



PACT 4 Bulletin

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

It's September--School Starts

FULL COLLABORATIVE MEETING NOTICE

PLEASE RSVP to Shawna at (320)235-8938 or email shawna.steffen@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

Wednesday, September 13th, 2006

12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Kandiyohi County Health and Human Services Building

Meth Committee Consults with Senator Dean Johnson

Wednesday, August 23, Senator Dean Johnson met with the Meth Committee from PACT 4 to discuss issues related to methamphetamine use, abuse, treatment and training of professionals. It was a good opportunity for committee members to review the history of the committee, progress made and needs in dealing with meth in our communities.

Committee Co-Chair, Laura Lindeman, noted that the Meth Advisory Committee was formed April 2005 following many discussions regarding the devastating impact of methamphetamine in our communities. It was apparent that all of our partners (Social Service, Corrections, Public Health, Law Enforcement, Mental Health and Chemical Health Treatment facilities) were dealing with the direct effects of methamphetamine with limited resources. Parents of youth and people in recovery from meth have been active participants on the committee since it was formed.

Accomplishments of this group include the following:

- Assisting cities/counties with the establishment of mandated ordinances
- Establishing a "Meth Hotline" for anyone wanting information or referral sources related to meth
- Marketing through radio, billboards, newspaper and community events
- Creation of a website
- Consultation and identification of the committee in grant writing efforts, resulting in the successful achievement of 2 DHS-Chemical Health grants and a Federal Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant.
- Securing "forfeiture" dollars through County Sheriff and City Police departments
- Sponsoring training opportunities for students, parents, and community members

Senator Johnson is very interested in the work of the committee and hopes to follow up with legislation during the next session to focus on the need for early prevention and setting up a treatment program that meets the specific needs of meth addicts. Committee members expressed great interest in being a resource for any such initiatives.

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 Services
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 Resident),
(Vice - Chair)
Serves through 07—2nd term
(320) 453-8153 / astenger@meltel.net

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

Becky Romosz, Parent (KC Resident),
(Chair) Serves through 06—2nd term
(320) 235-2204 / becromosz@yahoo.com

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

Debb Sheehan, Interim Director
(non-voting)
(320) 231-7036 / debb_s@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

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

The director of PACT 4, Toni Braness, has been on leave since July 19. In her absence, I have agreed to take over the position of Interim Director. The transition time has been very busy for me and for the organization, and I hope that I will be able to master this very challenging but exciting role.

When I started at PACT 4 in February, I was assured that during the summer months the pace would slow and allow me to catch my breath (or a second wind.) I would find leisure to catch up on many of the projects on my growing “to do” list. Though according to the astronomers, summer began right on schedule in June, according to PACT-4 time, summer has yet to begin--the pace has not slowed down but instead accelerated.

As you will see in this *Bulletin*, two new grants have been launched--one in Renville and one in Yellow Medicine County--for chemical health prevention measures in the schools and in the communities. We have duly hired two coordinators for these programs and will be looking to engage our many community partners in developing coalitions to create an all-inclusive approach to prevention.

The Executive Board has also been hard at work setting priorities for funding for the '07-'09 biennium. They have had to make tough decisions with decreasing funds, but they have tried hard to be fair and focused. Actual numbers and the grant application process will be available soon--both in the *Bulletin* and on the PACT 4 website.

The SHARE survey results for all four counties are in. They have identified a wide array of mental health concerns, as well as alcohol, tobacco and other drug use issues. Though the results have not yet been fully digested, they do provide some cause for alarm; they certainly suggest we have much work ahead to improve the health of our students. The good news is that a huge majority of students (89%) feel safe at school.

As our children head back to school, please join me in considering not just the quantity of what we are doing to make a difference but the quality of what we may be able to do. One child helped through circle sentencing, decreased stigma effort, or the GOALS program can make a difference. Remember, the world is saved one person--one child--at a time.

-Debb Sheehan, Interim Director

NIMH: Shy Temperament - More than Just Fearful

Compared to others, children with extremely shy temperament have heightened brain activity in response to any prominent event, whether the event is positive or negative, a new imaging study suggests. This kind of temperament - “behavioral inhibition” - early in life is a risk factor for subsequent development of mental disorders.

The study also shows that temperamental and physiological differences found in these children persist later into childhood and adolescence, raising the possibility that the differences may be markers of risk for mental disorders as youth develop. The study's results suggest that differences in temperament are reflections of stable, long-lasting, physiological differences in some brain mechanisms. The findings are reported in the June 14, 2006 issue of *The Journal of Neuroscience*.

Read science update: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/press/me-striatuminhib-kids.cfm>



We are excited to announce that the contracts with the state are in place and those projects have begun!

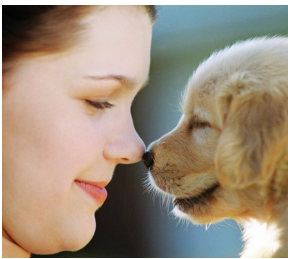
Supervisor Updates Rick Loeth LICSW

PACT 4 Families was notified in early 2006 that we had been awarded two grants from the Chemical Health Division of the Department of Human Services for alcohol and drug prevention. We are excited to announce that the contracts with the state are in place and those projects have begun! The grants are for the expansion of ATOD (Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs) efforts, with one grant focusing on Renville County and the other on Yellow Medicine County. The grants are similar in many details, with some specifics unique to each county. The grants are to develop a coalition of a diverse group of community members that will help guide and shape a range of prevention efforts in each county.

Each grant will utilize a number of “evidenced-based” (meaning they are proven to be effective) prevention programs to help address change in both community policies and practices. The model programs that will be implemented in the RCW, BOLD, YME, ECHO and Canby school districts include Project Northland, Class Action, Towards No Drug Abuse, and Communities Mobilizing Change on Alcohol. While these programs may not be familiar to you now, we look forward to you hearing more about

them in the months ahead. There are a number of other similar grants in other counties in the state doing similar programming - it will be exciting to see how these model programs will be impacting alcohol and drug use by youth in our communities.

Coordinators have been hired for each project - Renee Brandt is the coordinator for Yellow Medicine County, and Alicia Spencer is the coordinator for Renville County. Both began the first week in August and have “hit the ground running” to get their respective projects up and running. A major focus in these first few months is development of each county-wide coalition. Coalition members will be very active in helping shape the project and attending a number of prevention training experiences over this next year. If you would like more information about the project in your county, or are interested in being part of a coalition in either Renville or Yellow Medicine County, contact Alicia or Renee through the PACT 4 office. Alicia will be establishing an office in Olivia and Renee at the University Extension Office in Clarkfield in the weeks ahead. We look forward to giving you updates on this exciting and meaningful project in the months ahead!



“What have you done today to eliminate poverty?”

<h2>Family Needs</h2>	
<p>I have a family that is in need of a bunk bed, please give me a call and I will assist in transporting if one is available anywhere. Thank you.</p> <p><i>Brian Skogen</i> Canby School Social Worker (507)223-2002</p> <p>I have a single mom in need of a bunk bed for her kids.</p> <p><i>Cynthia Casanova</i> PACT 4 Families Collaborative (320)231-7030</p> <p>I have a single mom in need of a dresser for her 15 year old daughter.</p> <p><i>Cynthia Casanova</i> PACT 4 Families Collaborative (320)231-7030</p>	<p>A family I am working with has two school aged children. Mom and dad both work and are just having a difficult time making ends meet. They would appreciate the following:</p> <p>Girl ~ Pants women’s size 6, shirts size large (prefer no black), and shoes, ladies size 9-10</p> <p>Boy ~ Pants size 32x32 (prefer dk blue), shirts size large, shoes size 9 in men’s</p> <p>Items may be brought to the PACT 4 office and I will see that the family receives them. Thank you for your help.</p> <p><i>Diane Helgeson</i> PACT 4 Families Collaborative (320)235-8936</p>

LCTS Grants Are Impacting Our Communities.....

GOALS Program of Goodwill/Easter Seals

Before I joined I was not attending school hardly ever. Then my sister told me about GOALS.

The GOALS program of Goodwill/Easter Seals serves youth at risk ages 14 to 24. Participants meet with a support person up to twice a week at the Goodwill/Easter Seals site to set goals - referred to in the program as "contracting". These goals can be in any of 13 life areas, including employment, education, problem-solving, drug and alcohol use, and personal issues. Through discussions with staff, the young person identifies what goal he or she wants to develop that day. Staff then assist in identifying the steps to take to complete the goal. After creating the contract, the youth receives a \$15 bonus. Youth can be involved in the program for up to two years. The

intent of the program is to help young people develop better planning and decision-making skills through relationships with positive, supportive adults.

Here is what one young person said about the program: "Before I joined I was not attending school hardly ever. It would be a miracle if I would stay for half a day. Then my sister told me about GOALS. I joined and started setting goals for myself. It would be much easier to accomplish things I would normally put off. I got off probation and was working to get off truancy when I messed up and was sent to the group home. I set goals during the time I was there and finished

the program in the minimum amount of time you can be there. I give most of my success of staying out of trouble to GOALS because without goals I would probably be living at an out-of-home placement right now."

LCTS dollars serve as gap funding for GOALS. The program is currently funded primarily through the support of anonymous donors. We also received some funding for our youth programs from the Otto Bremer Foundation. We continue to look for additional sources of support.

Melissa Peterson, Goodwill Easter Seals (320)214-9238 or MPeterson@GoodwillEasterSeals.org

Stigma of Mental Illness Continues

Recently, an article appeared on the front page of the *West Central Tribune* with the headline: "Police officers grab escaped mental patient after he enters Rice for help." The article went on to say, "The search for an escaped mental patient ended Thursday when the escapee wandered into Rice Memorial Hospital allegedly seeking mental help." Apparently this man, in his middle 30's, left a mental health unit in Alexandria against medical advice and came to Willmar seeking treatment.

Nowhere in the article did it say he had been on a locked ward or that he had committed a crime of any kind. Yet the police apprehended him at the hospital, took him to jail overnight and returned him to the Alexandria hospital. Would the police have arrested someone seeking treatment for a heart condition? If he suffered from Alzheimer's disease would the *Tribune* have published a sensationalized story referring to him as an escapee?

Following this publication, Sue Abderholden, Executive Director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Minnesota was contacted. She wrote the following letter to

the editor, which appeared in the Tuesday, August 15th *West Central Tribune*.

*Debb Sheehan,
Interim Director of PACT 4 Families Collaborative*

Story terms are unfair to person

The story on Armando Gonzalez would lead some to believe that people who have a mental illness are dangerous and need to be apprehended. Mental illnesses are biological brain disorders and people who have them are rarely dangerous.

Using words such as "escaped" instead of "left" and "apprehended" instead of "found" simply add to the stigma surrounding mental illness. All we know from the article is that Mr. Gonzalez has a mental illness. There is no mention of a crime of any dangerous activity. Mental illness can disrupt a person's thinking, feelings, mood, ability to relate to others and daily functioning.

Mr. Gonzalez may have believed that he wasn't ill and thus wanted to leave the treatment facility. Later, someone thankfully convinced him that he indeed was ill and needed treatment. This story should have been framed in medical, not criminal terms.

*Sue Abderholden
National Alliance on Mental Illness of Minnesota St Paul*

Mental illnesses are biological brain disorders and people who have them are rarely dangerous.

NOW AVAILABLE!!!

Our monthly newsletter can now be emailed to you! You must be able to open Adobe PDF attachments to access it.

If you are interested in getting the Bulletin via e-mail rather than in the mail, please let Shawna know at shawna.steffen@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

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Take a
Look.....



WRAPAROUND POWER POINT TRAINING

Friday, September 8, 2006
9:00-Noon Room 2057

Kandiyohi County Health and Human Services Building

Power Point presentation covering:

- Core values of Wraparound and the barriers to implementing them
- What research has shown
- What has changed
- What is new in our community regarding Wraparound
- How to work around the barriers

This presentation is for:

- Anyone interested in learning what Wraparound is all about
- Those interested in facilitating Wraparound teams
- Those needing the annual refresher training

To register for the training, contact Shawna at PACT 4
235-8938
Questions, call Char Erickson at 235-8907

WRAPAROUND SKILLS TRAINING

Friday, September 29, 2006
9:00am - 3:00pm Room 2055

Kandiyohi County Health and Human Services Building

This training is for:

- Those who have had the 101 training
- Those who want to facilitate Wraparound teams
- Those who want to know more about the actual Wrap-around process

On the Agenda:

- Getting Started
- Parent Panel: How Wraparound has helped their families; how barriers were overcome
- Sample Wraparound Meeting
- What is new about Wraparound in our community
- Opportunities for discussion, questions, networking

Trainers: Rick Loseth, Janae Langhoff, Char Erickson

7-01-07 to 6-30-09 LCTS Grants

Updates:

At the August Executive Board Meeting some clarifications and revisions were made to the LCTS grant procedures and requirements for the '07-'09 biennium. Below is a recap of some of the grant decisions. Allocated dollars will be published once the final figures are approved at the September Executive Board meeting.

- **General LCTS Grants** will be made based on 65% of the current funding level for each county.
 - ~ 35% of these grant dollars will be reserved for programs serving Type I needs
 - ~ No Type III grants will be considered in the General LCTS grant allotments
 - ~ No after-school grants will be funded in this category
- **After School/Before School/Summer School Grants** will begin on the same grant cycle as the General LCTS Grants (7-01-07—6-30-09) An allocation will be made on a per-capita basis per county and the grant review committees will decide on grant awards similar to the General LCTS process.
- **Universal Contact/Home Visiting** will continue as in the past, being split between the four counties and on amount per birth.
- **School-based social workers/counselors** will be maintained at the same level through 2009.
- **Support will continue for** four county social service positions plus a part time CMH floating case manager.
- **Each county will have an allocation for HCBS programs serving Intensive Type I youth** - these grants will go through the individual counties to determine contracts with selected service providers.

Full Collaborative Meeting Update

Celebrating Excellence Award

Kevin Allen was recognized for his commitment to the wraparound process.

Bridge Builders Presentation - Bob Ryan

Business Bridge Builders is a grass roots organization whose members include public (social services, corrections and public health), and non-profit organizations from the 4-county area. They seek to build community and minimize the negative impacts felt by the impoverished citizens and immigrants in our communities by publishing information about the availability of services. In addition, they hope to operate a centralized clearinghouse to receive and disburse donated household goods from residents and businesses to be made available to individuals and families in need. Transport of those goods would be performed by a network of community volunteers, who may also be available to assist in giving rides to the doctor, grocery store, etc. for individuals and families without a source of transportation. Gaps, or areas where needs are not being met or are being poorly met, were identified and community members will be encouraged to work together to fill them.

Fiscal

Toni Branss distributed a second-quarter ending Revenue and Expense Sheet. Our YTD revenue is \$2,031,711.85 and YTD expenses are \$2,483,314.69.

Grant Updates

With the Wraparound Initiative ending, Danette Hendrickson's social marketing position will be cut to part time, beginning July 16th. We had hoped to have money in the chemical health grant for social marketing, but it was cut out of the budget by DHS.

Early Risers has ended, so along with that, Rosa Eddy's liaison position also ended. We also paid a social worker's salary in YME to run Early Risers in that school, so that is finished as well.

Mary Ryan has resigned as coordinator of the PRIDE-4 program. Her duties will be split between administrative staff at PACT 4 and Amy Haugen. If the no-cost extension goes through, the grant would be running through September 2007. A coach has been hired for Renville County and to help pick up referrals in other counties.

We interviewed for coordinators for the two chemical health grants. Each county (Yellow Medicine and Renville) will have a full-time coordinator based somewhere in those counties. This grant began July 1st, and there's a lot of

training requirements attached to it, especially in the beginning.

LCTS/Priorities Update from Board Retreat

The Executive Board met for most of the day yesterday. Amounts released for 2-year LCTS county grants are: Kandiyohi County: \$593,775; Meeker County: \$316,680; Renville County: \$250,705; Yellow Medicine County: \$158,340. There will not be any applications allowed for Type III grants, and 35% of the grants funded need to be Type 1 grants. In addition, \$400,000 will be allocated for after school, before school, and summer school activities.

Dollars will be set aside from the competitive process for the following: Universal Contacts - Home Visiting; Restorative Justice; School Social Workers; County Social Services for maintaining support for kids and families; Continuing Meth-Related activities; Discretionary, Discretionary Plus, Wraparound, and Flexible Fund dollars; Intensive Type I youth services offering individual, home, group and community programming (HCBS); Summer camps run by PACT 4 school staff; 4-county family liaisons; and a CD/MH pilot.

Committee Reports

A. Early Childhood ~ Talked about Incredible Years and other activities for early childhood throughout our four counties. This fall Kandiyohi County will have their first IY class for Somalis.

B. Community Education/Training & Technical Assistance Committee ~ Did not meet this month - co-hosted the first Connect with Kids Video training along with the School Age Committee. Gateway Drugs was the topic this month. Eighteen people attended. The next in the series is on September 13th and the topic is bullying.

C. Mentors Committee ~ Denise Olson from Meeker County was a guest today. They're considering starting a county-wide mentoring program so she needed to get information and ideas. Also talked about the upcoming mentor conference and workshops that would be beneficial.

D. School Age Committee ~ Did not meet this month - co-hosted the first Connect the Kids Video training along with the CE/T&TA Committee.

E. Wraparound Committee ~ Continued discussion on the neutral wraparound facilitator topic. Neutral facilitation is similar to the Family Group Decision Making process.

Meeting Continued.....



Neutral facilitators would go through a training process. PACT 4 has decided to pilot this project, but there are steps that need to be worked out yet. Committee decided to meet on August 9th at 10:30.

F. Evaluation Committee ~ Did not meet in June or July.

G. Parent Advisory Committee ~ Had discussion on fund-raising activities, the Federation of Families conference, and neutral facilitators. Next meeting is on August 14th at 6:00pm.

H. Restorative Justice/Circle Sentencing ~ Have 6 youth in the Kandiyohi County circle, and 9 in the Yellow Medicine circle.

I. Meth Advisory Committee ~ Dan Hartog, Kandiyohi County Sheriff, has a streaming video spot on the meth link on the PACT 4 web site. Committee is looking forward to the two new chemical health coordinators, who will take over coordinating this committee. Working on displays for county fairs, etc.

J. SHARE Coordinating Council ~ Janice Madden and a number of school superintendents are at a national Safe Schools/Healthy Students conference. Six schools have decided to implement the Olweus bullying curriculum: Cedar Mountain, BL/H, Litchfield, Willmar, Dassel/Cokato, and EV/W. Five of the six have training dates set in August.

EV/W will have training set up in September. Next meeting for the SHARE Coordinating Council is on August 2nd at 11:30 a.m.

Other

Heartland Community Action Agency, in partnership with Ridgewater College, will be offering a free computer training course. Topics will cover introduction to computers, keyboarding, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, E-mail, and the internet. To qualify for this training, participants must meet income guidelines, and attend all 61.5 hours training. Class runs from 8/5/06-11/7/06. For more information, call Heartland at 235-0850.

NEW SUICIDE HOTLINE NUMBER

The Nation's largest suicide prevention hotline 1-800-SUICIDE was scheduled to go out of service on Saturday August 12th, 2006. There was a temporary 2-week reprieve. NAMI has issued an alert to raise public awareness of the alternative phone number for those in need of help.

The alternative phone number for those in crisis is 1-800-273-TALK. This number will put callers in touch with the federally funded National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, a service that has been in operation since January 2005. This service functions as a central switchboard to immediately connect callers to virtually the same network of certified, local crisis centers accessed by 1-800-SUICIDE.

Callers can get counseling or emergency services, if needed, close to home. All calls to the 1-800-273-TALK Lifeline are private and confidential.

Ask Your Kids
About Meth, Ice,
Crystal, Crank
Questions...
866-7NO-METH
Brought to you by PACT 4 Families Collaborative

www.8667nometh.com

www.pact4.org

Ask yourself:

“How do I want to kick-off this school year?”

“How do I want to see it end?”

School atmosphere

- About half of the students felt included in classroom decision-making.
- 93% feel safe going to and from school; 89% feel safe at school; the school bus is where they feel least safe (82%, when factoring in the non-responses).

School violence

- 27% reported being threatened, 25% reported being pushed, shoved, or grabbed in a threatening way, and 29% reported being kicked, bitten, or hit in the last 12 months during the school day.
- 3% (101 students) said they had been stabbed or shot at during the school day and 3% (107 students) reported the same experience after school.
- 75% of students have witnessed bullying during the school day.
- 5% (156 students) responded to having been threatened with a gun during the school day.

Weapon possession

- 6% (193 students) said they saw a gun at school during the school day and 7% (204) reported seeing a gun on school property after hours. All school districts had students claiming to have seen guns at school.
- 8% (234 students) reported carrying a weapon to school during the school day and 9% (276) reported carrying a gun at any time during the last 30 days.

Alcohol, tobacco, and other drug usage

- 16% (490 students) said they have smoked during the past month, 7% (231) reported to have smoked at school during the school day, 8% (251) reported to have smoked on school property after hours.
- 8% (246 students) said they have used smokeless tobacco during the last month, 2% (73) claimed to use it everyday and 2% (73) claimed to use smokeless tobacco 6 or more times during the day.
- 27% (833 students) said they have used alcohol in the last month and 19% (580) reported drinking excessively. Usage increases with age but there were 54 7th graders (5%) who reported being drunk at least once.
- 10% (300 students) reported marijuana usage, 5% (169) reported inhalant usage, and 3% (94) reported methamphetamine usage. Inhalant usage is twice that of meth at 7th and 9th grades but evens out at 4% by 11th grade.

Mental health & self-harm

- 22% (685 students) reported extensive sadness or hopelessness.
- 14% (442 students) reported deliberately harming themselves (cutting, scratching, etc.) to the point of leaving scars.
- 9% (272 students) claimed to have attempted killing themselves at least once, 4% (127) of those reported more than one attempt, 2% (46) reported 6 or more attempts.
- 4% (116 students) indicated their attempts resulted in the need for medical care.

The numbers may be alarming because we as adults do not always see what is happening. Does that mean it isn't? We need to take these numbers seriously until we know otherwise. But how do we look for the things that support this data?

Why not go to the source? Students have just given us a snapshot of their world, and it is time to follow up. If we want our schools to be safer for our students, let's ask them for their reaction to the information they provided us. Each school has data specific to their student bodies so now is the perfect opportunity to target needs within each district.

Use this data to determine how to best draw on available resources. The SHARE program funds case consultation for school social workers, reflective consultation of Early Childhood staff, the “Connect with Kids” video series, mental health assessments, and mental health training for teachers. Also take advantage of the social workers and counselors in your schools. Teachers value their work with students—they are there to help.

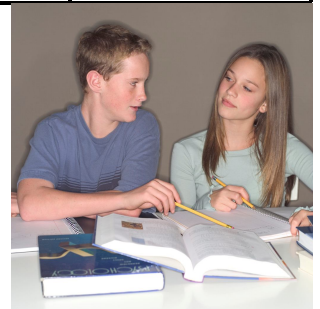
As the school year begins, ask yourself, how do I want it to kick-off? Take it one step further and ask yourself, what kind of results do I want to see on next spring's Safe Schools/Healthy Students survey? Tap into your school's resources, including your students, to accomplish your goals.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 2006

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1
4 Labor Day Office Closed	5 11:30am - 2:00pm Executive Board (2055) 5:30pm - 8:00pm PRIDE 4 Youth Council (1010)	6 11:30am - 1:30pm SHARE Coordinating Council (Blue Heron; reserved)	7	8 9:00am - 12:00pm Wraparound 101 Re- freshers Combo (2057)
11 6:00pm - 8:00pm Parent Advisory meeting (YMCA)	12 12:00pm - 1:00pm Restorative Justice - YMC Committee (Jimmy's Pizza)	13 10:00am-12:00pm Early Childhood Committee 10:00am-10:30am Community Ed/T&TA 10:00am-10:30am School Age Committee 10:30am-12:00pm Mentors Committee 10:30am-12:00pm Wraparound Committee 10:30am-11:30am Connect with Kids Video Training- Topic Bullying 12:00pm - 2:00pm Full Collaborative (MPR)	14 12:00pm - 1:00pm Restorative Justice - KC Committee (Blue Heron)	15
18	19 5:00pm - 7:00pm PRIDE 4 Youth Council (1010)	20 Communications Training: SHARE (Blue Heron)	21 Communications Training: SHARE (Blue Heron)	22
25 10:00am - 12:00pm Evaluation Committee (1010)	26	27 9:00am - 2:00pm SHARE Psychiatric Case Consulta- tion (2057) 9:00am - 11:00am Meth Advisory Committee	28	29 8:30am - 12:30pm Wraparound Training

***All meetings are at the Kandiyohi County Health and Human Services
Building unless otherwise noted**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 2006

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2 11:30am - 2:00pm Executive Board (2055) 5:30pm - 8:00pm PRIDE 4 Youth Council (1010)	3	4 PACT 4 Staff Retreat - Office Closed 11:30am - 1:30pm SHARE Coordinating Council (Blue	5 6:00pm - 8:00pm Parent Advisory Meeting (YMCA)	6
9	10 12:00pm - 1:00pm Restorative Justice - YMC Committee (Jimmy's Pizza)	11 10:00am - 12:00pm Early Childhood (Granite Falls) 10:30am - 12:00pm Comm Ed/T&TA 10:30am - 12:00pm (Granite Falls) Mentors Committee 10:30am - 12:00pm (Granite Falls) School Age Committee 10:30am - 12:00pm (Granite Falls) Wraparound Committee 10:30am - 2:00pm Full Col- laborative (Kilowatt Commu- nity Center; Granite Falls)	12 12:00pm - 12:30pm Restorative Justice - KC Committee (Blue Heron)	13
16	17 5:00pm - 7:00pm PRIDE-4 Youth Council (1010)	18	19 NO SCHOOL - Teacher Conferences	20 NO SCHOOL - Teacher Conferences
23	24	25 9:00am - 11:00am Meth Advisory Committee (MPR)	26	27
30	31 			

***All meetings are at the Kandiyohi County Health and Human Services
Building unless otherwise noted**





Circle Sentencing is an alternative sentencing program for young offenders. There are currently four Circles in our area: Canby, Granite Falls I, Granite Falls II, and Willmar. Together with community volunteers, participants and parents address numerous issues, but the three core concerns are: 1) who was harmed; 2) who caused the harm; and 3) what can be done to repair the harm. Circle Sentencing is an opportunity for juvenile offenders to meet with community volunteers to address these issues, receive guidance and insight while working on goals such as: apologizing to victims, completing community service, paying restitution, and remaining law-abiding. Circles meet twice a month at 5:30 p.m. In the upcoming year Circle Volunteers will be meeting on a quarterly basis for an opportunity to receive on-going training and support on issues relevant not only to community volunteers but also situations that involve the youthful offenders and their families.

PACT 4 Families had a visit from Ms. Rubina Khan, Grants and Subsidies representative from the Minnesota Department of Corrections. Debb Sheehan was available to meet with her while she was here. Ms. Rubina e-mailed Debb a follow-up message that we would like to share. *“...PACT 4 is doing a wonderful job in the community. The grants unit is pleased with the way you are managing the funds and your FSRs (financial reports) are always on time which keeps my job easy.”*

If you would like to learn more about becoming a volunteer, please contact Kenny Turck 320.235.8939 or e-mail Kenny at: kenny_t@co.kandiyohi.mn.us



Celebrating Excellence Award Presented


At the July Full Collaborative meeting, PACT 4 presented a *“Celebrating Excellence in Wraparound”* award to Kevin Allen, Personal Care Attendant through Avenues for Care. Kevin was nominated by Children’s Mental Health case manager Diane Helgeson, who wrote:

“Kevin has gone above and beyond his role as personal care attendant. He is creative, energetic and flexible with his time. Kevin stops whatever he is doing to listen, nurture and support the child in his care.”

As we look at the values of Wraparound, it is evident that Kevin has taken a *strength-based, individualized, and collaborative* approach in working with the child in his care. Kevin is an active member of the child’s Wraparound team, and is instrumental in helping this child reach his goals.

Congratulations, Kevin!

NOTE: We are always looking to “celebrate excellence” in Wraparound! If you would like to nominate someone for this award please contact Char Erickson at 235-8907. The nomination form can be faxed, sent or e-mailed, or picked up at the PACT 4 office.



PACT 4 Families Collaborative
serving Kandiyohi, Meeker, Renville
and Yellow- Medicine Counties

2200 23rd Street NE, Suite 2030

Willmar, MN 56201

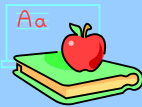
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We're on the Web!

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



Parent Responses About Family Friendly Schools....

How would you describe a parent friendly school?

A school where parents feel welcome at all times, not just at prearranged conferences. When a meeting is scheduled, staff who should be there make it a priority to attend. A place where parents can feel their concerns are listened to and followed up on. A place where confidentiality is kept. A place where parents can feel good about sending their child because they know it is safe and the staff not only cares about giving their child an education but they sincerely care about their child.

What do you think is the most important thing a school can do to get parents involved?

Involve all parents regardless of socio-economic status or ability to contribute monetarily. Don't assume that parents are not involved in their child's education. Value parents' input. Treat families on a need-by-need basis. Consider parent needs so they may be more inclined to participate and be involved. Provide a wide variety of activities for all the ages and stages of development of children. Listen to the needs of families with an open mind and not judge opinions of parents. Parents need school support of their decisions, and encouragement to try new approaches to solve the issues they have with their child.

What can schools do to encourage parent involvement?

Host parent/teacher conferences, ECFE programs, speakers on various issues involving children, seek parental input through PTA meetings, provide child care for meetings, listen to parents, and have administration as well as teachers show an interest in their child.

*The above are parents responses to questions posed by SHARE liaisons and advisors.