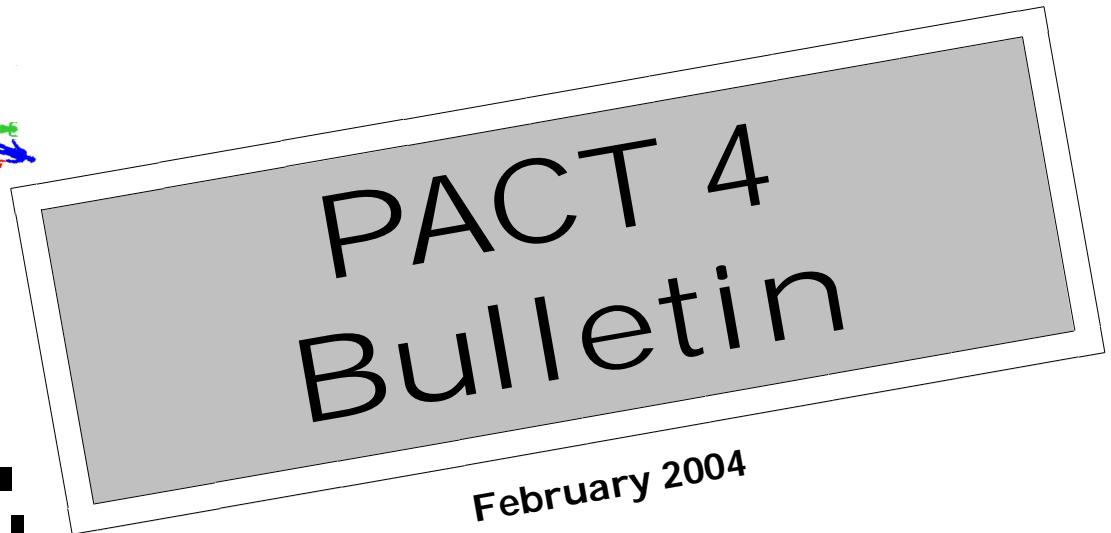




*Putting All Communities  
Together in Kandiyohi,  
Meeker, Renville & Yellow  
Medicine Counties*



# PACT 4 Bulletin

February 2004

## Inside This Issue

Director's Corner	2
2004 Executive Board & Chief Elected Officials	2
Chris's Corner	3
Conference Highlights	3
What's Going On...	4
What's Going On Continued	5
The Doctor's In	5
"Family Needs"	6
Project SUCCEED	6
Family Forum	7
Wraparound Initiative Info	7
Evaluation Report	8
Events Calendar - February	9
Events Calendar - March	10
Meeting Highlights	11

## *Shared Vision*

### Vision

*The PACT 4 Families Collaborative has the vision of healthy and safe communities where individuals, families, and children care and support each other.*

## FULL COLLABORATIVE MEETING NOTICE

*The next Full Collaborative Meeting is:*

**Wednesday, February 11th, 2004**

**12:00 to 2:00 p.m.**

**Kandiyohi County Health and Human Services Building  
Willmar, MN**

Committees will be meeting prior to the Full Collaborative meeting. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Shawna by calling (320) 235-8938 or e-mail at [shawna.steffen@co.kandiyohi.mn.us](mailto:shawna.steffen@co.kandiyohi.mn.us)

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



## Director's Corner *by Toni Braness, PACT 4 Director*

January and February are proving to be two very busy months.

We will be having several visitors from out-of-state during February.

The first week in February, Social Solutions will be out to train us on the software for outcomes on the transition PRIDE-4 grant.

The second week, Marty Heidecker, specialist on sustainability, will be here for three days, including the Full Collaborative meeting. He will review information for us there and afterward, meetings will be set up for us to meet with him.

MACRO, an independent evaluation firm, contracted by SAMHSA (*Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration*) will be here the week of February 23rd to help evaluate how things have changed in our systems during the past eighteen months. Several of you will be scheduled for interviews and records will be reviewed.

Unfortunately, because of a mandated meeting for the Federal Wraparound Initiative grant I missed seeing all of you at the January Full Collaborative meeting. I understand from many of you the training in the morning was excellent, as were the presentations on Early Childhood and mentoring.

I did, however, learn a lot while at the Federal meeting, as did all the participants, much of which will be shared over the next few months.

I presented to the National Association of State Children's Mental Health Directors on the Transforming, Linking, Caring (TLC) project we were selected to pilot with two other sites: New York, New York and Portland, Oregon. I was also able to spend some time with our grants manager Liz Sweet and met both the new Child and Adolescent Branch Chief, Gary Blau and the new director for Center for Mental Health Services, Kathryn Power, along with Diane Sondheimer deputy chief.

We've also been honored to be asked to present along with Milwaukee, Wisconsin at the Mental Health Institutes in June. This is not a proposal we submitted, but one we were chosen for. I, along with someone else will be presenting a four hour institute twice during the conference. (You read it correctly, **4** hours.)

At the National Grantee meeting, PACT 4 was awarded GOLD in the ECCO (*Excellence Community Communications Outreach*) Awards for Partnership Development. Our packet put together for teachers last year, which consisted of a calen-

dar, post-it pads, pencil and a magnet about feelings was one of the finalists in the category. Congratulations to all of you. PACT 4 received first place.

The Executive Board and Chief Elected Officials met at a day-long meeting on Wednesday January 7th. Besides their usual monthly business they also looked at prioritizing and began current sustainability plans through 2006 based on funding. They worked hard looking at all sides and you'll be getting an update during the February Collaborative meeting. We will also continue seeking other funding sources to increase services and collaboration across our four counties.

Finally on a more somber note, Dr. Sheehan has resigned and accepted a part time position elsewhere in the community. We wish him well in his new endeavors and appreciate the excellent work, direction and consultation he has provided us over the past several years. Dr. Sheehan will also be available for us to contract and/or consult with as necessary, time permitting.

Hope to see you all in February at the Full Collaborative meeting. In the meantime, bundle-up and remember, spring is coming.

## 2004 Executive Board

### **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."***

Loren Hacker, Canby School District  
Serves through 04—1st Term  
(507) 223-7226 /  
lhacker@canby.mntm.org

Mary Potter, Yellow Medicine Co. Family Services  
Serves through 05—3rd term  
(320) 564-2211 / maryp@co.yellow-medicine.mn.us

Carmen Clementson, Kandiyohi County Family Services  
Serves through 05—1st term  
(320) 231-6232 / carmen\_s@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

Jill Bruns, Renville Co. Public Health  
Serves through 05—1st term  
(320) 523-2570 / jill\_b@co.renville.mn.us

Tammy Thompson, Meeker County Probation  
(Vice-Chair)

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

Arliss Stenger, Parent  
Serves through 04—1st term  
(320) 453-8153

Eugene Bonyng, Woodland Centers  
Serves through 04—1st term  
(320) 235-4613 /  
ceo@woodlandcenters.com

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

### *Chief Elected Officials*

Dick Larson, Kandiyohi County  
Jane Remiger, Yellow Medicine County

Amy Wilde, Meeker County  
Bob Fox, Renville County

## Chris' *By Chris Oldakowski Schmid, Supervisor*

**o** As promised, this month's newsletter should reflect a more focused approach to information dissemination. The newsletter will carry a theme each month, a focus on a particular aspect or value of a collaborative system of care.

**r** This month the focus is on a shared vision. While at the Wraparound Initiative grantee meeting last week, which focused on sustaining systems of care, the following definition was provided to us:

**n**

### **Vision Statement**

*Sustainable community-based systems of care have policies, practices, structures, finances, and a guiding philosophy in place in order to provide the services and supports that increase the capacity for children with serious emotional disturbances and their families to live, work, learn, and participate fully in their community.*

**e** Please mark your calendars for February 10-12th as Marty Heidecker will join us to facilitate three days of focus groups dedicated to creating a strategic plan, to sustain and maintain what we have worked hard to develop as we move toward our vision of safe and healthy communities where children and families care and support each other.

Some people see things as they are and say "Why."

I dream things that never were and say "Why not."

-George Bernard Shaw

## **CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS** by Dick Larson of Kandiyohi County

After 1300 miles of driving, we arrived in San Antonio, Texas, Sunday afternoon. As we entered the lobby of the Hyatt Regency, we were greeted by Toni, Chris, Janae, Patty, Janice and Ed. When we got in our room on the third floor, we were delightfully surprised at the view in front of us: we looked directly over the Riverwalk, a view of one block away from the main entry into the Alamo. Alongside of it is the Historical Medical Arts building. This has been converted into a hotel but the architectural features have been preserved outside and as much as possible in the interior. This is lit up at night until midnight in an awesome way.

The conference of Systems of Care had approximately 1000 attendees. The first two days, I attended seminars put on by the National Centers of Cultural Competence. These were held in a sequential order outlining different aspects of structure and barriers that thwart or are hidden in this process. The third day I attended seminars of two communities that completed their grant tenure and how they are facing or sustaining today. Also, we attended the sustainability program with our total continuance on where we're at and ways we can sustain ourselves in the future. Day four was also dedicated to sustainability. We met with Marty Heidecker and rough-drafted a curriculum for his visit with PACT 4 in February. Day five was also sustainability driven and comprised of social marketing and evaluation and developing an outcome for succeeding.

All in all it was a very beneficial conference. I was amazed at the openness and willingness of communities striving to help each other in the future. We personally thank PACT 4 for the opportunity of representing all of you, in San Antonio.

Respectfully,  
Dick Larson



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

### **Renville County**

Buffalo Lake Hector has added the Early Risers program for the rest of the school year. At this point 15 students have become part of the program. The school is excited about the new program and is working on ways to incorporate other programs to serve the students. The vision for our school district is to have a supportive environment for all students and families. Through the addition of the Early Risers program we will be enhancing the summer activities for the 3rd grade students and parents. The Elementary has after school homework help set up for students on Tuesdays and Thursdays that allow for the students to have a safe environment with adult supervision. Hats off to the school and staff for working with PACT 4 on the new program on short notice!!

*Lori Jensen Hagert  
School Counselor*

People come together when they have a common goal or "Shared Vision." Wrap-around teams are a great example of people working together and having a shared vision for the child and family. Collaborative efforts within and across agencies have been the priority since the establishment of PACT 4 Families. When people and agencies work together, everyone saves time, energy and resources. Other benefits include non-duplication of services and improved service delivery for children and families.

Given the present budget cuts and having to do more with less, we are very fortunate to have embraced the concept of shared vision long ago. Our commitment to work together and continue improving service delivery always focusing on the child and family will serve us well in the years to come.

*Jennifer Sullivan  
Case Manager*

### **Meeker County**

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world"

...Mohandas Gandhi

When our son was born and I held him for the first time, everyone in the room was crying. My tears were of joy. Joy for this new life I was holding, joy for our family starting this day, and joy for everything we dreamed he would become.

By the time he was a toddler we knew something was different about him. He was overactive, and very irritable at times. He

experienced delays in many areas such as learning to walk and his vocabulary was limited. He had trouble making and keeping friends and would often cry. I cried too...seeing him in pain and feeling like there wasn't anything to do.

Parents with kids who have mental health concerns feel many emotions and sometimes all in one day! Fear, grief, anger and guilt are a few that go along with joy. We learn to be flexible about our expectations and we learn to become advocates for our children when they are too small to speak for themselves. We rush in blindly at times and with fierce passion, ready to take on anyone and anything to protect our own. Sounds like a mother bear with her cubs! So if at times we seem frustrated, or impatient, be gentle with us as our vision is the same as yours.

Our vision includes this:

"Speaking as both a parent and a liaison we know our children best. We want our voices heard. We wish to be a part of the team along with our communities and agencies. We want our children to feel respected and supported, their strengths recognized and valued."

Mental Illness affects many and although I sometimes joke that "there are a whole lot more of us than there are of you", I am serious when I say there is power in numbers and our vision is strong. When this vision leads to collaborative partnerships with communities and agencies who share that vision...that's when change comes!

Starting a family-driven organization is just the beginning. We look forward to working with the many great people at PACT 4 Families Collaborative and all of its partners and communities to make these changes. It may not change things for our son. It may not change things for your son or daughter, but their experiences and our experiences mixed with work fueled by passion will lead us to "be the change we wish to see" and use the past to build the future and make this shared vision a REALITY!

*Angie Ahlbrecht  
Families Matter Family Liaison*

### **Kandiyohi County**

As many of us know, this time of year is particularly difficult for the job seeker. One of the hardest parts of the task is probably keeping spirits up when there just aren't many jobs to be found. Fortunately, when working with transitional youth there are many other topics to cover. Cooking is a great way to experience a variety of independent living situations under one umbrella. **Budgeting:** How much money can be saved by shopping for groceries as opposed to living on fast food? How do you use coupons? Where can a person find them? Are

there foods that make more sense to buy in larger or smaller quantities? **Health:** How is cooking a meal from scratch better for your health than fast food or junk food? What are some of the short term and long term benefits? **Cooking Skills:** What is the difference between  *tsp.* and  *tbsp.*? Can you follow a recipe from start to finish? What can be done with leftovers? **Scheduling:** When are the best times to go grocery shopping? If living with room-mates, how can you develop a rotating cooking duty per person? What are the advantages in that?

Along with being beneficial to transition age youth in a learning context, there are additional benefits to spending time developing cooking/shopping skills. For instance, the very act of getting out and shopping counteracts the inactivity that can lead to a depressed mood. We are all familiar with the old adage "cabin fever". Any activity can be a good activity, and while serving the basic need to get food in the belly, shopping and cooking independently can help to greatly increase self esteem and foster a sense of accomplishment. You never know just who may be a budding chef in need of some basic experience to discover their pathway.

*Jon Marchand  
PRIDE-4 Job Coach*

PACT 4 Families Collaborative and surrounding school districts have a common shared vision, educating children and families. One way this is displayed is through classes and trainings that are made available throughout the counties. In Willmar, many different kinds of classes are made available through Willmar Community Education and Recreation based out of Washington Learning Center. There are a variety of opportunities for parents to get involved in their child's educational experience. For example, Early Childhood Family Education is a program where parents and children come together for a wonderful learning experience. Licensed parent and early childhood educators direct the classes. The day begins with the parents and children exploring the room with different learning centers and then gathering together for circle time. Parents then separate and discuss appropriate topic areas while the children continue to work at centers, eat a snack, and enjoy the gym for some creative movement. For more information, call (320) 231-8490.

*Sara Larson  
School-Based Social Worker*

**What's Going On /**

*Continued on page 5*

## What's Going On

*Continued from page 4*

### **Kandiyohi County**

At a recent Wraparound meeting for a child, we felt a need for each team member to clarify his or her individual role with the family. The Family Liaison provides support to the family. The Community Support worker takes the child out into the

community so he or she can practice his or her social skills. The teacher, of course, teaches the child. The in-home worker works with the family in their home on specific goals, which the worker and the child's parent(s)/guardian shared with the team. And so on... Everyone had their specific goals and reasons for being there.

Yet everyone was there for one united purpose: to help the child and his family reach the ultimate goal of stable mental health. Everyone had a different role, but

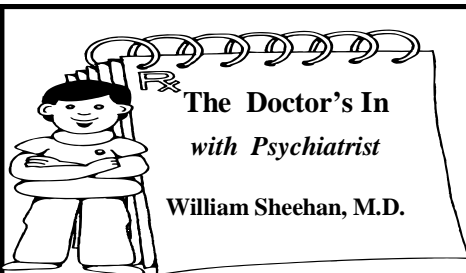
yet the same goal. There is something to be said about working as a team for a common goal, whether it be a sports team, a drama team, an advocacy group, or a Wraparound team.

Shared vision means a lot of things. But to the child's family, it means coordinating and working together in many different ways for one ultimate common purpose.

*Char Erickson  
Case Manager*

# All that is valuable in human society depends upon the opportunity for development accorded the individual.

-- Albert Einstein



### **Shared Vision**

I start, as a physician, with the literal meaning of vision, which means to see. Of all the senses, vision is the one on which we humans rely most quintessentially. Smell, taste, and touch hang on contact; even hearing is limited only to the medium of the air. It is only sight that allows us to reach beyond the confines of our body -- as far as we want to take it. As far as the stars.

I remember as a nine year old, with my first telescope, looking at the surface of the Moon. It was, in some ways, the most remarkable thing I have ever seen; a world of craters and mountains. Ever since I have loved seeing far-distant scenes -- other lands, other worlds.

The literal form of vision -- seeing -- leads us to the broader and more figura-

tive one. To have a vision means to look ahead of oneself -- to have far-sightedness or foresightedness. It is to be on the trail and be the first one to see which way the trailhead bends, or the route up the next hilltop.

All Scriptures are much concerned with vision. From the Bible, we learn that vision is as indispensable to people as food or water. Thus "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Proverbs, 29:18 "The burden of the valley of vision. What aileth thee now, that thou art wholly gone up to the housetops?" Is. 22:1

A vision is not something once beheld and taken for granted. It must be nurtured. The astronomer must constantly fiddle with the telescope, slewing it forward to follow the stars; turning the focusing knob. The traveler -- whether through a rugged and uncertain terrain or through the journey of life -- must keep the map open; he or she must not lose the way.

Dante begins the *Inferno*:

"Halfway through the journey of my life I found myself lost in a wood."

Many of us have felt that way! A vision must be sustained -- and renewed -- just like our bodies. We must give it

nourishment. We grant authority to our leaders *provisionally* (that's a great word - pro-vision). In return they're the ones who show the way -- see the vision on the mountaintop and communicate it to us clearly who remain below.

Every organization has some visionaries. Others are the implementers of that vision. Both are needed.

Vision has to do with setting goals. It has to do with reaching forward. It has to do with seeing. It has to do with the ultimate ends of an organization.

It is best if it is focused -- clear -- defined in terms of how far away it is, and what resources need to be committed to its attainment. If one has a clear vision, the way forward is usually clear; this bramble in front of us must be circumnavigated, and the trail winds that way and then up the skree-pile to the top of the mountain. The greatest problem is that organizations -- and professionals -- often confuse means with ends. The vision fades, and shatters into pieces.

## FAMILY NEEDS

*Family Needs is a section which features area families in need. If you are able to donate any of the listed items, please do so by contacting the referring agent or the Collaborative office:*

A young man is in need of pants - men's size 32/30. Another family is in need of items (clothes, blankets, bottles, diapers, crib etc...) for their baby boy due to be born in February. Also, a young girl is in need of an adult size guitar. If you can donate any of these items, please contact Char Erickson of Kandiyohi County (320) 235-8917 [men's pants], Claudia Trevino of PACT 4 Families Collaborative at 320-231-7030 [baby items], or Diane Onell at (320) 693-4654 [guitar].

*\*\*Please share this information with others you think may be able to donate or help.\*\**



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Recently, I had the privilege of attending the National Zero to Three Training Institute in New Orleans with a team of the Project SUCCEED Core Intervention staff. For those who don't deal regularly with early childhood, the organization Zero to Three, is the national advocacy and education body for those who work with children ages birth to three. They fuel the research and the work being done, guide our practices and set the national agenda for training of early childhood providers. The opportunity to attend the National Institute was marvelous--to stand shoulder to shoulder with 1700 colleagues who do this same work and realize that despite the sense of isolation we sometimes combat in rural Minnesota, we are far from alone.

During the January Full Collaborative meeting, representatives from our National Training Institute attendees gave a short presentation to the partners about the key messages we heard at the event. I have summarized the messages that we found to be both the most alarming and unifying for you to ponder below:

- \*The year 2000 National Census data reveals that the number of Infants and Toddlers living in immigrant families in the U.S. now makes up the largest growing percentage of our population.
- \*One third of infants and toddlers born to immigrant families live in households that are considered "linguistically isolated", meaning that no one in the home over age 13 speaks English.
- \*One third of infants and toddlers in the U.S. are born to mothers with less than 8 years of education.
- \*By the year 2035, 50% of all U.S. children will be non-Caucasian but 75% of the elderly population will be Caucasian.
- \*By the year 2035, the infants and toddlers asleep in their cribs today will make up our nations workforce and drive our national economy to sustain programs like Social Security and Medicaid.
- \*Those infants and toddlers sleeping today hold the key to our retirement and way of life 30 years from now, but over 50% of them will have grown up in families with inadequate access to healthcare, education and social programs designed to enable them to be fully contributing members of our society in their adult years.

Frankly, when I read and hear this data, it reinforces my idea that BABIES CAN'T WAIT for us to act on their behalf. They need us to make the hard choices now that lay the foundations for them in these critical first years. Early Childhood programs statistically show the best dollar to dollar return on public investment year after year; the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis just completed an economic study of that public investment which shows an 8 to 1 rate of return on every dollar invested in early childhood. Every one dollar we invest yields eight back to support other prevention and early intervention programs across the childhood life span. Imagine what each of our partner agencies could do if they invested one dollar now to gain eight more for innovative, creative and community responsive programs that allow all of us to support our kids! The idea alone gives me chills.

This month, our Bulletin focuses on the shared visions needed between programs and partners. Sometimes when I hear the word vision, my mind hears "dreams" and I wander off to a place where no idea is too crazy or far fetched. As Project SUCCEED federal funding nears its end, what vision do we have to create or sustain a presence in Early Childhood? Do we have the courage to dream about what is best and right for those who cannot yet speak for themselves and not be daunted by the usual obstacles that kill our dreams? The data tells us that the time to create a shared vision and dream is now, not in five to ten years. Our shared vision birthed an innovative, community based model for early childhood prevention and early intervention once...I know we can collectively do it again. The little ones are counting on us and I have a feeling that we are more than equal to the task.

## Family Forum *by Patty Butler, Executive Director - Families Matter...Just Imagine*

WOW! This has been quite an exciting month for myself and all of the staff and families involved with Families Matter. During this past month we have moved to our new location which is the Kandi-Mall at 1605 South 1st Street in Willmar. Our phone number is 320-222-2454 and our new 800 number is (800)430-2903. We encourage family members to call for information and support and we encourage our partners to share this information with family members. We also encourage everyone to stop and see us in our new location. We try to have coffee on and if you know us, we always love to chat.

On January 15th, 2004, we received notice from the IRS that our request for 501(c) (3) status was granted and I personally wish to thank everyone who supported us in this endeavor. We would never have been able to achieve this status without the support of family members, family members employed by Families Matter and our partner agencies. With a sigh of relief and gratitude I say to all of YOU, "JOB WELL DONE".

Now that all of the paperwork is done, what happens next? In the name of SHARED VISION, which is the theme of this month's newsletter, it seems fitting to talk about what happens next. In some ways the answer is very simple, the family liaisons will continue to offer support and resources to families and also provide a bridge to community resources when needed or wanted. We will continue to offer and enhance our training opportunities to families and youth so that all may understand the mental health system better, for as we all know it is often a very confusing system to navigate, whether you are a consumer, family member, or provider. I have been involved in the mental health system for over 20 years in many different roles and I still do not understand many parts, so I often think of the person who is having their first contact with the system and how overwhelming it must seem. But, I think that is where our SHARED VISION comes in, as I believe we all want the mental health system to be one that is welcoming to children/youth and their families. We all want better outcomes for children/youth and that is why I believe we are all involved in this overwhelming system. At times, we do not agree on how to achieve the better outcomes, but I believe that is okay. It is in the strength of our beliefs that children/youth and their families should have better outcomes, that keep us constantly working toward our VISION. As long as we always remind ourselves that we really are in this together and working toward the same outcome, there is HOPE and excitement in everything we do. It does not matter where our offices are or what our title is, we will SUCCEED. Maybe one child, one family at a time, but that is okay. If we lose sight of our VISION, and belief that we all are in this work together, and forget that different viewpoints are what make us powerful, then we will stumble and in the end it is children/youth and families who will lose and so will we-as children are our future.

So in closing, I again invite you all to visit us at the mall, don't be a stranger, and please be patient as we learn how to function on our own. If you ever have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at 320-222-2454 or by e-mail at [pattyb@en-tel.net](mailto:pattyb@en-tel.net). We hope to have a Grand Opening in February so look for upcoming details.

Patty Butler



## Wraparound Initiative Info...

*By Janae Langhoff, LGSW; Wraparound Initiative Project Director*

The Wraparound Initiative is a six-year federal grant awarded to PACT 4 in 1999 through the Substance Abuse Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA). This grant award is over seven million dollars with the focus of "System of Care". The current administrator of SAMHSA, Charles G. Curie, best described System of Care and its vision and mission in his testimony to the House Appropriations Subcommittee while presenting the President's Fiscal Year 2004 budget proposal on March 26, 2003 as "...a web of services, linking school, family, juvenile justice, and mental health and other health care together to provide an integrated approach to

*meeting the highly individualized needs of children with SED and their families".* PACT 4 takes this definition provided by Mr. Curie further by looking at the Wraparound Initiative as not only services, but as a process or new way of thinking. Our primary goals of the Initiative are a System of Care that for families with children that have a Severe Emotional Disturbance (SED), is family-driven, strength-based, culturally competent, and outcome-based.

PACT 4 representatives and system of care partners attended a mandated System of Care meeting from January 12-January 16<sup>th</sup> in San Antonio, Texas. This

provided an opportunity to meet with other System of Care grant sites across the country who are at various stages in their grant, from newly funded grant sites to sites that are in their final year of funding. These meetings are truly an opportunity to network and learn from each other. Through the diversity of the grantee sites from rural communities in Alaska to urban communities in New York, the vision remains consistent and shared among the various grantee sites.



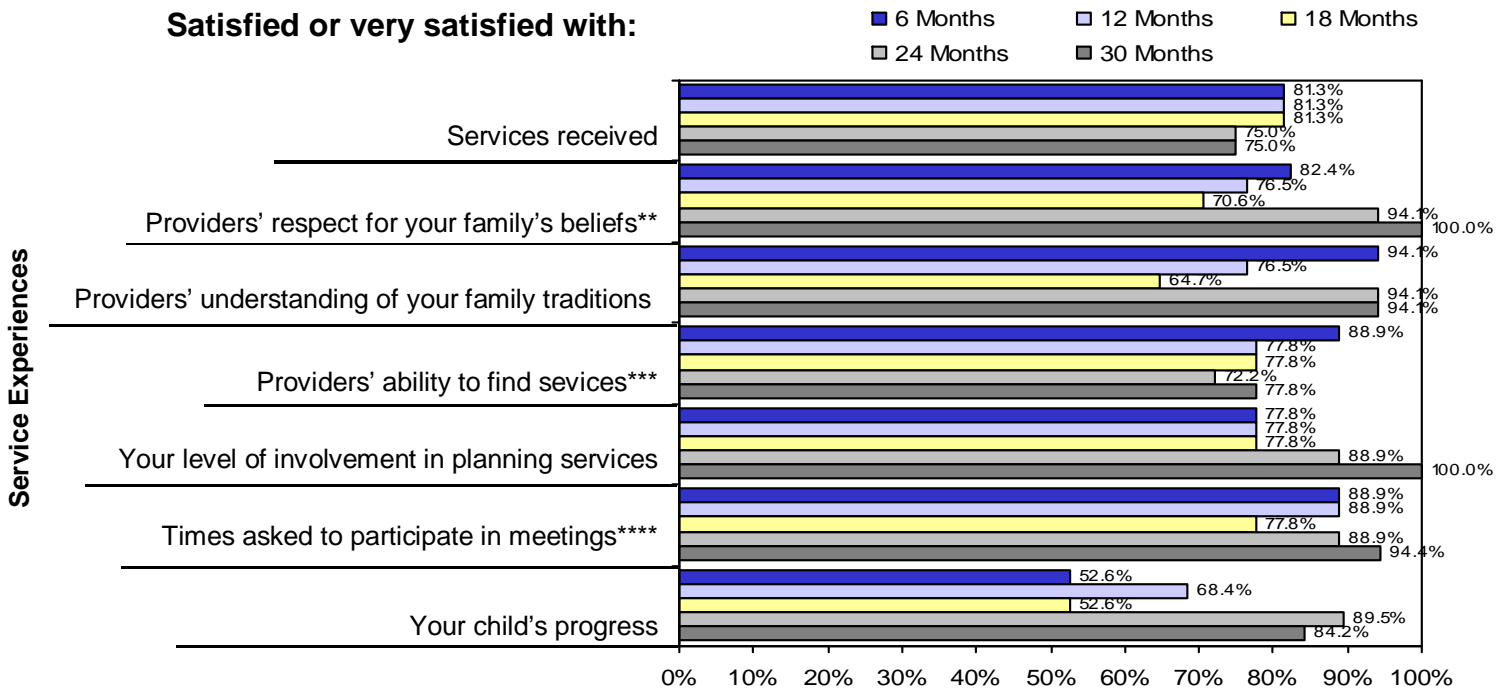
## Evaluation Report By Jen Howland, Evaluation Specialist

PACT 4 recently received the latest Data Profile Report for the Wraparound Initiative from ORC Macro, the entity contracted with the Federal Government to conduct the national evaluation for the System of Care grantees. The report includes data submitted from October 2000 to September 2003 and reflects responses from parents and youth who have completed six of seven sets of evaluation tools over 30 months.

The news is good. There was a significant drop in average Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS) scores from intake (average score of 94.1) to 30 months (average score of 49.0) and increased satisfaction on the part of youth and parents, especially in the areas of provider respect for family's beliefs and caregiver level of involvement in planning services.

The Collaborative has adopted five value statements to guide us as we work to improve the mental health care system and achieve our mission of improving the lives of our families. The following chart illustrates the great strides we are making in at least two of those values: increasing parent involvement and voice, and treating families with respect, thereby validating them as crucial members of the System of Care. So far only a small number of families have reached the 30 month mark but one hundred percent of those surveyed were satisfied or very satisfied with their providers' respect for their family's beliefs and with their level of involvement in planning services for their child. This speaks volumes about the progress we're making toward our shared vision.

### Caregiver Satisfaction\* at 6 Months, 12 Months, 18 Months, 24 Months, and 30 Months



Number of caregivers varied from 16 to 19.

\* Caregiver satisfaction was measured by the FSQ-A (Family Satisfaction Questionnaire-Abbreviated), with families participating in the National Outcome Study through their involvement with the PACT 4 Wraparound Initiative.

\*\* Specifically, beliefs about mental health.

\*\*\* Specifically those services that acknowledge the positive aspects or strengths of your family's culture and traditions.

\*\*\*\* These are meetings where services for child (or caregiver) were discussed.

# February 2004



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Renville County LCTS Grant Reviews 11am-6pm, Pizza Ranch in Olivia  Social Solutions Training - PRIDE-4, Computer Room	3 Executive Board Meeting, 11:30-2:00 P.M., Room 2055, KCHHSB  Personnel Committee 10:30-11:30, Room 2055, KCHHSB	4	5 Kandiyohi County LCTS Grant Reviews Type II, 8:30-4:30, Multi-purpose Room KCHHSB	6	7
8	9	10 Marty Hiedecker Sustainability Consultant	11 Full Collabora- tive Meeting <i>(see below for details)</i>	12 Video Broadcast of ITV: "Observation of Infants", 1:00-2:30 Multi-purpose Room KCHHSB  Yellow-Medicine County LCTS Review 9:00-3:30 Kilowatt Community Center  Conference Call: Step by Step Approach to Linking Schools and Systems of Care, 4:00 PM	13	14 
15	16 <b>Presidents Day</b>  <b>PACT 4 Office Closed</b>	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 MACRO Site Visit	24	25	26	27	28
29						

\*\* The Full Collaborative meeting will be on Wednesday, February 11th, from 12:00 noon to 2:00, Multi-purpose Room at the KCHHSB in Willmar. The Mentor Committee will meet from 10:30 to 12:00, room 1010, the Early Childhood Committee will meet from 10:00 to 12:00, room 2057, the Training Workgroup will meet from 10:00 to 10:30 in the Multi-purpose room, and the Family and Children's Mental Health Committee will meet from 10:30 to 12:00, Multi-purpose room. All are prior to the Full Collaborative meeting. Call Shawna to RSVP.

\*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,



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

# March 2004



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Executive Board, 11:30-2:00, Room 2055; KCHHSB	3	4 After School/Truancy Committee, 10:00-12:00; Room 2055	5	6
7	8	9	10 Full Collaborative Meeting <i>(see below for details)</i>	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Vanguard Commu- nications Conference Call, 2:00 PM   St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 First Day of  
21	22 Community Evaluation Team, 10:00-1:00; Multi-purpose Room KCHHSB	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 CaMaFLuS <i>(Case Manager's, Family Liasons, Supervisors)</i> 1:00-3:00; Multi-purpose Room KCHHSB	31	31			

\*\* The Full Collaborative meeting will be on Wednesday, March 10th, from 12:00 noon to 2:00, Room 116/117 at the RCOB in Olivia. The Mentor's Committee will meet from 10:30 to 12:00, room 313, the Early Childhood Committee will meet from 10:00 to 12:00, room 116, and the Family and Children's Mental Health Committee will meet from 11:00 to 12:00, room 117. All are prior to the Full Collaborative meeting. Call Shawna to RSVP.

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The December Full Collaborative Meeting in Renville had 69 in attendance.

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

***Wednesday, February 11th, 2004  
12:00 to 2:00 p.m.  
KCHHSB  
Willmar, MN***

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

**Update from National Early Childhood Conference**

Sara Carlson attended the Zero to Three Conference in New Orleans, along with 5 other Project SUCCEED core staff. All who attended said that it was the best conference they have ever attended. Sharon Koopman, ECFE teacher at BOLD; and Mary Kay Sinner, nurse at Renville Co. Public Health; two members of the Project SUCCEED core staff who attended, also spoke on their experiences there. Also attending: Mark Zabel, school psychologist in Willmar; Cheryl Iverson, ECFE teacher in Willmar; and Heather Ziehl, nurse at Meeker Co. Public Health. Sara shared her handouts, handwritten notes, and other data learned at the conference and gave an impressive presentation on the importance of spending dollars on early childhood projects.

**National Mentoring Month**

January is National Mentoring Month. A presentation was made by Dorothy Anderson and Lori

Clasemann on mentors and the great need for more mentors, as there are large waiting lists in each county, especially for male mentors. As a part of the SW MN Foundation recruitment grant that was received, a video was made using mentors and mentees, and was shown to the group. This video has been helpful in helping recruit new mentors, and is available to be checked out.

**LCTS Update**

Grants are in the process of going to the county review groups.

**Grant / Conference Updates**

The current Wraparound Initiative Grantee meeting is being held now in San Antonio. Along with PACT 4 staff who are there (Toni Braness, Chris Schmid, Janae Langhoff, Ed Downey), others who went with are Patty Butler from Families Matter; Dick Larson, a Kandiyohi County Commissioner; Janice Madden from Meeker County Social Services; and Glenace Edwall, Director of Children's Mental Health at the MN Dept. of Human Services.

**Committee Reports**

**Executive Board** - Held their retreat all day on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Discussed sustainability. Board members present felt more comfortable with having Toni giving an update at February's meeting, since she is in San Antonio today.

**Personnel Committee** - Did not meet in January, will meet February 3<sup>rd</sup>, prior to the Executive Board meeting.

**Early Childhood Committee** - Discussed the PECFAS, along with Project SUCCEED and sustainability needs.

**Family & Children's Mental Health** - Did not meet today. Next meeting will be February 11<sup>th</sup> from 10:30-12:00.

**After School/Truancy Committee** - Did not meet in January. The next meeting is scheduled for March.

**Mentor Committee** - The Kandiyohi County mentoring program has moved to the Kandiyohi County YMCA, and they are currently in the process of a coordinator.

**Community Evaluation Team** - Did not meet.



**Make Note**

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Located off Hwy 71/23 just North of Willmar, next to the Willmar Regional Treatment Center.

**PACT 4 Families  
Collaborative**

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

We're on the Web!  
[www.pact4.org](http://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 Claudia at (320) 231-7030 or e-mail to [claudia\\_t@co.kandiyohi.mn.us](mailto:claudia_t@co.kandiyohi.mn.us)

**The most important  
human endeavor is the  
striving for morality in our  
actions. Our inner balance,  
and even our very  
existence depends on it.  
Only morality in our  
actions can give beauty  
and dignity to our lives.**

***-Albert Einstein***