



*Putting All Communities
Together in Kandiyohi,
Meeker, Renville &
Yellow Medicine Counties*

PACT 4 Bulletin

April 2005



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PACT 4 Families Collaborative Invites you to our 2005 Annual Meeting Thursday April 7th

**Guest Speaker: Wendell Veurink, Greater MN Family Services
Presenting:**

**“I’m Drowning & I Don’t Know How to Swim”
Strategies That May Help You to Survive CMH**

*We will also be honoring those who have contributed to the success of
PACT 4 over the past 11 years.*

**Kandi Entertainment Center, Willmar MN
3:00-5:00 Chief Elected Officials Board Meeting
5:00-6:00 Social Hour; 6:00-8:00 Dinner & Program
Cost: \$10.00; Registration in advance is required.
Advance payment is preferred.**

If you plan to attend, please complete and send registration
form to the PACT 4 Office no later than Monday, April 4th.
Dinner will begin serving promptly at 6:00 p.m.



**Please get your Recognition Awards in by Friday
April 1st!**

(See Director’s Corner for more information)

(see page 11 or the Calendar of Events on pages 9 & 10 for committee dates and announcements)



2005 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 05—1st term
(320) 231-6232 / carmen_s@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

Jill Bruns, RC Public Health
Serves through 05—1st term
(320) 523-2570 / jill_b@co.renville.mn.us

Tammy Thompson, MC Probation
Serves through 05—1st term
(320) 693-5260 / tammy.thompson@co.meeker.mn.us

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

Arliiss 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 / wcenters@tds.net

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

Sheila Ellingboe, Fiscal Agent (non-voting)
(320) 231-6232 / sheila_e@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

Toni Braness, Collaborative Director (non-voting)

PACT 4 Families Mission

“As a collaborative we will work together to reduce duplication and provide a family driven continuum of quality, innovative, and cost effective services for children and their families. These services will be culturally sensitive and strength based.”

Director’s Corner

by Toni Braness, PACT 4 Director

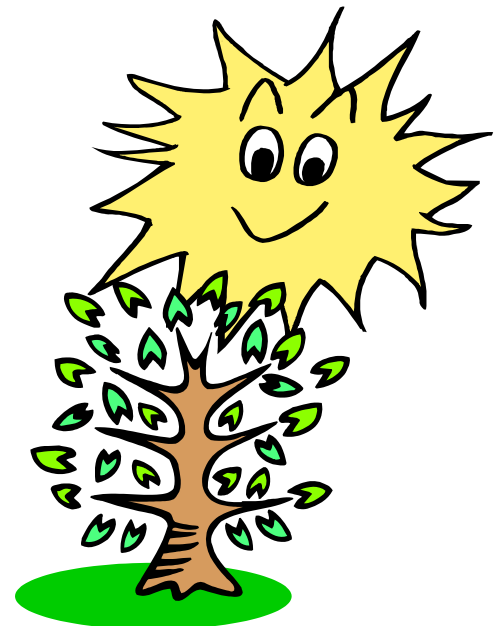
Isn’t Spring wonderful! I love the temperatures and the budding trees and the newness of the season. It’s a time of beginning anew, uncluttering both my desk & my mind, looking forward to changes and challenges and celebrating successes.

Our annual meeting has been moved to Spring and will be held April 7th at the Kandi Entertainment Center, on 19th Avenue in Willmar.

We are to recognizing people who have been instrumental in collaborative development and programs. Please send any nominations to our office by April 1st, include the name, town or county and why you feel this person (s) or program should be recognized for excellence or contributions made.

We will have a brief business meeting along with LCTS and other updates. There is no Full Collaborative Meeting in April.

Hope to see you all there.



WHAT'S GOING ON...

What's Going On... is a column in the PACT 4 Bulletin to keep everyone up-to-date on what's going on in each county.

Kandiyohi County

This month we had special guests visit Kennedy Elementary School to talk about Bullying. The 3D T.E.A.M. Foundation presented "Please Don't Tease", a 45-minute presentation focusing on how people judge others and how to recognize and avoid teasing and bullying among children. As little people, the presenters Chris Hollyfield and Billy Klinkke, spoke with the students about their life experiences growing up being "different" than everyone else. They emphasized the fact that we are all "different" and we are all free to accomplish our dreams, regardless of size, gender, religious persuasion, color or disability. Because of their small stature, Chris and Billy have a unique opportunity to talk with young people about the importance of not teasing. They demonstrated how they achieved success while making valuable friendships. Their presentation encourages children to get to know others before jumping to conclusions. Chris and Billy left us with a powerful message, the 3D's of life:

Dedication, Determination, and Desire to be a friend and not a Bully.

*Sara Jacobson
School-Based Social Worker*

"Informal Supports"

One of the principles of Wraparound is the utilization of "informal supports." The ultimate goal is that the service providers eventually phase out, and the informal supports carry on the supportive role. This is a good principle, but it is sometimes the most difficult to carry out. As I look at some of the teams I facilitate, I see a lack of those informal supports for a variety of reasons. However, I can also identify some situations where informal supports have been key to helping a child and family meet their goals:

*A child's grandparents stepped up to the plate and agreed to provide ongoing respite care, so that formal county respite care would not be needed. They have also started attending Wrap-around meetings to provide support for the family and accountability for the child.

*A child's mentor filled in a "gap" when the child had to spend a month at a foster home. The child had his birthday during this time, and the mentor took him out to make his day special. He also kept in contact with the child at the foster home to help him during this time.

*A staff member at Youth for Christ has become an informal support for a youth. He has invested personal time with this youth to help make a difference in his life.

*Three area churches became informal supports for a family to help prevent homelessness. During a time of transition these churches donated money to keep a roof over the head of this fam-

ily until they could move into their own home.

*A child's mentor asked his Bible Study support group to help this child's family by filling their kitchen with food when they returned from being gone a month.

These informal supports have been invaluable. Mentors, grandparents, churches...more and more, we hope to see them step up to the plate and be an informal support for children and families. How can you be an informal support in the life of a child? Some ideas:

*Be a mentor! Contact Bryan Thiery at the YMCA, 222-9622.

*Volunteer at your church, synogog or place of worship,

*Get to know your neighbors' children - be a significant adult (informal support) in their lives.

*Etc, etc!

*Char Erickson
Case Manager*

I recently came across a colloquialism which we can all take to heart; as providers, as consumers, as parents, as students, as many things. "Be an active participant in your own life". To me, this statement reflects the need to constantly assess and reassess where our lives are taking us, or more appropriately where we are taking our lives.

There is quite a bit of weight behind this simple saying. To be active is to not let one's life fall into a state of suspension. This is not an easy thing to do, as we all know what it is like to 'rest easy' after surmounting a particular challenge. Our challenges are as multi-faceted as we as a society are. At times we feel overwhelmed by forces that are outside of our sphere of influence. There is no sugar-coating the fact that we live in a one-hour-photo/instant oatmeal/drive-through/fast food/microwave dinner/quick fix/20 minute oil change society. This life can, at times, seem to own us as opposed to the inverse. Too often we can feel dominated by our work schedules, our school schedules, the hectic lives of those around us. Throwing yet another spinner into the works, this manic cyclical nature can exacerbate feelings of being overwhelmed: depression, weariness, anger, frustration...these and many more forces of mind that afflict us can often be the last straw before hitting critical mass.

At times such as this, it is vitally important for us to remember that we are the captains of our own destinies. Being proactive in our approach to day-to-day living, *actively participating* in our lives as opposed to being a spectator may seem difficult at the time, but it is really the only way that we can ensure that things *will* change. Change only comes to those who make change happen. There is no sitting idly by waiting for that bus to come. We have to

seek our own ride.

This can be exceptionally hard to do when the chips are really down for us. When living day to day seems like all we can do, cute little statements can really make our skin crawl. Nobody wants to hear advice on how to live their life from someone who seems like they have it so much better than we do. That is why it is equally as important that these reinforcing thoughts come from *within* us. We need to be the ones who are taking control, who are ensuring that we are getting the most we can possibly get out of our lives. The more that we understand that it is ultimately up to us to determine the course of our own life, the more we are able to take control over forces that masquerade as having that control. This is a double edged sword, though. This also means that we are the ones who have to accept the responsibility for the direction of our life. There is no shirking this burden. We need to understand that if we expect greatness, greatness is also expected of us.

*Jon Marchand
PRIDE 4 Transition Coach*

Renville County

Hello! My name is Heather Evenson and I am the new school-based social worker at RCW Elementary School in Sacred Heart. I am working with grades K-4 and I am excited to be in the school working with the staff and students. Currently I am working on getting to know the staff and the students as a whole and will soon be seeing students individually, in groups, and in their classrooms. I also trained at the PACT 4 office and with our other school based staff, and I would like to thank everyone for all of their tips, and making me feel part of the staff! For about the past 2 years I have been working in schools with students in grades Pre K-8. My experience is working as a Middle School Social Work intern, with Cheryl Loge (Litchfield Middle School), Special Education (Emotionally/ Behaviorally Disturbed) paraprofessional (Litchfield Middle School), a long-term substitute school social worker (Sauk Centre Elementary School), and a family advocate (Reach-Up Inc., St. Cloud). I am a 2003 graduate of St. Cloud State University Social Work program. I am a licensed social worker through the board of social work as well as a licensed school social worker through the department of education. I would like to thank everyone for welcoming me and I am excited to be a part of the staff here at PACT 4 and RCW.

*Heather Evenson
School-Based Social Worker*

*What's going on continued
from Page 3*

Reducing Stress: Preventing Burnout

At this time of the year...the pressure mounts...echoing through the school are phrases such as: *It's too Hard! It's Not Fair! You Can't Win! No one Seems to Care!* Burnout is used to describe a syndrome that goes beyond physical fatigue from over-work. Stress and emotional exhaustion are part of it, but the hallmark of burnout is the distancing that goes on in response to the overload.

March is that key time of the year when we all seem to be ready for summer holidays. Self care is crucial for all of us in the helping fields. I often have to take time to remember to do those things I enjoy; it is easy to get in that rut of work, work, and work. Take time and read a good book, watch a movie, go for a walk and laugh. Remember the problems of today's work-day will still be there when we get back in the morning. So, change out of that helper's hat and put on a different hat when you leave your site and smile.

*Jose Herrera
School-Based Counselor*

Spring has finally sprung! What a great time to get rid of the winter blah's and spend time as a family enjoying the change in seasons. Here is a few family activities from www.hgt.com that can be (easily and cheaply) done in your own home.

*Scavenger hunts are a fun way to spend time with your children. Write down a list of things for them to find then divide them into teams. The first team to find all of the items wins. The winner gets to pick a movie rental for the evening or a favorite meal.

*A treasure hunt is another great game to play with children. Leave a clue in items with notes that lead them to the next one and finally to a prize. This is great in spring because it can

be played outside when the children can run around the neighborhood all day.

*Children love to be involved in activities around the house, be sure to involve them in spring cleaning and yard work. Even if they don't accomplish much, they will still feel valued. *Spring is a time for planting a garden. Kids love to dig in the dirt and make mud pies. Encourage your children to assist you in planting a family garden or have them start their own "garden" in coffee cans. Let them choose something they want to grow. They will be able to see the fruits of their labor when the plant begins to grow.

Get out and enjoy spring with your children!

*Jennifer Sullivan
Case Manager*

Meeker County

On Tuesday March 29th, the "Sober School" task force met with community supporters in order to develop a satellite location of "Sobriety High" in Meeker County. This school would help to provide a safe, supportive, and chemical free learning environment for high school students new to Chemical Dependency recovery. They know it is essential to respect an adolescent's sobriety concerns, all while helping them to succeed in a 4 year, high school diploma program. This task force would look at starting a "Sober School" in Meeker County which would service adolescents from Meeker, Stearns, Wright, McLeod, Renville, and Kandiyohi counties. If this task force could get the support they need, they could potentially launch the program by the '05-'06 school year. If you would like to assist this committee with your talents, ideas, or support please call Ed Cowley at (320)693-8009 or Dave Schlack at (320)593-7465.

*Tonya Skoog Hastings
School-Based Social Worker*

**Secretary's Day/
Administrative
Professionals Day**

This page is dedicated to all the secretaries out there who keep things running smoothly on Secretary's Day and all year long!



You have certain know-how and incredible finesse, along with special talents for performing under stress, You're perceptive, and you act with tact — you seem to have a knack for getting things so organized and keeping them on track, You manage to take care of twenty billion things a day — I just can't thank you near enough, believe me — There's NO Way!

Have a Great Day!





Youth Work Matters Workshop Offering

Here's another opportunity made available by PACT 4 Families for people who work with youth in their out-of-school hours. Each three hour session will cover a key module of the 24-hour Youth Work Matters curriculum. The ideas and content of this curriculum are not new. The core concepts and activities revolve around a set of best practices in youth work values, attributes and knowledge.

This will be a follow-up to trainings held last spring and fall - same philosophy with new material and learning experiences. Two three hour workshops will be offered for front line staff and program coordinators.

Intentionally in Programming

April 19, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Room 157, Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services

Quality after-school programs are purposeful in what they seek to accomplish with kids. They have a vision of what youth will be like as a result of the program, what needs they are working to meet and then develop a program around those needs. This workshop will leave participants with a clearer vision of how they want youth to grow as a result of being involved in after-school programming.

Working with Youth as Partners

April 26, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Room 157, Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services

Young people develop and meet basic needs when they have opportunities to be responsible, supported by caring adults who guide and coach them. Where is your program at on the continuum of involving youth? Are youth involved in leadership and in making decisions in ways that promote their development? What you do differently?

To register send an email by April 12 to Amy Boeckerman at boeck008@umn.edu with your name, phone number and the session or sessions in which you are interested.

Eric Vogel
Regional Extension Educator
University of Minnesota Extension Service



FYI PACT 4 is sponsoring two upcoming early childhood trainings for public health staff, early childhood staff and Head Start staff. Geared for Growth (May 3) and the Incredible Years (June 6, 7, 8) are limited to 30 participants. These trainings build on each other and we request that participants commit to both trainings. If you would like more information contact Danette Hendrickson (320)231-7078.

*These trainings build on one another & it is requested that you plan to attend both trainings. Limit 30 participants. To register, please call Shawna at (320)235-8938 or email me at shawna.steffen@co.kandiyohi.mn.us.



FAMILY FORUM

by Patty Butler, Executive Director - Families Matter...Just Imagine

Thanks to the generosity of the Otto Bremer Foundation and the Organizational Effectiveness Grant we received from them, I have been attending the Institute for Executive Director Leadership through the University of St Thomas. Now, as part of our agreement with the Otto Bremer Foundation, our agency is asked to share what we learn with our partners, so here goes:

Can you think of 4 words in the English language we could probably do without?

Try these: But Can't Why Should

I was going to stop my article right here, but I thought it was probably a little short, so here is an experience I recently had with these 4 words that really drove the point home for me. Oh my Instructors are so Wise. While writing the LCTS grants, I was whining to a person that I was stuck, and I said to this person **"I can't do this"** and that person would not give me my cheese to go with my whine, rather that person said **"Why are you stuck? You should be done with this already. You should just figure this out and move on."** To which I replied, **"But you don't understand, I can't just do it"**. By this time these 4 little, powerful words had us glaring at each other and as the conversation continued on with more **can't's, should've, why's and but's**, eventually we were not even speaking to each other as well as glaring at each other. So, what were we to do? We could have stayed in our respective corners just glaring at each other; however, that was causing the dog to become confused and fatigued, so we had to figure something out. Here is how we solved the issue without using those 4 words. I actually explained that **"I did not know/and did not feel self-confident enough in completing all of the budget parts of the LCTS grants and therefore I was afraid I might do the wrong thing, which might jeopardize someone's livelihood"**. The person responded **"I like to do budgets and I will take a day to help you with that and I believe you can do it, you already do, you just need to have more self-confidence"** To which I replied **"Thanks, I never wanted you to tell me what to do, I just wanted some assistance"**. And so we sat down one day, worked together, supported each other, completed the budgets and lived happily ever after.

So in closing, this is just one little incident where those 4 little words led to bad communication between two people who really like each other. Just think what those 4 little words can do if we don't really know each other that well. Do we should, can't, why and but ourselves and each other all the time? I know I do and I am trying not to. I have had to change at least 5 sentences in this article to not use one of those words, so it is hard. So wish me luck and I hope this concept/idea makes as much sense to you as it did to me.

PRIDE-4 Project

by Mary Ryan,
PRIDE- 4 Coordinator



PRIDE 4 has expanded! On March 21st, 1.5 FTE coaches were added to the project. Each of PACT 4's counties will now have a coach assigned to their area youth with an additional half-time coach available to assist where needed. Jon Marchand will continue as the Kandiyohi County coach, Damian Woelfel will work with the young adults in Yellow Medicine County, Sherry Dahl will be the new Renville County coach, and Karena Rau will take Amy Haugen's place in Meeker County. Amy is filling the new half-time coach position.

We also have a new PRIDE 4 family liaison working with the parents/families of transitioning youth. Her name is Kathie Fransen and she is already doing a wonderful job of supporting and offering resources to area families. Kathie works with families of transitioning young adults whether or not their youth is part of the PRIDE 4 project. She can be reached at Families Matter...Just Imagine. During the last year or so, the coaches have been working individually with young adults as well as providing some large group interactions. The importance placed on group activities by the PRIDE 4 young adults has led to the formation of a youth council representing young adults with mental health concerns. With transition coach facilitation, the youth have named their council Youth Reflections, and are currently working on developing their own mission statement, vision, goals, and work plan. Amy Haugen will be working with the group as a part-time youth coordinator along with her part-time coaching duties. It is hoped that by the end of the grant period this group will be self-sufficient and able to continue as a resource and support for area youth with mental health concerns. Stay tuned for Amy's monthly updates on the progress of the youth council!

In looking forward to sustaining the positive aspects of PRIDE 4 after the four year grant period, collaborative efforts have been ongoing with the Southwest Minnesota Adult Mental Health Consortium in discussing ways that adult mental health service providers can best meet the needs of transitioning youth. Movement towards bridging the gap between children's and adult services is slowly becoming a reality. In his budget proposal this year, Governor Pawlenty took a step towards recognizing the need for a seamless service model. The proposal would allow Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) to be added to the benefit set for 16 and 17 year old MA enrollees who are making a transition to independent living. Already an MA benefit for adults with serious and persistent mental illness, ACT consists of rehabilitative services provided by a multidisciplinary team wherever the client needs them.

For more information about PRIDE 4, contact Mary Ryan, 320-231-7034.



Facing The Dragon

One Man's Battle Against Methamphetamine
David Parnell

David Parnell is 37 years old, married and has seven children. He is also a methamphetamine and suicide survivor. David began using marijuana at the age of thirteen. He then progressed to harder drugs, eventually discovering methamphetamine. He was addicted to meth for seven years before attempting suicide by shooting himself under the chin with a SKS assault rifle, literally blowing his face apart. His injuries were so severe he was written off as deceased by the sheriff's department while in transit to the hospital. He has had over 15 surgeries and still has many more to go. David is now sober after spending 23 years on drugs. David has devoted his life to fighting meth. He speaks to schools, churches, jails, rehabs, and community groups to warn about the dangers of meth. His story hopefully will not only prevent others from trying meth but also give hope to those already addicted. David's programs include education about drugs, particularly meth, his personal story, before and after pictures of himself and others, photos taken by investigators moments after his suicide attempt, and a 20 minute video presentation. His presentation is available on Power Point.

"David Parnell's presentation is a **MUST SEE** for anyone. A life completely changed by the use of drugs and the resulting trauma he faces daily, is a lesson we all need to hear. His story is one that could help our children make wiser choices because they have heard from someone who did not—and seen for themselves what choosing the path of drugs can do. Heart-wrenching and emotional are words that barely scratch the surface of David's story."

"**There is Hope**" - "It is my belief David speaks from the heart and is truly excited about what he is doing and the difference he can make. I believe David's story can and will make a difference in anyone's life if given the opportunity to hear it."

The following is a schedule for David Parnell's appearances:

Time	Date	Place/City	Audience
7:00 pm	March 18	Bernie Aaker Aud./Litchfield	Community
2:00 pm	April 7	EV-W H.S./Eden Valley	EV-W High School 7 - 12th grade
8:00 pm	April 7	EV-W H.S./Eden Valley	Community
9:00 am	April 8	Litchfield H.S./Litchfield	LFD H.S. 9-12th
7:00 pm	April 8	LFD H.S. Little Theatre/LFD	Community
2:00 pm	April 8	ACGC H.S./Grove City	ACGC H.S. 9-12th
2:00 pm	April 9	ACGC H.S./Grove City	Community
7:00 pm	April 9	Willmar High School	Community

Pohlad Family Charities Awards Grant to PACT 4 for Summer Camp Scholarship!



We have just received the news that Carl and Eloise Pohlad Family Foundation has awarded \$11,000 to PACT 4 to be used for summer camp scholarships in 2005! The guidelines for the scholarships as established by the Pohlad Foundation are as follows:

-Funds are to be used for a child to attend only residential camps that have been approved by the Pohlad Foundation.

-Scholarships are for children age 9 through 15 (PACT 4 priorities are for children ages 11-15).

-*Priority* is for children who have never attended a residential summer camp and do not have other funding resources available to them. There are a limited number of scholarships for children who have attended a camp in the past. These scholarships will be awarded after first time scholarships are completed.

-A maximum of \$500 is available for each first time scholarship, and \$300 for children who have attended prior years. Up to 10% of that may be used for camp related needs (supplies, camp store money).




If you are interested in applying for a camp scholarship, please call for a *Camp Scholarship Application*. Priorities for selection will be: the potential benefit to the child; if they have not had the opportunity to attend an overnight camp before; access to other funding resources, and the benefit to the family. With summer fast approaching, timelines are short. We will be accepting applications immediately, and approving them on a first come, first serve basis. (This notice has also been sent to school counselors and social workers, county social workers, and other staff who work with youth.) Once accepted for a scholarship, you will be sent further information about selecting and registering for a camp. Parents will determine the camp, and make the necessary arrangements for transportation. Please contact Melanie or Jill at the PACT 4 office with any questions at 1(800) 960-7228 or (320)231-7030.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



April 2005

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1 April Fool's Day April is Month of the Young Child
4 Wraparound Skills Training - Part 1; 9:00-12:00 Room 2055	5 Executive Board; 11:30-2:00 Room 2055	6	7 Annual Meeting; KEC 5:00-8:00 pm CEO Board Meeting; KEC 3:00-5:00 pm	8 KC LCTS Grant Reviews - Type 1; Multi-purpose Room 8:30-4:30
11 Wraparound Skills Training - Part 2; 9:00-12:00 Room 2055	12	13 Early Childhood Committee Mtg; 10:00-12:00 Room 2055	14 YMC LCTS Grant Reviews	15 Tax Day 
18 Wraparound Skills Training - Part 3; 9:00-12:00 Room 2055	19 Kandiyohi County Blood Drive; 9:00-3:00 Multi-purpose Room	20 KC LCTS Grant Reviews - Type 2 & 3; Multi-purpose Room 8:30-4:30 pm MC LCTS Grant Reviews 8:30-4:30 pm	21	22 Earth Day 
25	26	27 Administrative Professionals Day  Meth Advisory Committee ; 8:30-12:00	28	29 Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant Applications Due

*KCHHSB = The Kandiyohi County Health and Human Services Building is located just North of Willmar on Hwy's 71 & 23 next to the Willmar Regional Treatment Center.

*RCOB = Renville County Office Building. The RCOB is located off Hwy 212 on DePue Ave in Olivia.

The February Full Collaborative Meeting in Willmar had 70 in attendance.

*The next
Full Collaborative Meeting
is scheduled for...*

**Wednesday, May 11, 2005
12:00 to 2:00 p.m.
Willmar, MN**

(No Full Collaborative in April-Annual Meeting April 7th)

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Shawna by calling (320) 235-8938 or e-mail at shawna.steffen@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

Bob Ryan - Business

Bob has been contracted by PACT 4 to help improve our relationship with businesses in the 4-county area. He is going around visiting them, letting them know what PACT4 is, what is working in the communities for families and children, and also what is going on. He asked for input from everyone to take five minutes to jot down a success story on how a difference was made in a child or family's life through their involvement with a certain person, agency, etc.

Congratulations were given to Heartland Community Action Agency, who received a \$100,000 grant to be used for their "Circles of Support" poverty reduction program. The award is from the Northwest Area Foundation, which supports community anti-poverty initiatives in an 8-state area. There were 44 applications from eight states, with four winners selected.

LCTS 2005-2007 Updates

Meeker County: the total dollar amount of Letters of Intent is \$400,000 more than what is allocated. This will be the third year that the review committee is made up of community members and students, with 2 students from every school district in Meeker County. Grant reviews are April 20th.

Renville County: review committee includes five parents and four students, with all school districts represented. Grant reviews are March 30th.

Yellow Medicine County: review committee includes students. Grant reviews are April 14th.

Kandiyohi County: will have 30-35 reviewers. Grant reviews are April 8th for Type 1 and April 20th for Type 2 & 3.

LCTS Reporting Requirements

Executive Board met last week and reviewed all LCTS grants. They looked at the mid-year reports, the site review reports, the grants, the evaluations, and discussed the items continually coming in late. They made a motion which passed that if the required reports and

Type forms are not in on time, payments will not be made and a decision may be made whether or not to continue the grant. We will no longer be sending four, five, six reminders to grantees.

Also, grantees will be tightened up. In short, grants must remain the same, serve the same population stated in the application, no massive changes made, do the activities stated would be done and when they were stated to be done, and to do the required evaluation that was stated would be done. Dollars are too tight and there's too much competition for them to continue to "babysit" grantees that aren't following the requirements.

Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant Update

- As of 20 minutes ago, no RFP or GFA has come out. We cannot begin writing the grant until this is released. A big "THANK YOU" to all schools who have returned student and school personnel surveys. Data is being entered and reports granted. We will look at the data we have and make a decision whether to go forward with one grant or split up and write several.

Bullying/Meth-Work Groups Updates

Three schools have been chosen to pilot a bullying curriculum: BOLD, ACGC, YME. The curriculum chosen was the OLWEUS curriculum. More information about this curriculum is in our March Bulletin. David Parnell, a suicide and meth survivor, is giving several presentations in the area. The next bulletin will list these.

Committee Reports

Early Childhood - Finalizing a rough draft of a survey to go out to preschool screening personnel regarding school readiness and transitioning to school. Will be meeting next on April 13th at 10:00 in Willmar

Community Education/Training & Technical Assistance Committee - In need of members. New billboards will be coming out focusing on feelings. Discussed new radio ads for May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Next meeting is on May 11th at 10:30 in Willmar.

Mentors Committee - Reviewed survey results from parents/youth/mentors. Survey results targeted ways to sustain mentor matches. Discussed the LCTS grant process.

School Age Committee - Did not meet this month. Will wait for Safe Schools/Healthy Students data results to determine when next to meet.

Service Delivery Committee - Worked on defining mission and getting 2 reps from each sub-committee to attend the Service Delivery

Committee, which oversees all sub-committees. Next meeting in on March 22nd at 10:00 am in Willmar.

Transition Committee - Did not meet today. Needs more members.

Wraparound Committee - In need of members. Starting a master list of neutral facilitators for wraparound meetings. Also updating the faith-based email list for family needs. Next meeting is on May 11th at 10:30 in Willmar.

Evaluation Committee - Did not meet in February. Meets every other month on the 4th Monday of the Month. Next meeting is on March 28th at 10:30 in Willmar.

Restorative Justice/Circle Sentencing - No report.

Executive Board - Discussed LCTS process (see Agenda Item No. 6 above). Received an update from Families Matter. Approved bills. Received grant updates, personnel updates, and news that the Feds are looking at tightening up the 4E eligibility for LCTS.

Families Matter.....Just Imagine - Parent Retreat is on April 29th and 30th for parents of a child/children who have an SED diagnosis.

Other

A. Annual Meeting: April 7th at the Blue Heron. Featured Speaker is Wendell Veurink, who will talk about children's mental health - signs and symptoms. We will be recognizing those who have made a difference in the last 11 years of the Collaborative. Anyone who wants to nominate someone, forward the name to Diane Onell with a short blurb about why they should be recognized. Diane's email is diane_o@co.kandiyohi.mn.us and her phone number is 320-235-8907. Get these nominations in by April 1st.

The Chief Elected Officials Board will be meeting on April 7th at 3:00. Social Hour will be from 5:00 to 6:00, with the meal and program starting at 6:00 p.m. Invitations will be going out within a week.

Motion to adjourn was made by Bryan Thiery. Seconded by Karyl Mooney. Motion carried.

*Respectfully submitted
Shawna Steffen, Recorder*

Spring Forward? Fall Back?

**PACT 4 Families
Collaborative**

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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