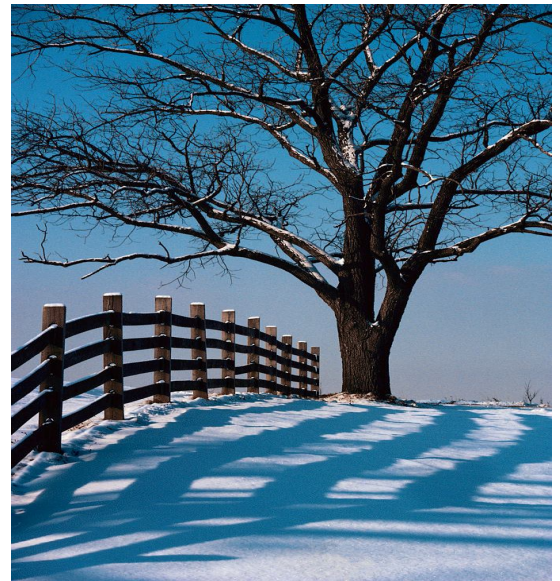


PACT 4 BULLETIN

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

**Full Collaborative Meeting will be held at the Kandiyohi
County Health and Human Services Building on
Wednesday, December 13th, 2006**

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



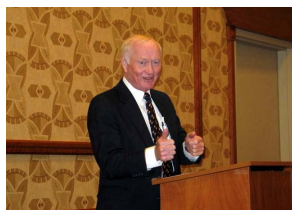
Gwen Chandler-Rivers
Guest Speaker



Kenny Turck - Restorative
Justice Coordinator



Honorable Judge Spilseth



Honorable Judge
Christopherson

2006 Annual Banquet for Circle Sentencing Volunteers

My grandmother used to call it “the ripple effect”...treating others with kindness, generosity, and consideration--usually this meant others would, in turn, do the same for those with whom they came in contact. On November 16th we honored volunteers from Kandiyohi and Yellow Medicine County’s Circle Sentencing Programs for their dedication to these values in their own communities. Every month (2-4 times a month and often for several hours at a time) volunteers come together with young people and their families to offer guidance and perspective to young men and women who have been offered the opportunity through the courts to participate in the Circle Sentencing Program. Over the last several years of the Program’s existence, youth that have graduated from the program have not re-offended in the 12-month tracking period following their graduation from Circle. It’s an amazing testimony about the tenacious spirit of our volunteers and their desire to pass on values and ideals of accountability and responsibility balanced with compassion and respect to those they serve.

We were honored to have so many volunteers present at the banquet and those who could not make it were definitely missed. Many county stakeholders were also present to acknowledge the volunteers’ hard work and dedication. Many of our volunteers may have felt a bit uncomfortable for the recognition that they received. I can attest that the recognition is not why they do what they do. They chose to become volunteers because they truly care about their communities. They truly care about helping out and making a difference in young people’s lives. It’s been surprising at times for some of the youth served in Circle to realize that all of these folks are in Circle on their own time, week after week, month after month. “It’s hard to believe how much they care about me...” was a comment made recently by a young man involved with Circle. As one of the volunteers puts it—“the reward we receive is seeing how you turn out in life—we just want the best for you”... The unsung heroes for sure—the “behind the scenes” crew—never asking for a pat on the back, unwavering belief in making a difference, and a steadfast commitment to their communities—these are our volunteers.

Gwen Chandler-Rivers, a familiar face to Circles in Minnesota, honored our volunteers with a keynote message and the Pejuhtazizi (Yellow Medicine) Singers, a youth drum/singing group from Upper Sioux performed a Song of Honor for the volunteers which was absolutely amazing! Words cannot accurately express the heartfelt gratitude we feel for our volunteers.

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.”

Recently PACT 4 sponsored a banquet for volunteers in the Circle Sentencing Program. It was gratifying to see how many people are dedicated to making this program such a success for the participating youth. Two of the judges involved in sentencing adolescents to this program underscored the importance of the volunteers in the lives of these young people; they take part not because they are paid to participate but because they truly see the value in being a molding force in their lives and the lives of their parents.

While a judge may see the individual for a brief period of time, the circle volunteers spend hours and hours helping the youth come to the decisions that will have an impact during the rest of their lives. They are not only disciplinarians; they are much more -- role models and guides that help these youth through the many difficult choices that each one of them makes on a daily basis. I am tremendously proud that an organization I work for is able to be a part of the equation in making such an important difference in the lives of these teenagers.

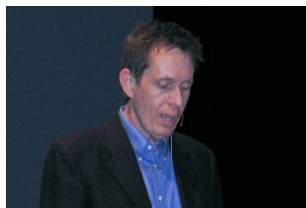
On December 1 we received 45 grant applications for programs to serve children and families in our four-county area through the LCTS County grant program. Grant applications range from intensive services for high needs kids to after-school programs that serve a wide variety of needs. Among the many different requests, one theme stands out—our member agencies are focused on delivering prevention and/or early intervention strategies that focus on solutions rather than on problems. They provide support in times of stress, disseminate information and encourage skill building when individuals are in need, and generate opportunities for at-risk children and youth to build a hopeful future.

With funds in our LCTS budget diminishing, we are forced to consider carefully the best ways to best use our limited capital. We will be working with our many partners to look at how to use our discretionary funds to fill gaps where necessary, and to leverage our resources with agencies committed to making our four counties among the best in the state.

As the Executive Board struggles to identify where we can make cuts because of decreased LCTS funding, I am amazed at what so many agencies are able to do with so few dollars. Volunteers are an indispensable part of that equation; so, however, are dedicated professionals and para-professionals, who on a daily basis go above and beyond their job descriptions to offer options for our children in need. I have witnessed agencies come together in the most extraordinary ways to assure families in trouble or in need are given every opportunity possible. Thanks to all of you who work every day to greatly improve the lives of children and families. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Brain Conference Offers Wit and Wonder

The 5th Annual Community Conference on the Brain, held November 14th, once again filled an evening with energy, information, networking, nutrition and excitement for the organ we carry around every day, weighing about three pounds and filling our head. This year's conference keynote and closing speaker, Michael Sims, took the topic of the brain in a new direction. In past years, we have pondered the brain's uses through scientific and behavioral means. Sims gave us a chance to reflect on the brain in a more literary form. Through wit and wonder we explored with him new thoughts on the brain and once again had the chance to stretch our thoughts and impressions.



Michael Sims

Conference attendees selected one of seven breakout sessions. Some topics that were presented were "How the Brain Functions in Poverty", "Understanding Gender and Your Brain" and "the Early Brain of Infants, Toddlers and Children." The effort put forth by the top notch presenters is greatly appreciated. The presenters basically volunteer their time and presentation to the conference. Their willingness to share their area of expertise guarantees the quality of this training event. Handouts of the presentations are available at www.pact4.org.

275+ people attended this year's conference that was held at the Willmar Senior High School. Three main ingredients have sustained each of the five conferences to date: 1. Dr. Bill Sheehan has given the opening address sharing his insights into the universe of the brain: 2. The ant logo keeps us humble about the brain: and 3. Chocolate in the participants' registration packets ensure that chocolate, when moderately consumed, can enhance our mood and receptiveness to learning (White 1998; Steelman 1996; Wurtman 1986). Plans for next year's conference are under way. I hope you will plan to attend.

*Danette Hendrickson
Social Marketing and Training Coordinator
PACT 4 Families Collaborative*

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Free Training: Connect with Kids	Families for Families
<p>Free Video Training Connect with Kids - The Enemy Inside, Self Injurious Behavior. Kids today are under enormous pressure and are taking it out on themselves with knives and razor blades, are regularly and very purposely getting high or drunk, and are attempting suicide...using pain to reduce the pain they feel - as a way of crying out for help.</p> <p>Date: December 13th from 10:30am at the Kandiyohi County Health and Human Services Building Multi-Purpose Room</p> <p>To RSVP call Shawna Steffen at 235-8938 or email shawna.steffen@co.kandiyohi.mn.us</p>	<p>What: Mental Health, How It Affects Families: Where Are You Now, Where Do You Want To Be? Presented by Lisa deCathelineau</p> <p>Where: Willmar Public Library</p> <p>When: January 23, 2007 / 6:00pm - 7:30pm</p> <p>For More Information Call: Woodland Centers @ (320)235-4613 ext: 227</p>

Family Needs

A family who lost their house and most of their possessions in a fire is still in need of two dressers. Thanks to all who donated clothing and other items to help this family.

Angie Simon 235-8917 or Char Erickson 235-8907

I am working with a mother who relocated here from Texas and is currently homeless. She has two young children. She has a three/four year old daughter who needs size 12 pants. I'm thinking sweats or leggings may be best. Thanks! If you can help with this need please call me at the number below.

Jen Hovland 231-7061

A family in the area has lost their home and most of their belongings in a house fire. If anyone has clothing to donate in the following sizes it would be appreciated:

~Ladie's size 5/6 pants, small sweatshirts, size 8 shoes, pajamas and slippers

~Men's pants 30x30, larger boys shirts or small men's shirts, pajamas in small men's size, size 10 shoe

~Boys pants size medium, size 10-12 pajamas, shoe size 6

~Girls size 6/7 pants and shirts, shoe size 13, pajamas size 6/7

If you are able to donate any of these items please call:

Char Erickson 235-8907

"What have you done to eliminate poverty?"

LCTS Grants Are Impacting Our Communities.....

Harmony Visitation Center

Harmony Visitation Center (HVC) provides supervised visits and monitored exchanges to families in times of turmoil and/or transition. HVC staff focus on the children while maintaining a respectful, neutral relationship with all participants, regardless of custody status.

HVC has served a wide range of children from infants younger than one week through age 18. Services are provided to participants on an income-based, sliding fee scale, unless referred by an agency with which HVC has a participant contract.

There are admirable potentialities in every human being. Believe in your strength and your youth. Learn to repeat endlessly to yourself, 'It all depends on me.'

Andre Gide



Through supervised visitation, HVC provides children and their non-custodial parents a safe, child-friendly environment which supports the building, maintenance, or re-building of the parent/child bond. HVC services provide the opportunity for the building of a parent/child bond when a child is introduced to a parent or when a parent who has not been in the child's life for an extended period of time. HVC services provide for the maintenance of the parent/child bond when a child is in foster care and the parent is working to gain control of his/her issues with a goal of reunification. HVC services provide for the rebuilding of the parent/child bond when that bond has been damaged or disrupted. HVC staff are present at all times during supervised visitation and record all parent/child interactions in an objective manner. These reports are provided to all the collaborating professionals involved with the family as part of the continuum of care.

From 2003 to 2005, HVC case numbers more than doubled and not all requests for services could be fulfilled. In addition, the primary reason bringing families to HVC has changed from one of domestic violence to one of chemical dependency.

In the past year, HVC staff provided the opportunity for: a father to build a relationship with a toddler he did not know; a mentally ill parent, unable to care for the children, to maintain the parent/child bond; and, a parent to maintain the parent/child bond until criminal charges were found to be false.

During monitored exchanges, HVC staff escort children from one parent to the other, ensuring no contact between parents. Through monitored exchanges, children can spend time with the non-custodial parent without witnessing hostility and/or abuse between their parents at the parent-time exchange.

LCTS dollars fund approximately one-third of the supervised visits provided by HVC. The current LCTS grant enabled HVC to add additional visitation times in July 2005, but even with these additions, not all requests for services can be filled and thus children are not always able to spend enough time with their non-custodial parent. Spending time with their parents is very important for the emotional health of children, and especially those children in foster care. For now, HVC serves as many children and families as possible and maintains a waiting list. Additional funding is being sought and donations are always welcomed.

Families are referred to HVC by way of the courts, social service agencies, attorneys, and child protection. Others self-refer.

If anyone has questions about our services, we can be reached during business hours at 214-0799.

*Elaine Bolland, Coordinator
Harmony Visitation Center*

Reminder to LCTS grantees

Reporting season is here! Mark these important dates on your calendar:

January 15, 2007 - Type forms are due in the PACT 4 office

January 30, 2007 - Mid-Year reports are due in the PACT 4 office

Report materials are available on the PACT 4 website (www.pact4.org).
From the homepage,

➤ follow the 'LCTS' link,

➤ click 'LCTS 2005-2007 Grants' to find a list of documents to download.

We have reached the end of the first year of the SHARE Project and the annual performance report has been completed and submitted to the federal government. Thanks to everyone who provided information for that report. The information showed that through the grant many good things are being done by SHARE schools and agencies.

Safety Modification: Eight schools have installed additional surveillance cameras, three schools put in additional keyless entries, two schools purchased new radios, one school put in new locks, one school put in a new intercom system, one school put in a new phone system and one school installed a fence around an elementary playground.

Violence and ATOD Prevention: Five schools were trained in "Olweus" and one in "Second Step". Funds for ATOD were used to bring in speakers, buy supplies for drug awareness and smoking prevention activities, and develop a smoking cessation program.

Mental Health Intervention: Five school districts brought in speakers, Corwin Kronenberg and David Walsh to provide training for teachers and community members. Two school districts received training in the "Strengthening Families Program" and have begun classes.

Early Childhood Intervention: Preschool tuition scholarships were provided to 213 children in the 14 school districts. Two counties have formed "Reflective Consultation Teams Four additional." "Incredible Years" classes were held and 186 home visiting hours were added.

Connecting Schools and Communities: All 14 school districts have parent/school liaisons and they have been involved in a variety of activities. Four have developed a liaison webpage, two have done Love and Logic classes, one has started a support group for parents of autistic children, six have done parent informational meetings on various subjects such as bullying, and all have been connecting with students and parents to help with problems they are having in the school. That's just to name a few things.

Mental Health Coordination: With the help of the School-Age Committee, a referral has been developed for schools to use when they want to refer a child for mental health case management. The referral form has been approved by county social services and is available to the schools.

Intensive In-Home Grants

1. Each county will be provided funding for \$48,000 per year for the two years from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2009 to provide intensive Type I services to youth who are at risk of out-of-home placement. Referrals can be made for any youth who is at risk of out-of-home placement. Referrals can be made by any youth services organizations with priority for service being those youth most at risk of being placed out of the home. While services to referred youth would normally involve in-home therapy, other individual, group and community services may be used.
2. Agencies who wish to provide these services may submit a proposal using the 2007-2009 LCTS Grant Materials and Guidelines to the PACT 4 office. Proposals will be reviewed by PACT 4 office. Proposals will be reviewed by PACT 4 staff for clarity, completeness, appropriateness for the intended purpose of the grant, and the quality of the proposed evaluation of grant results. Applicants will be given one opportunity to make needed revisions.
3. Applications that pass PACT 4 office review will be forwarded to the appropriate county family services director who will engage appropriate county agency staff in the review process.
4. County agency staff will review proposals and make a recommendation to the PACT 4 Executive Board as to which agency should be awarded the contract.
5. The PACT 4 Executive Board will accept or reject the proposed recommendations. If accepted the approved agencies will be contracted by PACT 4 to provide the services.
6. Agencies who are approved and given contracts with PACT 4 will meet the same reporting requirements as other LCTS grantees.
7. The timeline is as follows:

December 13, 2006	Request for Proposals is announced
January 26, 2007	Proposals are due at the PACT 4 office by 4:30pm.
February 16, 2007	Deadline for notifying of any needed rewrites.
March 2, 2007	Rewritten grants are submitted to PACT 4 Office.
March 30, 2007	Grants are forwarded to County Directors for review.
April 20, 2007	Counties submit recommendations for funding to PACT 4.
May 1, 2007	Funding recommendations are acted on by the Executive Board.
June 30, 2007	Contracts are complete and programming can begin.

Parents Found To Play Crucial Role in Teens Perception Of Mental Health Care—Especially with Boys

The Surgeon General estimates that approximately one in five children has a mental health condition; however research shows that more than 70% of teens with mental health needs do not receive care. A recent study in the *Journal of Adolescent Health*, may have some answers as to why this may be so.

Chandra and Minkovitz (2006) found that boys are more likely than girls to be biased against the mental health system. For example, 40% of boys agreed with the statement, “seeing a counselor for emotional problems makes people think you are weird or different,” compared to 24% of girls. 38% of boys and 23% of girls surveyed, said they were not willing to use mental health services. They also were more likely to report that they (1) would be too embarrassed by what other kids would say, (2) don’t trust counselors, and (3) didn’t think their parents would be okay with it.

They also found that parental attitudes play essential roles in childrens’ willingness to seek support and mental health services when faced with emotional concerns. When a statistical analysis of parental influence was conducted, differences between girls and boys disappeared—in other words: the big difference between boys’ and girls’ perception of seeking assistance is based on parental disapproval. Boys see their parents as having a more stigmatized view of seeking mental health care than girls do. This study did not examine whether parents actually have a different attitude about their sons seeking care as compared to their daughters, but this would be an interesting question to ask.

Chandra and Minkovitz note that, “based on these findings, it is important for parents to be aware of the messages they give to their children—especially boys—about mental health conditions and those who treat them. Parents should encourage their children to talk to them about any emotional concerns so they can seek help together. The strong gender roles often associated with this age group could be affecting boys’ perceptions of emotional difficulties as weakness and unmanliness. Therefore, boys need to be told that seeking support for emotional concerns is not a sign of weakness, but rather an indication of strength and courage. Schools can also address barriers to seeking mental health services and dispel myths associated with mental health conditions, weakness, and stigma.”

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



NOW AVAILABLE!!!

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

To get free Reader, go to www.adobe.com and click on the “Get Reader” button to download.

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

Full Collaborative Meeting Summary

The November meeting was attended by 84 people.

Misty Langseth, a PACT 4 - employed social worker at ACGC Jr/Sr High School, was honored with a Celebrating Excellence Award.

Updates:

21st Century Grant for before, after, and summer school programs - we are working with school districts that would be eligible to apply.

PRIDE-4 Pictures –are part of a traveling display sponsored by the PRIDE-4 grant. There are photos and stories describing how mental health has affected families. The PRIDE-4 coaches will be moving the display from school to school.

Chemical Health Grants - coalitions are meeting once per month in each county. In the last two weeks, teachers at the participating schools went through two school curriculum trainings related to the prevention of drug use and abuse: Project Northland/Class Action, and Towards No Drug Abuse.

Dorothy Anderson, Sherri Zieglmeier and Lori Clasemann presented on Mentoring and the MN Mentor Conference they attended in October.

Committee Reports:

Early Childhood has been trying to learn from each other on what is working in Incredible Years and Reflective Supervision, and what to do differently.

Community Education/Training & Technical Assistance Committee discussed the need for more members. Talked a lot about how to share information with other partners and the December Connect with Kids training video, on Cutting, and January's video topic: Internet Safety.

Mentors Committee discussed funding and the evaluation piece, ways to share program information, where programs have been, where they're at now.

School Age Committee talked about defining the purpose and agenda for the group. Shared different school attendance policies, and discussed the LCTS grant writing and how it's going for everyone. Will not meet in December.

Wraparound Committee discussed regrouping thoughts and efforts, as having a neutral facilitator is not in the cards right now with the budget cuts, etc. Revisited conversations regarding working with the faith-based community.

Restorative Justice/Circle Sentencing circles are going very well. Yellow Medicine County continues to provide referrals. Kandiyohi County needs more volunteers.

SHARE Coordinating Council - will meet this afternoon at 2:00. Contracts are going out for the current year. Liaisons and Advisors have decided to meet before Full Collaborative meetings.

Executive Board – discussed the budget and LCTS grants, and finalized the posting for the PACT 4 Director position. The ad will begin running next week.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 2006



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1
4	5 8:30am - 11:00am 21st Century Planning Mtg (2055) 11:30am - 2:00pm Executive Board (2055) 5:00pm - 6:00pm PRIDE-4 Youth Council (1010) 6:00pm - 7:00pm PRIDE-4 Support Group (2075)	6	7	8
11 6:00pm - 8:00pm Parent Advisory Meeting (YMCA)	12 12:00pm - 1:00pm Restorative Justice - YMC Committee (Jimmy's Pizza)	13 9:00am - 10:30am SHARE Advisors/Liaisons (1010) 9:00am - 10:00am Social Services Directors Meeting (2055) 10:00am - 12:00pm Chief Elected Officials Board (2055) 10:00am - 12:00pm Early Child Comm (Public Health Mtg Room-1080) 10:00am - 10:30am Comm Ed/T&TA (MPR) 10:30am - 12:00pm Mentors Committee (1010) 10:30am - 12:00pm Wraparound Committee (2075) 10:30am - 11:30am Connect With Kids Video (MPR) 12:00pm - 2:00pm Full Collaborative (MPR)	14	15
18 5:30pm - 8:30pm PRIDE-4 Theater Group	19 5:00pm - 7:00pm PRIDE-4 Youth Council	20	21	22
25 8:00am - 4:30pm Christmas OFFICE CLOSED	26	27 9:00am - 11:00am Meth Advisory Comm (MPR)	28	29

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 2007



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<p>1 8:00am - 4:30pm New Year's Day - OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>2 11:30am - 2:00pm Executive Board (2055) 5:00pm - 6:00pm PRIDE-4 Youth Council (2045) 6:00pm - 7:00pm PRIDE-4 Support Group (2055)</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>8 6:00pm - 8:00pm Parent Advisory Meeting (YMCA)</p>	<p>9 12:00pm - 1:00pm Restorative Justice - YMC Committee (Jimmy's Pizza)</p>	<p>10 10:00am - 12:00pm Early Childhood Comm (2055) 10:30am - 12:00pm Community Ed/Training & Tech Asst (MPR) 10:30am - 12:00pm Mentors Comm (2045) 10:30am - 12:00pm School Age Comm (1010) 10:30am - 12:00pm Wrap-around Comm (2075) 12:00pm - 2:00pm Full Collaborative Mtg (MPR)</p>	<p>11 12:00pm - 12:30pm Restorative Justice - KC Committee (Blue Heron)</p>	<p>12 8:00am - 12:00pm Adult Learner's Class (2057)</p>
<p>15 8:00am - 4:30pm Martin Luther King Jr OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>16 5:00pm - 7:00pm PRIDE-4 Youth Council (2055)</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>22 10:00am - 12:00pm Evaluation Committee (1010)</p>	<p>23 8:00am - 4:00pm Children's Mental Health Poster Contest Judging (MPR)</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>*All meetings are at the Kandiyohi County Health and Human Services Building unless otherwise noted</p>	

Common Behaviors of Adult Learners Training

January 12, 2007

8:30 AM — noon

Presenter: Connie Spartz

**Kandiyohi County Health and
Human Services Building**

Room 2057

Limited to 25 participants

Cost :\$20

Register by calling
Shawna 1-800-960-7228
320-231-7030



Supervisor Updates

Rick Loseth, Clinical Supervisor/Grants

Committee Structure - Revisited

In January of 2004, the PACT 4 Executive Board made the decision to redesign and refocus the committee structure of the Collaborative. The new committee structure went into place in July of that same year. As it is now December of 2006, we have had 18 months to work within this “new” structure. This revised structure consists of three primary committees – Service Delivery, Community and Training and Technical Assistance, and Evaluation. A number of working committees also fall primarily under Service Delivery. As with anything new, it has taken some time for each committee to figure out their respective role, and how they tie into the overall picture of PACT 4. In the beginning of 2007, the plan is for all committees to review their purpose, look at what they have accomplished over the last 18 months, and decide what they might need to better focus their discussion and efforts.

An ongoing question for any committee (PACT 4 or otherwise) is “why meet at

all?” This question can be a very easy one to answer with a clear direction or purpose, or may be answered by “good question!!”. The intent of a committee in general is to accomplish some sort of task, provide input into a decision or plan, raise questions that might not be raised by one person alone, identify issues that could be addressed, share common concerns and/or resources, or problem solve towards a meaningful solution. An underlying assumption of any committee is that more can be accomplished through the collective work of others than what might be done alone. I think the question of “why meet?” is a healthy one – more important is the question “What do we want to accomplish?” as any committee struggles to define themselves and their purpose.

2007 will provide the opportunity for committees to continue their work addressing their shared concerns and solutions on behalf of kids in PACT 4!



Hope doesn't come from calculating whether the good news is winning out over the bad. It's simply a choice to take action.

Anna Lappe

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

2200 23rd Street NE, Suite 2030
Willmar, MN 56201

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



Friendship plays a critical role in recovery from a mental health problem

