJ Circle; 5:30-7:00; Peace Lutheran Church	<b>12</b> ■ PACT 4 Comm. and Full Collaborative meetings-RCOB in Olivia; Early Childhood meets at 10:00 & all others at 10:30; check website for details on committee times (RSVP) ■ 21st CCLC NPASS Trng; 4:30-7:00; MPR ■ Willmar Transition Circle; 5:30-7:30; Lakeland Ctr	<b>13</b> ■ KC RJ Circles Steering Comm Mtg; The Oaks; Noon-1:00 ■ Willmar RJ Circle #3; 5:30-7:00; Lakeland Ctr	<b>14</b>
<b>17</b> ■ Martin Luther King Jr Day Observed; PACT 4 OFFICE CLOSED ■ Willmar RJ Circle #2; 5:30-7:00; Lakeland Ctr	<b>18</b> ■ Willmar RJ Circle #4; 5:30-7:00; Lakeland Ctr	<b>19</b> ■ PACT 4 Staff Retreat; OFFICE CLOSED ALL DAY	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> ■ Wraparound Trng Follow-Up; 9:00-Noon; #2055
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> ■ New London RJ Circle; 5:30-7:00; Peace Lutheran Church	<b>26</b> ■ Willmar Transition Circle; 5:30-7:30; Lakeland Ctr	<b>27</b> ■ Willmar RJ Circle #3; 5:30-7:00; Lakeland Ctr	<b>28</b>
<b>31</b>				

If you have any questions regarding the content of this newsletter or would like to be included on the mailing list, please call (320) 231-7030.

It is the policy of PACT 4 Families to provide equal employment opportunity for all, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, sexual orientation, or age.

## 2010 Executive Board

Arliss Stenger, Parent-Meeker Co. (Vice Chair)  
Serves through 2010—3rd Term  
(320) 453-8153 / arliss\_stenger@yahoo.com

Debi Brandt, Heartland Comm. Action Agency  
Serves through 2012—2nd Term  
(320) 235-0850 / debib@heartlandcaa.org

Gerald Brustuen, Renville Co. Human Svcs.  
Serves through 2012—3rd Term  
(320) 523-2202 / jerry\_b@co.renville.mn.us

Jill Bruns, Renville Co. Public Health  
Serves through 2011—3rd Term  
(320) 523-3723 / jill\_bruns@co.renville.mn.us

Tammy Thompson, Meeker Co. Corrections  
Serves through 2011—1st Term  
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(320) 231-7030 ext. 2965 / debb\_s@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

Becky Romosz, Parent-Kandiyohi Co.  
Serves through 2012—3rd Term  
(320) 235-2204 / ellen\_romosz@ymail.com

George Dubie, Greater MN Family Svcs. (Chair)  
Serves through 2010—1st Term  
(320) 214-9692 / gdubie@greaterminnesota.org

Greg Schmidt, MACCRAY School Dst.  
Serves through 2011—1st Term  
(320) 847-2154 / schmidt@maccray.k12.mn.us

Loren Hacker, Canby School Dst.  
Serves through 2010—3rd Term  
(507) 223-7226 / lhacker@canby.mntm.org

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

## Chief Elected Officials

Dick Larson, Kandiyohi County; (320) 235-5805  
7grand@charter.net

Jane Remiger, Yellow Medicine County;  
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Amy Wilde, Meeker County; (320) 275-3684  
amy@wildestudios.com

Bob Fox, Renville County; (507) 557-8265  
bkfox@means.net



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED