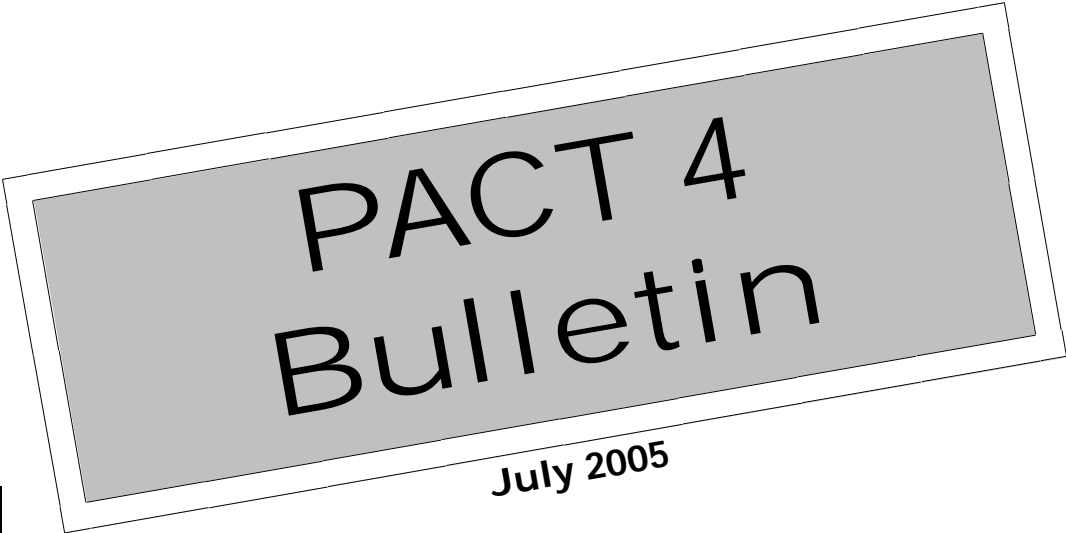




*Putting All Communities
Together in Kandiyohi,
Meeker, Renville &
Yellow Medicine Counties*



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Appreciative Inquiry: A Focus on Positive Change

In the coming weeks and months, PACT 4 Families Collaborative will be setting priorities for 2007-2009. As part of that priority setting, we will attempt to incorporate Appreciative Inquiry into the process. Appreciative Inquiry (AI) is an approach to organizational analysis and learning that was developed by David Cooperrider, Ph.D. at Case Western Reserve University in the early 80's and since then has been used by corporations and entities worldwide to bring about positive organizational change.

AI is based on the simple assumption that every organization has something that works well and that strengths should be the starting point for creating positive change. AI also is premised on the idea that organizations move toward what they study. It differs from conventional managerial problem solving because the latter assumes that something is wrong and needs fixing. We have a choice. We can focus on the positive and move forward or focus on problems and get stymied with seeking solutions.

Come to the Full Collaborative meeting on July 13, for a taste of Appreciative Inquiry.

*******Please note that we are extending the July 13th meeting by 30 minutes in order to allow more time for the Appreciative Inquiry activities.**

FULL COLLABORATIVE MEETING NOTICE

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

**Wednesday, July 13th, 2005
12:00 to 2:00 p.m.**

(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_bruns@co.renville.mn.us

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

My article is a bit long but it has information you need to know. I encourage you to make your way through it.

LCTS. For the 2005-2007 grant cycle, the PACT 4 Executive Board released \$2,500,000 to be divided per capita across the 4 counties. As many of you are aware, the requests for dollars were double the amount of money available to each county. PACT 4 has been fortunate during the past 5 years in our ability to increase dollars to counties, but with current budget pressures and LCTS allocations from the state decreasing, this may be the last grant period with these dollar amounts available.

The LCTS 2005-2007 contracts will be in the mail soon. Because of the large requests for dollars and the fact that we had to turn down so many worthy grant proposals, we feel strongly that funded projects clearly report outcomes that justify their expenditures. We want to be sure that projects funded, are clearly making a difference. After you have received your contracts, someone from the PACT 4 evaluation unit will contact you to clarify the specific outcome measures that you will report on in you midyear and end of year reports. Please remember that projects can start no sooner than July 1, 2005.

Priority Setting. If you attended the June Full Collaborative Meeting, you were involved in an initial process to help decide the process for setting priorities for 2007-2009. We hope you who can attend the July Full Collaborative Meeting to continue this process in a different manner. Your input is very important. We are asking you to set aside your usual roles and to look down the road for all children and families and ask what is the best use of our dollars? We have a lot of data available to us. We have the recent data from the Safe Schools/Healthy Students data collection, we have data from 2004 Minnesota State Student Survey, as well as our ongoing data for the Wraparound Initiative. What we need now are your thoughts, feelings, and reactions that will help put this data in perspective and make the necessary decisions for the future.

Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant. In April PACT 4 staff wrote a Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant entitled the SHARE Project (Supporting Healthy and Respectful Environments) on behalf of all the PACT 4 schools with the New London-Spicer Schools as the fiscal host. If successful, we are looking at approximately 1 million dollars per year for 3 years focused on safer school environments, reducing personal violence and bullying, reducing illegal drug usage, improving emotional health of youth, and improving coordination of services between schools and partners. Based on the needs assessment data collected, we truly need this grant and if we don’t receive it, we will have some hard decisions to make?

Grant Recipient Responsibilities. Our Chief Elected Officials and Executive Board have asked that I remind that any agency receiving dollars from PACT 4 has assumed responsibilities to the Collaborative. By signing a contract with PACT 4, your superintendent or agency director’s signature is assuring that someone from your entity will attend the monthly full collaborative meeting and at least one work group. PACT 4 paid employees assigned to your agency or school cannot be the designated representative. We always welcome you to have more staff at meetings if possible but a minimum you should have two each month. We use meeting attendance as “in kind” dollars for some grants we receive. So in addition to the networking and sharing of ideas that occur at our meetings, your attendance is actually contributing to the collaborative’s financial well being. Sometime in the next 2 months all schools and agencies will receive a letter from me indicating your attendance at PACT 4 meetings over the past 18 months. If you have not been meeting the attendance criteria, we will arrange a visit to discuss how we can make this happen. Remember parents who attend PACT 4 meetings are not charged for any required registration fees.

Upcoming Meetings. I hope to see everyone at the Full Collaborative meeting in July as we continue the process for setting priorities. There is no Full Collaborative meeting in August and September again we will work on priority setting for 2007-2009. The priorities that come out of upcoming meetings will determine our future, where the majority of our efforts go, what grants we apply for, and what programs are most important, cost effective, and proven to be effective and exemplary.

LCTS Expenditures. At the June Collaborative meeting we handed out a list of county approved LCTS projects. The list on page 8 outlines other projects funded in full or part by LCTS dollars and the approximate dollars allocated for 2005.

(Director’s Corner continued on page 8)



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.

Renville County

JUST SAY NO TO MANIPULATION

Summer is a difficult time for many young adults, simply because of the lack of structure. For some, this free time can lead to trouble if you are unable to assert yourself, become your own self-advocate and simply learn how to say "NO."

When the question comes up, "How many of you have ever taken an alcoholic drink or drug when you really didn't want to?" Not many hands go up. But when the question is asked in a different way, somehow the response is completely different. "How many of you know someone who abuses alcohol or drugs?" Almost always the responses will increase. Why is that?

As often illustrated in magazines and on billboards, one of the mind control techniques used on us all the time is that drugs and alcohol are associated with the "high life." The alcoholic beverage ads have expensively dressed happy people at a party. The thing is, when you buy that brand of alcohol all you have is the designer bottle. Where'd everybody go?

Over the years we've heard many approaches to the problem with drugs and alcohol. They include the use of scare tactics, the informative lecture, and the "down-and-out" stories of people who got started on drugs, then became a dealer, sold out his family for drugs, went to prison, reformed himself, and now talks at high school assemblies. The simplistic "Just Say No" to drugs campaign is a little like telling someone with depression to "Just Cheer Up." We need to learn why we have trouble saying "NO." We can do that by recognizing the impact of "friends," advertising, or the media. A positive wellness approach may be the key. This involves ongoing programs in the community. A positive wellness approach to drug and alcohol abuse education takes a lot of time. Time spent listening, and getting to know people. It involves building a "wellness" lifestyle for parents and teachers as well as for students. Here are some suggestions for resisting media exploitation, ensuring free choice, and promoting self-responsibility:

*Recognize social conditioning.

*Remember you can say no.

*Sleep on it.

*Ask questions.

*Retain your self-esteem. (Don't be afraid to be different.)

Or put another way:

Take your time.

Resist social pressure.

Use positive suggestion

Say no to manipulation.
Talk about it.

Enjoy your summer, and may this be the start of new beginnings in the quest for self-responsibility. That ultimately means you see yourself as the person in charge of your destiny.

Sherri Dahl
PRIDE 4 Transition Coach

Hello from Renville County West Elementary School! I hope you are all enjoying your summer, despite all the rain! I can't believe the school year is over and the summer is already well under way, it is always amazing to me how fast time goes by.

Well as you probably know one of our buildings will be closing and we will only have two buildings, an elementary building (grades K-6) and a high school (grades 7-12). The school board has met and decided to close the Danube building. It will be interesting to see the transition process for our district and staff. And next year will be very different as we have a lot of staff position changes, one including the elementary principal will be Brad Kelvington (he was the middle school principal).

I am excited to be working over the summer so that I can keep in contact with the students that I see. I will be helping out with the Migrant program, which is held at our Renville campus. Also this summer I will be holding a four day camp for first and second grade students and bringing some of the third and fourth grade students to a Twins game. I have enjoyed getting to know all of the students at RCW Elementary; they sure are great kids! Have a great summer!!!!

Heather Evenson
School Based Social Worker

Greetings from RCW Middle School in Danube, this will be my last article from the middle school. RCW Middle School, due to a variety of issues, has had to be closed down and grades 5-6 have been added to the elementary and 7-8 to the high school. Change is often difficult for all of us but it is a reality of life. As individuals we have several ways of dealing with change which can affect us positively or negatively. I see this change as positive for the RCW school district but like with all changes it will take time for all of us who are involved in the district from students, teachers, parents and

community members to get used to the new situation. Although the school buildings change, the high quality of mental health services provided by PACT 4 Families will remain the same. I look forward to an excellent school year and a busy summer full of activities.

Jose W Herrera
School Based Counselor

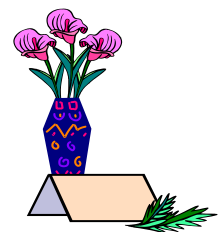
Many parents and children that I work with often feel overwhelmed by the system of care. One of my roles as a case manager is to empower parents/children and support them in fulfilling their needs. Here are some tips that may help you when you are advocating for yourself or your child.

Steps To Being An Effective Self Advocate

1. **Decide what you want.** Be clear to yourself about what exactly you need. This helps you set goals as well as be clear to others.
2. **Get the facts.** Know what you are talking about. Be sure information is accurate. Write it down and keep it where you can find it.
3. **Plan your strategy.** Figure out what you think will work and the steps it will take to achieve your goals.
4. **Gather your support.** Work together with friends, community members and professionals. Ask how others have solved the same or a similar problem. Join groups with common concerns. If necessary, call an advocacy organization for additional support.
5. **Be firm and persistent.** Keep after what you want. Follow through on what you say.

You can find these steps as well as other self advocacy tips at www.mhagstl.org/faq.htm

Jennifer Sullivan
Case Manager





FAMILY FORUM

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

Recently I spent 9 hours learning about the Meyers-Briggs Type Indicator. Yep, you see that right, 9 hours. Like all of you would, I bet, when I first saw that our class agenda in May for the Institute was to spend 9 hours on this, I was not too thrilled. As a matter of fact, I was down right skeptical. Since there are only 20 of us in the class you can't even sneak out of the room. How in the world could you talk about the Meyers-Briggs for that long? I mean, come on, give me a break. Then the most miraculous thing happened: we spent 9 hours on the Indicator and explored in-depth not only our own personality types, but also those of others.

Then for fun....Back at the FMJI office, we as staff all completed a short form of the Meyers-Briggs and found out what all of our personality types were. Some people were surprised, some were "Oh yea, that is me", and some were, "Yeah, that is me, but I want to be that". Sometimes when one of us completed the personality indicator, the rest of us would go, "that is SO not you do it again" and then with help from the rest of us a different personality type would be discovered that would fit much better. And so we laughed and found things out about ourselves and each other and laughed and laughed. Who knew this Meyers-Briggs stuff could be so much fun.

Then we had even more fun....Back at the FMJI office again, we all looked up our personality types in two booklets I had received at the Institute during those long 9 hours. One of the books is entitled "INTRODUCTION TO TYPE" By Isabel Briggs Myers, Sixth Edition; and other is "IN THE GRIP; UNDERSTANDING TYPE, STRESS, AND THE INFERIOR FUNCTION" by Naomi L. Quick, Second Edition. These two booklets helped us look at ourselves when we struggle and how the blend of personality types in just our small office could either be a source of conflict or a source of strength. As a group we decided that it should be a source of strength. It also helped us see that when we are under stress, we may react in certain ways, and for some reason we all decided that when it is written down on paper it is easier to look at your weaknesses and even laugh at them and so we have, "A LOT".

So now we have even more fun with ourselves and offer to share it with all of you: Back at the FMJI office you may hear one of us saying to another one of us, "Okay if your "J" insists you do that, my "P" could care less. Sometimes, we have found what could have led to an argument over silly things, is solved by just this little sentence above. If you would like more information, feel free to give us a call. I can't believe we are the only one who could use a little laugh at ourselves every now and then.



AND THAT'S A WRAP!

by Diane Onell Wraparound and Resource Development Coordinator



You are invited to attend Wraparound "Refresher" Training!

Date: Thursday July 14th, 2005

Time: 9:00 am—11:00 am

Where: Kandiyohi County Health and Human Services Building

Please pre-register with Shawna at 235-8938 or email shawna.steffen@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

158 people have been trained in our 4 county area to facilitate wraparound!!!! So how ARE we doing??? Results from the local sub-study....of the wraparound initiative outcome study...indicate that we are practicing good wraparound! This means that according to the people who have experienced wraparound first hand....teams ARE adhering to the core elements of wraparound, such as: voice/choice, youth/family team building, community-based services/supports, cultural competence, individualized strengths/services, strength-based services/supports, continuation of care, collaboration, flexible resources/funding, and outcome-based services/support. However, informal support is one area where we need improvement.

Informal support comes in layers. The 1st layer: The "non-professional" people who attend team meetings on a regular basis. A carefully blended group of people who care about the family and have their best interest in mind. People who have been invited to team meetings by the family...may be friends, neighbors, and/or relatives, etc.

The 2nd layer: A valued group of individuals who do have direct contact with and provide support for the child, but do not attend wraparound meetings (employer, youth group leader, religious or community education instructor, etc.). Anyone from this group could be a possible team member.

The 3rd layer: Community-based resources, donations, work from community service groups, businesses, time volunteered, church groups, school groups, etc. This group could be possible team members.

*A variety of team members can provide input and creativity to the plan of action.

*To develop a team, ask a family, "Who would you call if you won a million dollars? Who would be happy for you?"

*Teams evolve at different speeds. Remember to ask at every meeting if there is anyone the family would like to invite. You may hear no at first, but that could change as the team dives further into the wraparound process.

*Strive for a team membership of one half professionals and one half informal supports.



Notes from Rick

by Rick Loeth Clinical Supervisor/Grants Manager

This month I have had the opportunity to be part of the Recognition Breakfasts for the LCTS Recorders, site contacts and fiscal contacts. Local Collaborative Time Study (LCTS) dollars are generated through a random moment time study, done by staff at local school districts, public health, and community or county corrections. The Recorders are staff at each of those locations that forward the random moment code sheet to the staff person, collect it when done, and make sure it gets returned to the PACT 4 office. The fiscal person within each of those locations completes annual fiscal reports and related documentation. Each of these individuals play a vital role in the success of the time study - their diligence and persistence is the reason for our low number of "missed" random moments and overall completion rate. The Recognition Breakfasts were a way to say "THANKS" to people who are key to the process and to review how their efforts contribute to kids and families across the four counties. I think a big THANKS needs to be directed as well to all the individual staff who complete the Time Study itself, and make sure they get the materials back to the Recorders.

LCTS dollars generated through the time study process are utilized in a number of ways within PACT 4. Depending on your role within the community, as a parent, educator, staff person, community member or administrator, some of the uses of LCTS dollars may be familiar, others may not. The following list was shared at the Recorder Breakfasts as a way to better understand the impact LCTS dollars have on our kids and families:

- After School Grants - 20 grants for after school and summer activities
- Discretionary Grants - in 2004, 97 grants of up to \$1,500 each were awarded to partners
- Wraparound funds - used to meet individual child needs
- Flexible funds - used for one time requests for families where other funding is not available
- Ten additional School Based Social Worker positions (began in 2004/2005 school year)
- Training of school, Head Start, and Public Health staff in Second Step, Geared for Growth, and the Incredible Years
- Universal Contact - all new mothers are contacted by Public Health after the birth of a child
- Methamphetamine education - an evolving project to better educate youth, parents and the public on the negative impact of meth use
- Summer Day Camps for at-risk youth
- Restorative Justice - continuation of Circle Sentencing in Kandiyohi and Yellow Medicine counties
- Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) in all four counties
- Bullying training - three districts are piloting the OLWEUS Bullying Prevention curriculum
- County Based LCTS grants - 41 grants were funded across the four counties

LCTS funding has a significant impact on children and families within PACT 4 counties. Kids of all ages receive the benefits of services and programming paid for fully or in part, with LCTS dollars. In some way, every child within the PACT 4 counties receives the benefits of services and programming paid for fully or in part, with LCTS dollars. Local funding and state and federal grants are also utilized for other programs and services. In many cases, LCTS funding is blended with other funding to have an even greater impact and stretch funding dollars even further. Over the course of the next few months, you will see more information from many of these projects and programs in the PACT 4 Newsletter. If you know staff who are involved in the Random Moment Time Study - tell them THANKS - their efforts do make a difference in the lives of kids and families!

Minnesota Child Welfare Training System

308B: Psychotropic Medications

July 12, 2005

(9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

Blue Earth County Government Center

410 S 5th Street (Steamboat Room) Mankato, MN 56002 (507)389-8319



Participants learn the appropriate uses of medication in the treatment of mental illness and the potential side effects. This training addresses the use of antidepressants. There will be discussion of the path physiology of depression, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, including genetic discoveries. New theories of psychosis and atypical antipsychotic drugs will be explored.

Please register by logging onto the
Train Link website

*A minimum class size of 8 must be
Met by June 27, 2005.
Registration closes July 5, 2005*

Train Link Home Page

http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/county_access/documents/pub/DHS_id_007126.hcsp

For questions or help registering, please contact:

Brenda Sandquist
SW Area Training Manager
Minnesota Child Welfare Training System
Tel: 320/587-7639 Fax: 320/587-8413
bsandqui@hutchtel.net

**What's Going on
Continued.....**

Kandiyohi County

One of the philosophies of WrapAround is "utilizing informal supports." There has been a lot of ongoing discussion on how to make this happen, as some families do not readily identify informal supports.

The Wrap Around Committee is working on this! Currently, the committee is in the process of establishing a "Resource Network" with the faith-based community in our area. Churches that want to participate in this will be a part of a network that will donate and receive supplies for families in need. You will be hearing more about this as the process is finalized.

This is just one way to help connect families with informal supports. If you have other ideas on how to enhance this concept, please let the Wrap Around committee know! You can contact Diane Onell at 235-8907. Also if you are interested in being part of this committee, contact Diane as well. The committee meets at 10:30 am on the Wednesday of Full Collaborative.

*Char Erickson
Case Manager*

Summer is finally here and everyone is scrambling to get their Summer Camps planned. This summer I will be helping with Early Riser Camp that will follow the Summer School schedule in Willmar. The children involved in the Early Riser Program will have the opportunity to go to either the Targeted or Title I Program in the morning and to Early Riser camp in the afternoon. During our camp we plan field trips, art projects, games, and team building activities. At the end of the 4 weeks we have a Family Day for parents to come and enjoy the fun.

Another camp that I will be helping with is Partners in Promoting School Success (PPSS). This will be held at Washington Learning Center for children entering kindergarten. The focus of PPSS is preparing children for Kindergarten by promoting academic skills, social skills and healthy lifestyles. During the last week of PPSS, the children will come to the school that they will attend next year and get a tour, do fun activities, and learn all about what it will be like to be in Kindergarten.

I hope everyone has a wonderful relaxing summer!

*Sara Jacobson
School Based Social Worker*

Meeker County

*PACT 4 and Meeker County Social Services say *Goodbye* to Don Burr (children's mental health social worker) and Janice Madden (MCSS supervisor). Don has been with us a little over a year and has now accepted a position as director of a rehab clinic in St Cloud. Janice has been with us for over 35 years and has recently retired to hopefully enjoy a stress-free life. *Congratulations to Don and Janice!* You will be greatly missed by all of your co-workers and by the families and children's lives you've touched.

*2005-2006 School Supply information has gone out to local agencies to distribute to families in need. If you are a family who many need assistance with school supplies for your children (and live in Meeker county) please contact Tonya Skoog Hastings at 320.693.5282. School supplies will be distributed in mid August.

**Welcome* to Josh Blaeser! Josh is one of Greater MN's new in home community support workers here in Meeker County. Josh will be taking over Bryan Harris' position and will be assisting in the Lawns by Youth Program, equine therapy, and numerous other community activities.

*Tonya Skoog Hastings
Case Manager*

**Minnesota Child Welfare
Training System**

*CSP207C: Family Group Decision
Making Facilitator Training*

July 27-28, 2005

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Blue Earth County Gov't Center
410 S 5th St (Steamboat Room)
Mankato, MN 56002
(507)389-8319

Please register by logging onto the Trainlink website - A minimum class size of 8 must be met by July 12, 2005.

Registration closes July 18, 2005

**Minnesota Child Welfare
Training System**

*CSP207B: Family Group Decision
Making Orientation*

July 26, 2005

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Blue Earth County Gov't Center
410 S 5th St (Steamboat Room)
Mankato, MN 56002
(507)389-8319

Please register by logging onto the Trainlink website. A minimum class size of 8 must be met by July 12, 2005.

Registration closes July 18, 2005

TrainLink Home Page

[Http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/county_access/documents/pub/DHS_id_007126.hcsp](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/county_access/documents/pub/DHS_id_007126.hcsp)

For questions or help registering,
Please contact

Brenda Sandquist

SW Area Training Manager

Minnesota Child Welfare Training
System

Tel: 320/587-7639 Fax: 320/587-8413
bsandqui@hutchtel.net

Trainers:

Richard Kessler, M. Ed.

Mr. Kessler founded the Minnesota Center for Conflict Resolution, which provides training for organizations and families, as well as mediates disputes and facilitates meetings. He is a coordinator and facilitator for Family Group Decision Making in Dakota County. He has developed a family conference decision making process called Family Matters that is used with older adults and their families.

Lorrie Meier, M. Ed.

Ms. Meier is a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor who is employed at Lutheran Social Service of MN in Moorhead. She is the coordinator and a facilitator for the Family Group Decision Making process in several counties in the Northwest Region of MN. Lorrie is actively involved with other FGDM service providers in her region and throughout the state.

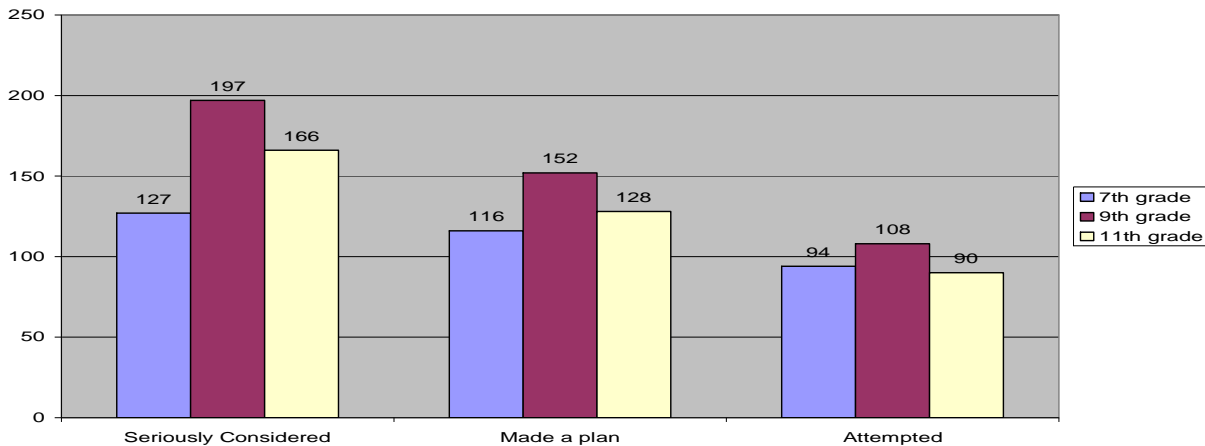


EVALUATION REPORT

By Ed Downey, Evaluation Specialist

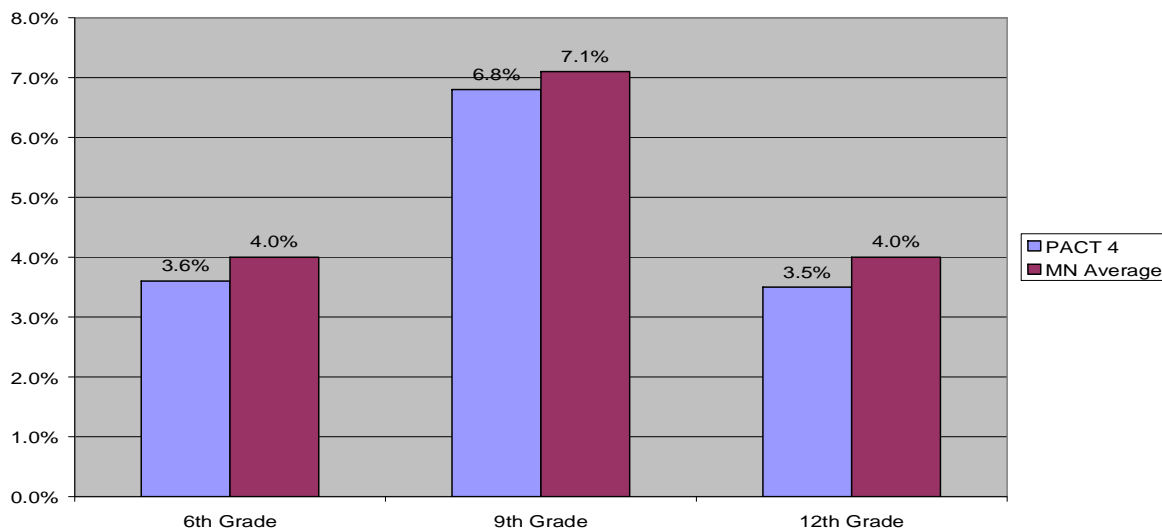
In the May 2005 Bulletin I gave you the first glimpse of some of the data collected to support the Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant written on behalf of the PACT 4 Member Schools. That article was about teenage alcohol consumption. This month I am turning to another difficult issue, teenage suicide attempts. The following chart is compiled from three questions on the Student Survey: During the past 12 months, did you ever seriously consider suicide? During the past 12 months, did you make a plan about how you would attempt suicide? During the past 12 months, how many times did you actually attempt suicide? The chart shows the numbers at each grade level who said they seriously considered, made a plan, and made at least one suicide attempt. As you would expect, more youth state that they considered it than actually made attempts. Nevertheless, 292 PACT 4 youth (9.8% of the 2970 respondents) indicated that they made at least one attempt, 129 youth claimed more than one attempt and 41 youth reported six attempts or more. In addition, 180 stated that at least one of their attempts required medical attention.

Number of PACT 4 Youth Who Claim To Have Considered, Made a Plan, or Attempted Suicide - 2970 Respondents



The next chart is from the Minnesota Student Survey from April 2004. It compares the PACT 4 youth in grades 6, 9 and 12 with their counterparts across Minnesota on the question: Have you ever tried to kill yourself? The response choices to the question are: "No"; "Yes, more than a year ago"; and "Yes, within the last year. The data shows that PACT 4 Schools are a little below the state average at each grade grouping for those respondents (148 across all grades) who answered "Yes, during the last year." You may have noticed a discrepancy between the data from the Safe Schools/Healthy Students question where 292 of 2970 (9.8%) youth reported at least one suicide attempt in the last year and the Minnesota Student Survey data where 148 of 3181 (4.7%) youth say they tried to kill themselves within the last year. Why is the Safe Schools rate more than twice that of the Minnesota Student Survey data? The difference in the grade levels of the students surveyed by each instrument would hardly account for this large discrepancy. Apparently asking someone if they have tried to commit suicide is not the same as asking them if they have tried to kill themselves. My guess is that some of the reported suicide attempts are intended as calls for help rather than ending one's life. In the end what we can say is that somewhere between 5% and 10% of our adolescents are seriously endangering themselves and we have to take every attempt seriously and make every effort to keep our youth from getting to that point where they adopt such drastic measures.

Percent of Youth Who Answered "Yes, Within the Last Year" to: Have You Ever Tried to Kill Yourself? - 3181 respondents





The Talking Piece Reflections of Restorative Justice

By Sarah Hiniker

Community members continue to meet with youth in both Kandiyohi and Yellow Medicine counties to participate in Community Sentencing Circles. Circles meet as a community-directed process conducted in partnership with the criminal justice system to develop consensus on an appropriate sentencing plan. This plan will address the concerns of all interested parties including offenders, victims and communities.

Members from Willmar, New London, Pennock, Granite Falls, Canby and surrounding areas continue to help make their communities safer and more community-oriented by devoting their time to work with offenders and victims. Their dedication, commitment, enthusiasm, empathy, and support never fails to amaze me. Without caring community members willing to work with youth sentenced to circle, youth would be sentenced through the traditional justice system.

There are currently over 50 community members who volunteer their valuable time to meet twice a month with offenders, families, victims and other community members to address the impacts of crime. Each and every volunteer is as important as the next. I want to take the time to thank these volunteers. You continue to impress me with your willingness to give to your communities. Thank you!

**Please contact Sarah Hiniker if you are interested in volunteering in your community.
320-235-8939**

Director's Corner Continued.....

Discretionary Grants up to \$1500	(125,000)
Discretionary Plus Grants up to \$3000	(90,000)
Flexible Funds	(45,000)
Wraparound dollars	(200,000)
17 FTE Schools social worker/counselors	(800,000)
Early Risers Program	(100,000)
After School Grants	(400,000)
Restorative Justice Program in Kandiyohi, Yellow Medicine and Upper Sioux	(70,000)
Child Helper @ Upper Sioux Community and YME	(65,000)
Universal contact of parents and newborns all 4 counties	(100,000)
Home and Community based services all 4 counties	(240,000)
Continuation of SUCCEED/Early Childhood program	(100,000)
Methamphetamine work group, education, clearing house	(100,000)
Early Intervention in Corrections	(100,000)
Program staff to work with children and social workers in each of the 4 counties	(200,000)
6.75 FTE CMH Case Managers in 4 counties (partial LCTS)	(175,000)
W/A Coordinator, evaluation unit (partial)	(160,000)
PRIDE 4 transition coaches and youth groups	(50,000)
Families Matter Just Imagine.....Liaisons for WAI/PRIDE 4	(250,000)

This list doesn't include numerous other services offered to partners in times of need and crisis or the newsletters, education, clinical supervision, and administrative support provided to partners without charge. I'm sure I've forgotten something in the list above but you can see that we have come a long way in 12 years from a budget of \$80,000 to a budget just over \$6 million dollars. Helping families and partners with badly needed resources is an important element of the collaborative but even more important is the reaching of hands across county and school district lines, the sharing of talents, successes and even failures, and the retaining of staff and programs in our rural area. PACT 4 has a reputation both statewide and nationally that is unique and something to strive for. We never would have had this success without all of you there doing your part. As we look forward to the next 10 years we need to be more innovative, daring, objective, and creative in how we blend together what works best for children, young adults and their families. They truly are our future and we need our future to be strong.


Remember we need you at the table on July 13, 2005 - Full Collaborative Meeting.

If you managed to read this long article, congratulations. Any comments good, bad, or otherwise are always appreciated. Feel free to call me at (320)231-7031 or email me at toni_b@co.kandiyohi.mn.us.



July 2005



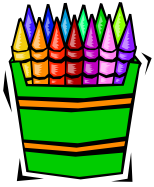
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1
4 Independence Day  PACT4 Office Closed	5 Executive Board 11:30-2:00; Room 2055	6	7	8
11	12 Psychotropic Medications Training 9:00 am - 4:00 pm (see page 5 for details)	13 Full Collaborative & Committee Meetings; Willmar KCHHSB * **see below	14 Wraparound Refresher Training; 9-11 KCHHSB*	15
18	19	20 University of Minnesota Early Risers Training	21	22
25 Evaluation Committee 10:30-1:00; Room 2055	26 Family Group Decision Making Orientation 9:00 am - 4:00 pm (see page 6 for details)	27 Family Group Decision Making Facilitator Training 9:00 am - 4:00 pm (see page 6 for details)	28	29

*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.

**Early Childhood: 10:00 Community Ed/T&TA, Mentors, School Age, and Wraparound Committees: 10:30 - All at KCHHSB

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



August 2005



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2 Executive Board; 11:30-2:00; Room 2055 KCHHSB*	3	4	5
8	9	10 School Age Committee; 9:00-11:30; Room 2055 KCHHSB* NO FULL COLLABORATIVE	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

*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 June Full Collaborative Meeting in Granite Falls had 75 in attendance.

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

**Wednesday, July 13th 2005
12:00 to 2:00 p.m.**

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

Director's Report – Update LCTS

Distributed today was a list of all approved LCTS 2 year county grants, also a report that included the abstracts from each grant approved. We will be putting reports in our Bulletin and in county newspapers to inform others of more than just a grant name and amount, but the actual makeup of the grant. We will be using the abstracts written on the applications, unless something else is desired and then that information should be sent to Danette Hendrickson.

We hope to hear results of the Safe Schools/Healthy Students application in July or August.

Priority Process

PACT 4 is beginning the process of setting priorities for the year 2007-2009. Past processes and priorities were distributed. Today an exercise was conducted to help improve on the process to set priorities, which are used by PACT 4 to fund projects, activities, and programs from the general budget. This includes non-competitive dollars set aside dollars. Priorities are also used to research, locate and write grants, to give guidelines to community groups for the LCTS competitive county grants, to bring in high interest, low-cost training at little or no cost, and to offer committees direction. Today's exercise deals with brainstorming ideas for the PROCESS, not the actual PRIORITIES. More information, ideas and input should be given to Chris Schmid. July's Full Collaborative will also include another exercise to help set the process in motion.

The following questions were asked of all present:

1. What questions should be asked of what collaborative partners?
2. Upon how many priorities should we focus?
3. Who should give information about

priorities?

4. How should other sources, such as data collected from projects and surveys, be used to establish priorities?
5. What other questions should we look at?
6. What should PACT 4 do with the priorities that you establish?

Bullying/Meth—Work Group Updates

Staff at YME, BOLD, and ACGC - the three schools piloting the Olweus Curriculum met with the national trainer on May 17th. Eight to ten staff at each school, including bus drivers, cooks, teachers and others will be trained, and then they can go back to their school building and train all the other staff there.

The next Meth Advisory Committee will meet on June 29th at 9:00 at the Blue Heron in Willmar.

Committee Reports

A. Early Childhood

Reviewed feedback from last month's presentation. Discussed PECFAS training for the fall and continuing training for screeners. Next meeting is July 13th.

B. Community Education/Training & Technical Assistance Committee

Discussed communication between committees. Would like to make a recommendation to all committees to read the committee report from the last Full Collaborative meeting to help refresh from the previous month and set project and not repeat reporting information heard at earlier Full Collaborative meetings. Talked about the networking that is done at these Full Collaborative meetings and stressing that it provides opportunities for all those here. Discussed meth education and how to continue those efforts. Survey results revealed that the main topic people want to see addressed is helping parents know the clues to figure out if their child(ren) are using meth. Next month, the plan is to invite someone from evaluation to come to help evaluate the effectiveness of committees, the Safe Schools survey data, and how to use it.

C. Mentors Committee

The differences of LCTS funding between the four counties was discussed, as well as situations involving mentors/mentees, a rep for the Service Delivery Committee, developing a mentoring brochure for parents, and closure meetings for programs that have been cut or didn't receive funding. Next meeting is July 13th.

D. School Age Committee

Had not been having regular meetings, as the Safe School grant meetings have been attended by committee members instead. Will not meet in July but will meet August 10th in Willmar at 9:00 am.

E. Service Delivery Committee

Will meet on June 15th at 1:30pm. Looking for a wider diversity of representation from committees.

F. Wraparound Committee

Putting the neutral facilitators project on the back burner and concentrating on establishing the faith-based network for family need in the four counties.

G. Evaluation Committee

May's meeting including reviewing the "Numbers and Note" newsletter, and working on the next issue, which will focus on Restorative Justice/Circle Sentencing. Had a visit from ORC/MACRO in July and discussed the National Outcome Study and the system of care. Next meeting is on July 25th at 10:30 am.

H. Restorative Justice/Circle Sentencing
Granite Falls currently has two youth in Circle. One youth will be starting a truancy circle in August. Canby graduated two youth successfully. The Kandiyohi County and Yellow Medicine County advisory committees will be meeting later this week, discussing truancy circles in Yellow Medicine and youth involved in Kandiyohi County.

I. Executive Board

Met extensively with the board from Families Matter, sharing information and discussing their future plans. Reviewed two LCTS county grants which were referred to the Executive Board for changes, and both were approved. Discussed the Meth Advisory Committee and the work they're doing.

J. Families Matter....Just Imagine

Greg Spartz from the Affiliated Community Health Foundation visited to present a check for \$1500 to complete a resource book for parents - available at the ACMC related to children's mental health. Hosting a training for parents in June on medication, and in July on Autism. Will suspend the support groups for the summer months.

A. Next meeting: July 13th in Willmar. No August Full Collaborative meeting.

*Respectfully submitted
Shawna Steffen, Recorder*



If you would like copies of entire committee or Full Collaborative meeting minutes or would like to be more informed about the committees' activities, please call, fax, write or e-mail the Collaborative office at the following: PACT 4 Families Collaborative, 2200 23rd St NE, Suite 2030, Willmar, MN 56201; phone: (320) 231-7030 / fax: (320) 231-7033 or e-mail shawna.steffen@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

Liberty



Here in the harbor, made famous by her
very existence,
Stands a lady, polished by a new American pride....
And her name is Liberty.
She holds a torch ignited by the flame of love,
And from her raised hand, her gentle eyes
She offers a blessing of reassurance with
silent lips:

“Give me your weary, your dreamless, your hopeless,
Those who have lost faith in themselves and
our country.

Send these, embittered, to me.

I am living proof of what a nation of people can do,
When they believe, when they commit, when
they join hearts.

I lift my torch beside the door that remains open,
A golden opportunity for all who enter,
When the hope is peace
And the reason is freedom for all.”

By Judith A. Lindberg



**PACT 4 Families
Collaborative**

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