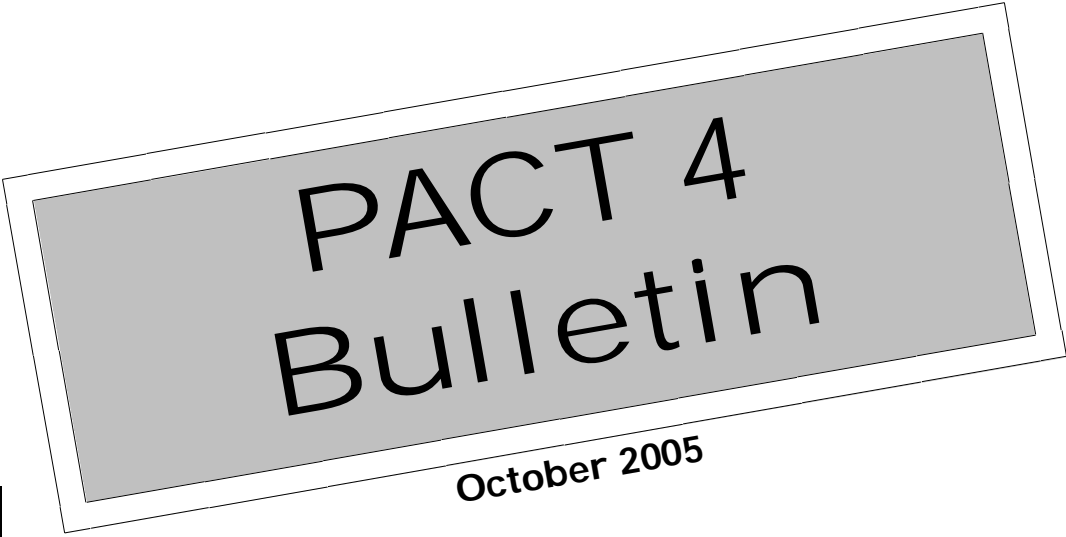




*Putting All Communities
Together in Kandiyohi,
Meeker, Renville &
Yellow Medicine Counties*



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The PACT 4 monthly Bulletin will have a new feature this month. Recipients of the Local Collaborative Time Study (LCTS) funding are being asked to write a short synopsis of their grant to help PACT 4 partners learn about each other through the Bulletin. The purpose of this is to learn what Local Collaborative Time Study (LCTS) Grant recipients are doing with LCTS dollars and get ideas from the 'best of the best' to share within our communities.

After school or "Out of School Time" grants and other projects funded through LCTS will also be included in the LCTS section of future Bulletins. This month we feature The Olweus Bullying projects. Throughout a two year time span each grant will have the opportunity to share how they are impacting kids and families in our schools and communities. This is a chance for you to take the time to learn about the exciting opportunities that are available through Local Collaborative Time Study Dollars. Early Intervention and prevention is working in our communities and helping kids and families succeed.

FULL COLLABORATIVE MEETING NOTICE

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

**Wednesday October 12th, 2005
12:00 to 2:00 p.m.
Farmer's Daughter Restaurant
Litchfield, MN**



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





If there is one thing that remains the same it is change, and the fact that no matter what we do in our world our actions have some effect on someone or something else. We make up a part of something larger. What am I talking about? I am referring to the fact that partners in PACT 4 along with the programs or services they provide are part of a broad plan to improve the lives of children and families in our 4-county area. This is true with 3 areas in particular that I will update you on.

First, the Department of Chemical Health division of DHS has been providing funding for the Early Risers program for the past 3 years and we are now entering our 4th year. Early Risers will operate in 3 school districts once again, this year starting over with a new group of children and families. Willmar, Buffalo Lake/Hector and Yellow Medicine East offer early intervention and prevention services in our area as part of the State of Minnesota's plan to increase protective factors and decrease risk factors of children which will lead to improved outcomes for children in the future.


The Chemical Health Division has again opened up 2 opportunities for grant applications for which PACT 4 will be applying. One is for a regional prevention specialist to serve the southwest corner of the State. The other is for prevention planning and programming. For more information, please contact me, or be prepared for a call from me to assist in the writing of the proposal.

The second area in which we are a small part of something much larger is the Safe Schools Healthy Students Initiative. The federal departments of Education, Juvenile Justice, and Health and Human Services have combined funding and planned together a comprehensive plan to improve the lives of children and families. PACT 4 Families schools, law enforcement, mental health, juvenile justice and social services will be part of a national plan in the next 3 years to increase the capacity of our local agencies to offer quality and coordinated services to our children and families.

And finally, the LCTS projects funded for the years 2005-2007 are part of both PACT 4 Families' mission and the State of Minnesota's plan for coordinated services to improve the lives of children and families. As your grant consultant I will be available to meet with you and will be working with you to help in any way I can. I am currently becoming familiar with the grants funded and will be making site visits and phone calls to project directors to offer technical assistance with the reporting requirements, project director responsibilities, and changes that as I stated in the beginning of this article are ever constant. Please join me, Ed Downey and Sarah Wennerberg at a mandatory meeting October 4th from 8:30 to noon to get information which will be helpful to you in showing the success of your project and its connection to the larger PACT 4 plan to improve the lives of children and families.

By Chris Schmid

Safe Schools Healthy Students



The New London-Spicer School District on behalf of 13 public schools, two private schools, one charter school, public health and law enforcement coalition, has been selected to receive a Safe Schools/Health Students Grant in the amount of \$951,417 a year for the next three years. The first year grant cycle is October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006. The Safe Schools/Health Students Initiative was highly competitive with 485 proposals across the nation submitted, of which 40 proposals were awarded. This was the only plan awarded in Minnesota for this grant cycle. The New London-Spicer School District will serve as the fiscal agent for this grant.

The Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative is a discretionary grant program that provides students, schools, and communities with federal funding to implement an enhanced, coordinated, comprehensive plan of activities, programs, and services that focus on promoting healthy childhood development and preventing violence and alcohol and other drug abuse.

The four county coalition comprehensive plan is entitled the "SHARE project" (Supporting Healthy And Respectful Environments). PACT 4 was instrumental in organizing the coalition involved by scheduling meetings, gathering data, and drafting the plan proposal.

The SHARE project is designed to address the needs identified in the community assessment data while at the same time being responsive to the varied needs of the many consortium partners. By cooperating together for over twelve years under the structure of the PACT 4 Families Collaborative, the SHARE partners have a clear history of successful cooperation. The same level of cooperative success has been present in the preparation of this grant proposal and will be there for implementation of the plan.

A SHARE Coordinating Council will now be meeting to begin the implementation of the SHARE project. The Coordinating Council is comprised of one representative from each SHARE school district, a representative from the PACT 4 Families Collaborative, and a parent representative from each county. The first step to begin the implementation of the SHARE project will be to hire the Project Director. An interview committee of coordinating council members has been organized to complete this important task.

Paul Carlson, Superintendent from New London-Spicer schools stated, "excitement, enthusiasm, opportunity, and some anxiety best describe my feelings as we begin to implement the SHARE project."



EVALUATION REPORT

By Ed Downey, Evaluator

At the end of August we officially ended data collection as part of the national System of Care study. We will no longer be collecting and sending evaluation data to ORC Macro in Atlanta according to the protocol prescribed by the Federal partners. Instead PACT 4 plans to continue the evaluation of our local System of Care independently with a modified protocol. Evaluation remains an integral part of the PACT 4 mission so that we can continue to:

- *Demonstrate that PACT 4 System of Care practices and the wraparound process result in positive outcome for children and families;
- *Demonstrate which practices are therapeutically beneficial and cost effective.

Our intent is to:

- *Develop a protocol for involving children and families which encourages practitioners to enroll families, and encourages families to stay with the process so that we collect useful data over time;
- *Within that protocol, develop a system for routinely providing data reports that are timely and useful to families, practitioners, and partners.

This article briefly describes the changes that will occur in the System of Care evaluation.

Enrollment: In the previous evaluation protocol, children and youth with mental health issues were referred by county case managers to the outcome study. The evaluation process was introduced to family members by a family liaison and only one child per family could actually be enrolled in the study. With the new protocol, prospective participants again will be referred by County Case managers but we are also including staff from mental health agencies as potential referral sources. Any child who is in his/her first three months of receiving services for mental health issues is eligible for enrollment. Siblings who become identified as needing services can be enrolled regardless of the fact that another family member has been enrolled.

Data Collection: Previously when a family agreed to participate, the family liaison introduced the process to the family and the case manager and the family liaison shared the responsibility for data collection. In the new protocol, case managers may be data collectors for specific children and families if they choose to make the data collection contact a part of their involvement with the family. Otherwise, data collection will be done by PACT 4 Families evaluation staff.

Family Involvement: In the National study families would complete tools every six months for a period of three years. In the new system, families will complete tools every six months for the first 2 years followed by two 12 month follow ups. With the new approach we will collect the data the same number of times but will get data over a four year period instead of three years. The family member doing the caregiver tools and the youth will each receive \$10 stipends in the form of gift certificates at each collection point.

Evaluation tools: All of the tools in the new protocol are either new or are updated versions of previous tools. There will be fewer tools for both the caregiver and the child to complete resulting in a significant reduction in time for all parties. We will incorporate the Wraparound Fidelity Index, a tool for studying Wraparound effectiveness, with any family where a wraparound team has been in place. With parental permission we will also be doing data collection with the child's teacher. We expect that enrollees in the new evaluation process will be spread around the four counties, so we do not think we will be burdening any one teacher. We are very aware of how busy teachers are with their daily work but we believe we have missed a valuable source of information by not involving them previously.

Data Reporting: As before, parents will have the option of receiving evaluation reports on their child following each data collection. In addition, the new process will allow case managers or other referring individuals to receive evaluation reports on their clients following each data collection if the parent grants permission for those reports to be shared.

The new evaluation protocol has been developed with input from many people. We interviewed parents who had completed 36 months of data collection and have had numerous meetings to gain input from the PACT 4 Evaluation Committee, case managers, family liaisons, and county supervisory staff. We are hopeful that our new protocol will serve our communities well and that we have a solid number of enrollees from eligible youth and families. Because we have moved to a locally driven evaluation process, we can and will change the process if needed improvements become apparent over time.

Family Focus

PACT 4 Executive board members were notified the morning of 8/31/05, that Families Matter board unanimously voted on 8/29/05 to reject the contract for 3 months for a total amount of \$96,000. Several meetings were held previously and the five PACT 4 board members thought an agreement had been reached. Unfortunately this was not the case. Our board members were notified late morning that Families Matter.... Just Imagines' office would be shut down that day due to no contract. The following letter was sent to us by Families Matter to the family members that they worked with.

Dear Family Member,

It is with a heavy heart that we notify you that as of September 1, 2005 FMJI will no longer be in operation. In staying true to the mission and values of our organization, we have elected not to accept the contract offered to us by PACT 4, our main financier at this time. This was a heart wrenching and difficult decision to make; however, we are in unanimous agreement that it is in the best interest of families who have children with mental health issues.

We are extremely saddened that we were not able to have more time for an adjustment period as we have grown to know and watch so many of you flourish over the last 1 1/2 and for some you almost 5 years as we have known you since we were employees of PACT 4.

It has been our pleasure to work with all of you and please know that as you have welcomed us into your homes and lives, you will forever be a part of ours.

With our deepest and sincere belief in the value of all children and the knowledge that the journey has just begun and we are leading "A Life UNCOMMON";

Angie Albrecht, Family Member; Debbie Gerrety, Family Member; Maria Florez, Family Member; Patty Butler, Family Member and Susan Lindstrand, Family Member.

Executive Board Members Email to all members 8/31/05:

PACT 4 Families Collaborative learned today that Families Matter...Just Imagine has made the decision to close its door and discontinue family support services.

PACT 4 Families is saddened by their decision and will work to keep the impact this has on families to a minimum. Family support is extremely important. PACT 4 Families remains committed to working with families to maintain a family organization. We will be looking at options to fill this very important need.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact one our Executive Board Members Carmen Clementson, (320)231-7811; Jill Bruns, (320)523-2570; Tammy Thompson, (320)693-5260; Gerald Brustuen, (320)523-2202; Mary Potter, (320)564-2211; Becky Romosz, (320)235-2204; Arliss Stenger, (320)453-8153; Loren Hacker, (507)223-7226; Dr. Eugene Bonyng, (320)235-4613 or Toni Braness at 231-7031.

Parent Advisory Committee

Parent Advisory was again started after Families Matter...Just Imagine closed its doors on 8/31/05. A parent advisory committee meeting was held on Tuesday, September 20th at the Blue Heron and was open to all parents. A total of 19 parents attended, discussing various topics surrounding caregiver needs when parenting children who have mental health concerns. Parents talked about other areas of support and having a list of parents willing to be called. Several parents volunteered to be listed but discussed the need for training before a list can be put out.

A decision was made by the committee to continue to meet on a regular basis and plan to meet on the second Monday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

The following meeting dates are:

October 10th - Kandiyohi County Health and Human Services Building - Multi Purpose Room

November 14th - Location to be determined

December 12th - Kandiyohi County Health and Human Service Building Room 2057

If you have any questions about this committee you may contact Janae Langhoff or Toni Braness or to RSVP for the October meeting, please call (320)231-7030 or (800)960-7228.

PACT 4 Responds to Bullying

Last year the PACT 4 Evaluation unit surveyed all the school partners. One area of concern reflected in the survey results was Bullying. In response to this concern, the PACT 4 Executive Board set aside LCTS dollars to pilot a Bullying program. Three school districts volunteered to be trained in the Olweus Bullying Prevention model; YME, BOLD and ACGC. In August 2005, the training took place and two of the three schools have written about their experiences with the training and planning to prevent Bullying in their school district.

*By Danette Hendrickson
Social Marketing and Training Coordinator*

ACGC is in the beginning stages of piloting the Olweus Bullying Program. This program will serve children ages Kindergarten through 12th grade. There is a group of 30 people which includes parents, teachers, support staff, and administration who meet at least monthly to discuss the kick-off, staff in service, and behavioral expectations of the students. This program is a two year grant. At this point, the Olweus Program has helped identify the needs of the school and community by bringing concerned individuals together. Hopefully, this program will continue after the grant has ended.

Lynn Peterson and Robin Wall

The Olweus Bullying Program is long overdue. At BOLD Schools we welcome it with open arms. In late August twenty-three staff members were present at the training session for the Olweus Program and since school has started our committee has grown. The interest from the BOLD staff and the community has been great.

On November 7th the committee members will train the rest of the BOLD school staff at our in service. The training committee has come up with a wonderful idea of filming people in the community who were once bullied or was the bully. Together we will come up with a short film to present at the in service and at our kick off.

In late January we will implement our program to the students during a week long kick off starting on January 23rd. Many great ideas have been brought to the table and we are excited about them all. Our logo for the kick off is "Be BOLD Step Up". Our goal is to have maximum participation from the staff, students and the communities.

We still have plenty of work ahead of us and I know we will rise to the challenge because of our energetic hard working committee. I'm positive the BOLD staff will embrace the program and strive for a safe bully-free school.

*Joann Solem
BOLD Coordinator*

ACGC Jr/Sr High School is piloting the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program this school year. The committee, headed up by Kate Berger, consists of administration, teachers, support staff, bus drivers, and parents of ACGC students. This committee has trained the entire Jr/Sr High staff in the Olweus Program.

The Olweus Bullying Prevention Program at the Jr/Sr High School is directed towards the 7th and 8th grade students, but is also explained to students in grades 9-12. The 7th and 8th grade students are taking part in some lessons to educate students about bullying. The Olweus program is a multi-step program. Right now we are educating students. We will be having a kick-off during Parent-Teacher conferences this fall. The Olweus program also includes the community. The committee is working on ways to involve more people in this program. The Olweus Bullying Prevention Program is not a curriculum but is a way of being.

During the few weeks we have been implementing this program we have seen rapid results. The classroom lessons have produced meaningful learning activities. Students created posters advertising the prevention of bullying at ACGC and these posters have been placed around the school hallways. The posters have brought about an awareness of what bullying is. Teachers hear students in the hallways tell each other to stop bullying. Already students understand what bullying is and are taking action against bullying.

With this program, we expect to see a reduction of office referrals as well as harassment. Our ultimate goal is to enhance the safe learning environment at ACGC Jr/Sr High School and make it even safer.

*By Kate Berger
Coordinator Jr/Sr High*

Yellow Medicine East Olweus Bullying Prevention

Both Elementary and High School Committees are preparing to train staff. Plans are underway to train the 7-12 grade staff during our first in-service day on October 6th.

We are focused on getting these staff members energized. At this 2 hour in-service we will first dispel some myths about bullying using a "quiz." We will then share what bullying looks like - characteristics, motives, group dynamics, etc. In addition, we will share another important element - why we are initiating this program. Several training sessions are planned for the High School staff. The elementary committee is preparing to train their staff closer to the Kick-Off date of January 17th. Yellow Medicine East's coordinator is Laurie Schultze, lschultze@yme.k12.mn.us

*By Janae Langhoff
Grant/ Program Supervisor*

FAMILY NEEDS

A family is in need of a trumpet or trombone to loan, sell or give away if you have one or know someone who'd like to donate one please contact Shawna Steffen at (320)235-8938 or email me at shawna.steffen@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

Brain Builders:
Minds Under Construction
4th Annual Conference



Conference Faculty & Topics

Keynote Speaker: Why Do They Act That Way? Understanding the Adolescent Brain. David Walsh, Ph.D. is one of the most sought after speakers in America. He writes, "Even smart kids do stupid things. It's a simple fact of life. No one makes it through the teenage years unscathed-not the teens, not their parents. But now there's expert help for both generations."

Dr. Walsh's presentation explains the changes in teens' brains and tells parents how to use this information to understand, communicate with and stay connected to their kids. An award-winning psychologist, Dr. Walsh talks every week with educators, religious leaders, coaches, health care professionals and parents.

The president and founder of the National Institute on Media and the Family, Dr. Walsh spent over ten years in the classroom, has coached and counseled numerous teens, and is the father of three grown children. For more information, go to www.teenwiseparents.org.

3:00 - 3:30

Registration, Exhibits, Refreshments

3:30 - 4:00

Opening Assembly: William Sheehan, MD, Psychiatrist

4:10 - 5:10

Keynote Address: David Walsh, Ph.D. "Why Do They Act That Way? Understanding the Adolescent Brain"

5:20 - 6:20

Breakout Sessions with Conference Faculty

6:15 - 7:00

Brain Power Buffet & Networking

7:10 - 8:30

Closing Assembly: David Walsh, Ph.D.
Video Game Addiction

Name _____

Title _____

Agency _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Cost: \$20.00... PACT 4 Partners or Parents in the counties of Kandiyohi, Meeker, Renville, Yellow Medicine
\$50.00....Non PACT 4 Partners
\$10.00....High School and College Students

Registration confirmation will be sent to all who include an email address on this form.

Mail registration and payment to:

Attn: Shawna
PACT 4 Families Collaborative
2200 23rd St NE Ste 2030
Willmar, MN 56201

NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ALLOWED AT THE DOOR!

"Getting to the Heart of the Matter"

Understanding the Complex Gender Issues Girls Face, Presented by Dr. LaWanda Raviora.

October 20th, 9:00am - 4:00pm,
Redwood Falls Community Center,
Cost is \$25.00 for PACT 4 Members

For more information contact
Greater Minnesota Family Services
at (320)235-3664

Wraparound Refresher Course

When: October 6th
Time: 9:00 - 11:00 am
Where: KCHHSB

If you are able to attend please rsvp with Shawna at (320)231-7030 or email at shawna.steffen@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

Remember you must have refresher training annually to access any wraparound dollars.

How We Respond to Sexually Abusive Youth: Are We Doing the Right Thing?

*Rick Lee, PhD, Rocky Scheevel, and Molly Swenson
Woodland Centers*

When children behave in sexually aggressive or abusive ways, everyone gets upset. Over the past 15 years or so, the number of children sent to residential treatment facilities has exploded. Why is that? Is taking children "off the streets" and out of their homes ever the safest and most clinically appropriate thing to do? The research on these youth increasingly suggests that residential treatment is always the most expensive but rarely the proper response. This presentation aims to do some myth-busting and inform stakeholders as to what we know about these youth and about the safest and most clinically appropriate response to them.

When: October 26
Where: Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services Building, Multi-Purpose Room
Time: 1:00pm to 3:00pm
Cost: No charge

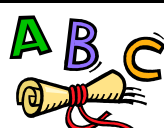

No need to register - just show up

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October 2005



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3 Service Delivery Committee; 1:00 pm Room 1010	4 LCTS Mtg for Grantees; 8:30am - Noon - MPR Executive Board; 11:30-2:00pm Room 2055	5	6 Wraparound Refresher Course; 9:00-11:00am KCHHSB Room 2055 Bridge Builders; 11:30 am - Room 2055	7
10 Brain Conference Planning Committee; 11:30am - Room 1010 Parent Advisory Committee; 6:30 - 8:30pm MPR	11 Restorative Justice YM County, Committee; 12:00 noon Jimmy's Pizza Granite Falls	12 Full Collaborative (Litchfield Farmer's Daughter) Meth Commissioner's/Directors Mtg Following Full Collaborative Mtg *Follow the Dollars...A Guided Tour through the State's Budget; 10:00-12:00 pm Redwood County Public Health Building	13	14 Brain Conference Mtg; 11:00 am
17	18	19	20	21  No School - MEA Break →
24	25 Safe Schools Healthy Students Grant Meeting; 11:30am Blue Heron	26 Meth Advisory Committee Mtg; 9:00am - Blue Heron Dr. Rick Lee (Woodlands); Juvenile Sex Offender Updates KCHHSB; 1:00-3:00 pm MPR	27	28
31 Halloween 	<p>*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.</p> <p>*RCOB = Renville County Office Building. The RCOB is located off Hwy 212 on DePue Ave in Olivia.</p> <p>**COMMITTEES = Early Childhood Committee 10:00, Community Ed/T&TA 10:30, Mentors 10:30, School Age 10:30 and Wraparound Committee 10:30</p>			



Trick or Treat and Happy Fall to All!!






CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 2005



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1 Executive Board; 11:30-2:00pm Room 2055	2	3	4
7 Service Delivery Committee; 1:00-2:00 pm	8 Restorative Justice YM County, Committee; 12:00 noon Jimmy's Pizza Granite Falls	9 Full Collaborative RCOB, Olivia	10 Restorative Justice KC Committee; 12:00 noon Blue Heron in Willmar	11 Veteran's Day  Office Closed
14 Parent Advisory Committee; 6:30-8:30 pm	15 Brain Conference Willmar High School 3:00 pm to 8:30 pm	16	17	18
21	22	23	24 Office Closed Thanksgiving 	25 Office Closed
28 Evaluation Committee; 10:30-1:00pm Room 2055	29	30		

*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 Human Services Building. The RCOB is located off Hwy 212 on DePue Ave in Olivia.

****COMMITTEES** = Early Childhood Committee 10:00, Community Ed/T&TA 10:30, Mentors 10:30, School Age 10:30 and Wraparound Committee 10:30 - All in Willmar.



The September Full Collaborative Meeting in had 106 in attendance.

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

**Wednesday, October 12th, 2005
12:00 to 2:00 p.m.
Farmer's Daughter in Litchfield**

Grants Updates

~ LCTS

Most of the contracts have been mailed and returned.

~ Safe Schools/Healthy Students

Great News!! We were awarded a Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant this year. NL/S School will be the fiscal host. There were 485 applications submitted, with 40 grants awarded. For year one, we will receive \$951,417. Based on the successful completion of year one, we will be then funded for the next two years. An ad will go in newspapers for a Project Director. A press conference may be called within the next week, so email and phone messages will be sent out for all agencies and schools participating to sent reps to this press conference. Agency Directors or Superintendents aren't necessarily needed, just a rep for the agency involved, and as many people as possible to attend. The grant is called SHARE, which stands for Supporting Healthy And Respectful Environments.

~ Wraparound Initiative

This grant ended August 31, 2005. We have a no-cost extension for one year. There are a few carry over dollars available, which will be used to fund continued use of some form of evaluation tools.

~ PRIDE-4

Amy Haugen gave an update on the Youth Reflections Council and the activities they've been participating in throughout the summer. They also will be involved in a panel presentation at the Brain Conference in November.

~ Bullying

BOLD, YME and ACGC participated in the Olweus bullying curriculum training in August. Now that the SHARE grant has been funded, we will look to expand this training to all of our partner school districts.

~ Meth

The Advisory Committee will meet next on September 28th at 9:00 am at the Blue Heron in Willmar. An RFP has gone out asking for applicants to host and staff a 24-hour 800 meth info call line.

~ Families Matter....Just Imagine

PACT 4 received notice on August 31, 2005 that Families Matter...Just Imagine has made the decision to close its door and discontinue family support services. A contract extension was offered, but refused by their Board because of stipulations in the contract that they felt they could no longer accept. The Director of Families Matter called the PACT 4 office this same day and stated that the doors would be closed as of 5:00 p.m. that same day. Family support is extremely important. PACT 4 remains committed to working with families to maintain a family organization. We will be looking at options to fill this very important need.

Appreciative Inquiry

The activity at this month's Full Collaborative meeting focused on the next two phases of Appreciative Inquiry, dream and design. At the July meeting, small groups conducted discovery interviews to kick-off the Appreciative Inquiry process. The responses from those interviews identified the strengths and values of PACT 4. Among interview participants, networking and programming were identified as the two greatest strengths of PACT 4 Families Collaborative. Other strengths that are valued among our membership are increased awareness of mental health issues, our youth-focused programming, funding available for programming, parent involvement and training/professional development.

While keeping these strengths in mind, members were asked to envision (dream about) PACT 4 five years from now. Participants identified qualities that would make PACT 4 an award-winning, socially responsible organization in the year 2010. They also worked together to design "Provocative Propositions," organizational statements that identify the specifics of what the future of PACT 4 should look like to members. In a very short amount of time, PACT 4 partners were participating in open dialogue about their vision for the organization.

Parent Advisory Committee

A meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 20th at 6:30 for interested parents. Supper will be provided. Call PACT 4 to register.

Committee Reports

A. Early Childhood

The bulk of the meeting was spent with Service Delivery reps discussing prevention and intervention. Also discussed the pre-school screening books and the completion of the needs assessments. The needs assessment sub-committee will meet at 8:30 on October 12th at the Social Services building in Litchfield. The Early Childhood committee will meet at 10:00 at the same place, same date.

B. Community Education/Training & Technical Assistance Committee

Discussed the bullying curriculum training, and are looking forward to reviewing the evaluations. Discussed the upcoming Greater MN training and the Brain Conference. Talked about how to get mental health information to the schools. Appointed Service Delivery reps: Wendell Veurink, and back-ups Julie Slaughter and Elaine Bolland.

C. Mentors Committee

Found out what phase the different programs are in, the mentor/mentee matches and various activities youth involved in the programs have been participating in. Appointed Service Delivery reps: Bryan Thiery, Sherri Zieglmeier, and Lori Clasemann to rotate. Next meeting is at 10:30 on October 12th.

D. School Age Committee

Committee is re-focusing now that the SHARE grant was funded. Talked about how to get involved and what help the school districts will need. Next month will decide on a basic direction for the committee, and will appoint two more reps for the Service Delivery Committee. Next meeting is at 10:30 on October 12th.

E. Service Delivery Committee

Continue to work on getting committee representation from ALL committees. Set meeting dates for the next three months: Oct. 3, Nov. 7, Dec. 5, all from 1:00-2:00pm at the Kandiyohi County Health and Human Services Building. Reviewed meeting minutes for committees that have submitted recent minutes.

F. Wraparound Committee

Michelle Peterson from Heartland's Circles of Support attended to give input on how they volunteers for their circles. Identified lots of similarities between their program and wraparound - especially the informal supports piece. Next meeting is on October 12th at 10:30 in Litchfield.

G. Evaluation Committee

Did not meet in August. Will be meeting September 26th at 10:30 in Willmar.

H. Restorative Justice/Circle Sentencing

Yellow Medicine County's committee meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month at Jimmy's Pizza in Granite, and Kandiyohi County's committee meets the 2nd Thursday of every month at the Blue Heron in Willmar. Working on information to include in the next Numbers and Notes newsletter, which will focus on Restorative Justice.

J. Executive Board

Bob Ryan attended and presented on his Bridge Builders project. Discussed Families Matter and future plans, approved bills and reviewed the balance sheet for Quarter 2, received a fiscal host and benefits update, received LCTS and other grant updates, and discussed open personnel positions.

Other

*Next meeting: October 12th at the Farmer's Daughter in Litchfield. Information on where the various committees will meet will be in the next bulletin or in email reminders.

*Greater MN Family Services' 9th annual training event will be held on October 20th, 2005 in Redwood Falls. Because of a PACT 4 Discretionary grant, registration for those that live or work in the PACT 4 counties will \$25, rather than \$50. The focus this year is "Getting to the Heart of the Matter" - Understanding the Complex Gender Issues Girls Face. Register early - conference space is limited.

*Brain Conference brochures were available today. Again, early registration is encouraged - *will NOT be accepting registration at the door this year.* Dr. David Walsh is the featured keynote speaker, and the conference is expected to fill fast.

*Respectfully submitted
Shawna Steffen, Recorder*

Happy Fall!



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

PACT 4 Families Collaborative

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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



A Visit from the Kids

An elderly man living in Phoenix calls his son in New York and says: I hate to ruin your day, but I have to tell you that your mother and I are divorcing, 45 years of misery is enough.

The son gets all excited and responds: Pop, what are talking about? You can't divorce Mom after all these years. That's crazy.

It may be crazy, says the old man, but I am going to tell her on this coming Thanksgiving Day! It will be the last one we spend together!

Frantically, the son calls his sister in Chicago and she explodes: Like heck they're getting a divorce. We're both going to fly to Phoenix tomorrow and talk some sense into Dad! I don't care if it is Thanksgiving!

Then she calls her father and shouts at him over the phone: Do you hear me? Don't you dare do a thing until brother and I get there tomorrow. Then she hangs up.

The old man hangs up his phone and turns to his wife. OK, he says with a smile, they are coming for Thanksgiving and paying their own way. Now what do we tell them for Christmas?

From IdeaBank

