

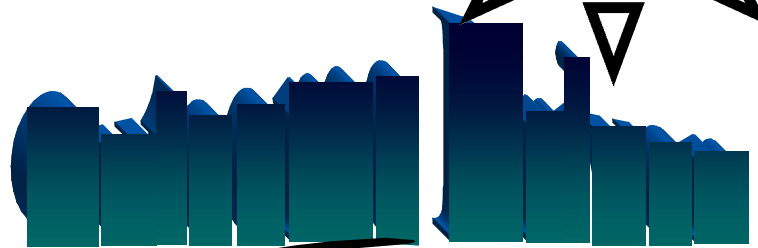
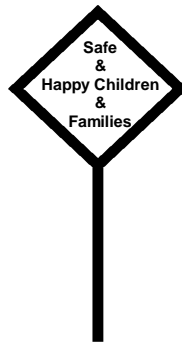


*Putting All Communities  
Together in Kandiyohi,  
Meeker, Renville & Yellow  
Medicine Counties*

# PACT 4 Bulletin

April 2004

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



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## FULL COLLABORATIVE MEETING NOTICE

*The next Full Collaborative Meeting is:*

**Wednesday, April 14th, 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*

Spring is finally here - daffodils are blooming and tulips popping up.

LCTS grants have been reviewed, recommendations sent to the Executive Board and final approvals received. Thanks to all of you who worked on part of this process to ensure objective review and to make those tough choices. Contracts will be coming out soon. Outcomes and evaluation will be more important than ever this year. Over the past five years we've honed and tuned many programs to be the most effective for the youth

and families we work with. While soft data and stories are important they need to be combined with hard objective data. None of us can continue funding mediocre programs. Our dollars, like everyone else's are limited and precious. This year the board has directed that all programs be reviewed on site, including both program and fiscal review combined with evaluation data. If you are unsure of what you're measuring—contact Ed or Jen in the evaluation department.

We received a letter stating we were not selected for the policy academy on juvenile justice and co-occurring disorders. There were over fifty applicants from across the nation—of which seven are selected. We continue to review potential grant applications and ask if you see any grant request for proposals that may fit into our mission and values to forward to Chris O. Schmid for review.

It is good to have an end to journey towards, but it is the journey that matters in the end.

-- Ursula K. le Guinn

### 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 (Meeker Co. Resident),  
Serves through 04—1st term  
(320) 453-8153 / astenger@meltel.net

Eugene Bonyng, Woodland Centers  
Serves through 04—1st term  
(320) 235-4613 / wcenters@tds.net

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

# WHAT'S GOING ON...

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

## **Renville County**

Since this Bulletin's focus is based on outcomes of the collaborative, I thought I would talk again about my unique position. The position that I hold is permanency worker. This is a pilot program in which I have a caseload of youth who, for various reasons, are not residing in their biological family's home.

My job is to locate resources to provide these youth with some permanency. Not an easy task. Since the inception of this position in February of 2002, the following has occurred: six youth have found permanent homes with relatives and/or change of custody; one youth turned 18 years old and became independent; four youth have remained in the same placement for over a year (an accomplishment considering many of these youth have had over 5 placements prior to the current situation); two youth are currently residing with parents a third is transitioning back into the family home; and another youth is transitioning into an independent living skills program.

*Andre Wohnoutka  
Case Manager*

## **Meeker County**

"Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage." – Anais Nin

I saw this quote today and it reminded me once again why it is important to reach out of my comfort zone. Being a promoter of change and following what we have learned takes courage. Being outcome driven takes courage. It means at times we may have to step back and realize we could do things a different way, or that what we instinctually want to do, may in fact not be the most appropriate. I had a professor in college who lives and breathes the idea of evidence-based practice. I respect him more than I could ever explain. He taught that just because the idea sounds good, or feels right, does not mean it is right. He challenged me to reach beyond myself and find research and data to support my actions and beliefs.

I feel very lucky to be working in an environment that is outcome driven. We do packets of tools with youth and families with whom we work to find out what is working and what is not. We base our future and our path on what we have learned from the data we collected. It is

not always easy, and it definitely is not always comfortable, but I am grateful that we are on the journey of learning and changing to be the most effective agency possible.

*Megan Carls  
Case Manager*

Finally, as the winter begins to melt away, I see the excitement in others' eyes as we are teased with a few spring-like days here and there. This excitement is very unique to northern climates. After living in the south for a decade, this change of seasons is refreshing and renewing in ways hard to explain. I grew up in New England where the climate is similar; though not nearly as windy and bitterly cold. But the excitement from the change in seasons is still the same. The smell of fresh lilacs brings me back to my childhood every time. It's amazing how the sense of smell is one of the strongest memory triggers. My returning to this season of renewal after so long has had a wonderful impact on my life. Excitement abounds. I believe that it is in these small things that we are able to find day-to-day happiness. The youth that I work with have many obstacles before them. In the small successes that I have seen, hope is the undeniable key. Being able to look forward to something you can not see, smell, hear, feel, or taste reflects these young adults' unmistakable resiliency. Though they may not be able to see that the spring of their lives is just around the corner, they have hope that it will come. It is this hope that will carry them. We can all share a lesson from them.

*Amy Haugen  
PRIDE-4 Transition Coach*

## **Kandiyohi County**

It's hard to imagine that Easter Break is right around the corner and we have almost finished a great school year of Early Risers. My job as a Family Liaison for Early Risers includes building a bridge between the schools that I work in and the families. I also help empower and support the families by finding resources for them based on their needs. It is important to me that I give them support without judging them in order to gain their trust and respect. Equally as important is my ability to be an active listener to my families and school staff so that I can "build a bridge." An example of how I put all this together is how I have been trying for a month to get a parent in for a conference and just re-

cently was able to persuade them into attending. I had to make the family feel comfortable in their environment and told them that I would be there in case of any questions or if they just simply needed somebody there for support. I understand the hesitation and discomfort of many families, which is why I don't give up and continue to follow up until I get a little sign of interest from the parents. To me that is a huge step in the process of empowering families and including them in their child's education.

*Continued on page 6*

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Southwest MN Foundation Early  
Childhood Initiative—Willmar Coalition

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## **Early Childhood Speak-Out Family & Community Event**

When: Friday April 23, 2004  
5:30pm-8:00pm

Light, free family meal and entertainment by local early childhood classes provided from 5:30 - 6:30pm.

Where: Kennedy Elementary  
824 7th Street SW  
Willmar, MN

Who: Everyone with an interest in young children; families and early childhood public policy. No advance registration is needed for meal or discussion.

Free limited child care and in-town transportation is available. Pre-registration for BOTH childcare and transportation is REQUIRED by April 19th. Call Willmar Community Ed & Rec to register at 320-231-8490; Spanish speaking persons may call PACT 4 at 320-231-7030 for assistance. (Personas que hablan español pueden llamar a PACT 4 en 320-231-7030 para ayuda.)

**COME AND LEARN ABOUT THE  
"CAMPAIGN FOR OUR YOUNG  
CHILDREN" IN WILLMAR...**

Special Upcoming Event!

Guest Speaker  
CORWIN KRONENBERG

## “GETTING KIDS TO LISTEN”

Monday, May 10th, 2004 6-7:30 p.m. at  
Willmar Senior High  
2701 30th Street NE Willmar, MN

**Corwin Kronenberg will talk about effective communication skills. His talk will include:**

- \*Eliminating Communication Barriers
- \*Giving Choices
- \*Making Enforceable Statements
- \*Separating The Child From The Behavior
- \*Teaching Responsibility For Behavior
- \*Listening More And Talking Less

Corwin Kronenberg is a parent, teacher, author, and highly sought after expert and speaker in the areas of self-concept and discipline. Thousands of parents and educators have attended his workshops giving him excellent evaluations and standing ovations for his dynamic presentations. He presents his topic with enthusiasm, drama, humor, and credibility. Corwin has gained recognition as a national speaker due to his entertaining style and the usefulness of the information presented.

Corwin has developed a program for improving communication with children. He will share this program with you during his presentation. His workshop will be an opportunity for you to laugh while you learn some practical techniques for improving communication with your child/children.

**Please pre-register at Willmar Community Education and Recreation 320-231-8490, 325 SW Willmar Avenue. Open to all interested adults. No charge.**

**Limited childcare may be available to those truly not able to attend without it—pre-registration for childcare is MANDATORY by noon Monday, May 3rd, including filling out emergency contact information. Childcare will be at Kids Kastle at Kennedy school for children ages 4-10, and at the YMCA childcare center at the Health and Human Services Building for children 6 weeks to 4 years. Call or come in to WCER (phone and address above to reserve childcare.**

# FAMILY FORUM

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

In writing this article for this month's newsletter, I gave a lot of thought to what it should be about. I thought what would be different, as evaluation does a wonderful job of sharing how the youth and families are doing in our outcome study and others have done an excellent job of explaining what outcome based services should be. We seem to be bombarded from everywhere about outcome based results, so I decided to take a more personal and different approach to this month's task and describe my feelings about the outcomes I have experienced in working in the System of Care in the PACT 4 area in the past four and one half years.

Four and one half years ago, I remember coming to PACT 4 as a full time employee naïve and wondering as I am sure we all were, what this System of Care stuff was all about. What changes were we going to see happen? What an exciting time for all of us, full of high hopes and expectations. Little did I know about the hard work we were all in for. Sure there was a lot of money coming into our area, but Boy, did any of us know the amount of physical and emotional challenges we would all be facing.

I truly believed and still believe that true partnership only comes about when people serving youth and families and youth and families being served can have open and candid discussions with each other. But that is a very hard thing. A lesson learned or outcome for me has been that we all have our life stories that we bring to these discussions and it is OH SO HARD to let go of any of these life stories. We, as humans naturally do not want to forget about the one person who did us wrong and forget about the ten others who did us right and that gets in the way of our open and candid discussions.

I have also learned or a big outcome for me has been the truth about Allies and Confidantes and how knowing the difference is so important. What about those side issues like money, power, politics, who is right and who is wrong? When we can discuss these things openly without fear of differing opinions and beliefs then we know that we truly have gained confidantes and that the system of care is moving in the right direction, for no one knows all the answers to these questions. We may think we do, but we do not, and that open discussion is a testimony to changes we have made or not made.

And what about our children, youth and families, are they truly better off? Maybe their CAFAS scores are better, maybe family stress is lessened, but do our children/families feel more accepted in the community, do they feel like they have hope for a future like we all hope for? Do the people providing services to youth and families no longer feel frustrated by the constraints of funding and restrictive services because that is all there is? I do not know the answer to these questions, but to me these are the true questions for the System of Care. How do we measure this? That I believe has been a dilemma since we started four and one half years ago and when we can find a way to measure this then we will have found a way to truly measure whether our System of Care is Outcome-Based.

So, to close, my outcome is I am less naïve, tired, but hopeful that our System of Care is making a difference in the lives of families and children in the PACT 4 area.

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## FAMILY LIAISON FEATURE

*By Heidi Yackley of Youth/Training Coordinator/Family Involvement Associate  
Families Matter...Just Imagine*

As I sat and pondered about this month's theme, outcome driven, I conducted some research on the internet to see if I could find a description of outcome driven. In my search I found that it is a concept used in many arenas; schools, libraries, home health...the list goes on and on. In all these settings the premise was the same, to keep the focus on an "institution's" mission, goals, and resources while making programs more realistic and achievable. It should serve as a means to measure the effect of an "institution's activities and services on the people it serves- rather than on the services themselves." A true outcome driven approach is a natural catalyst for enabling advocacy and partnership, which is a cornerstone of the mission statement of both Families Matter...Just Imagine and PACT 4 Families.

I then looked at the results of the Family Involvement Survey that was conducted in July of 2003 to see what types of concerns and needs our families have identified. From that survey the top areas identified were information, education, referrals, training for professionals and parents, school mental health services, family support through family liaisons and wraparound, case management and family involvement at all levels.

When we are struggling to determine in what direction our collective work should head, I encourage everyone to bring their thinking back to the concept of outcome driven, and what that truly means. We just need to remember that it all stems from the effect our work has on the families we reach.

# Notes from Rick

by Rick Loseth Clinical Supervisor/Grants Manager

Two months ago I introduced information from the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health. The findings from this Commission are being included in planning and policy discussions at the Federal and State level, and referenced by health care providers and private agencies. The second part of this article outlines the six goals that are the foundation for transforming the mental health care system in America. These goals are intertwined, with no single goal as being able to transform the system alone. The six goals are:

1. Americans understand that mental health is essential to overall health.
2. Mental health care is consumer and family driven.
3. Disparities in mental health services are eliminated.
4. Early mental health screening, assessment and referral to services are common practice.
5. Excellent mental health care is delivered and research is accelerated.
6. Technology is used to access mental health care and information.

Each one of these goals has additional recommendations to help in transforming the current system, to one of a recovery-orientated system. As we talk this month on what "outcome driven" is, I found it interesting to see how many references were made in the President's Report to the same topic. One of the reasons for a change outlined in the report is because current practices simply weren't working. The "outcomes" were not meeting the needs of the children and families needing services and support. The changes outlined are based on the direct feedback from consumers and families about what does work – what contributes to an effective "outcome" for someone who needs support for a mental health concern. At the heart of the changes being suggested is for an individualized plan of care to be developed – in full partnership between the families and the health care provider. The goal of the changes being recommended is to have the "outcome" meet the needs of the child and family, rather than meeting the needs of the larger system or funding mechanisms now in place. The goals outlined by the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health serve as an example of what can be done by making use of the most current research results on mental illness and feedback from parents and families to provide a direction on how to best meet the needs of children and families in the years ahead. The complete report is available on line at:

<http://www.mentalhealthcommission.gov/reports/FinalReport/toc.html>

## A THOUGHT OR TWO ABOUT WRAPAROUND

by Diane Onell Wraparound and Resource Development Coordinator

Let me introduce myself. I am Diane Onell, the new Wraparound Coordinator. Please feel free to contact me regarding wraparound and/or resources at (320) 235-8907. By trait, I have a need to gather information. Hopefully together we can come up with some good ideas.

Reminder: Have you asked a family recently if they would like to receive "FOCUS"-the Families Matter...Just Imagine parent newsletter? It has monthly features covering children's mental health, trainings, family activities, family needs and a new section on parent tips and suggestions. To include a name on the mailing list please call Heidi Yackley at Families Matter at (320) 222-2454.

Upcoming Wraparound Training: Three day Facilitator Training

Where: Health and Human Services Building

Dates: Friday, April 2nd, Thursday, April 8th and Friday, April 16th

Cost: \$20.00

Time: 8:30 AM to Noon (each day) RSVP to Shawna at (320) 231-8938;

Contact: Diane Onell for questions at (320) 235-8907

When I think about the Wraparound elements of strength-driven, family-driven or needs-driven...definitions and examples come to mind quickly. But outcome driven...now that is a bit tricky. Just the word "outcome" conjures up thoughts of completion. Add "driven" to this word combo and now it means everything leading up to the outcome.

It seems that, depending on the author, outcome driven terminology is interchangeable. In text, I have seen it called goals, vision, outcome statements, objectives and evidence based practices. Parents may say, "this is what I want it to look like," or "it is my dream to...". Each person comes to the wraparound table with their own wordage. Clear terms may be a necessary step for a smooth running team!

¡Evento Gratis!

Orador  
CORWIN KRONENBERG

### "PARA QUE LOS NIÑOS ESCUCHEN"

Lunes, 10 de Mayo 2004 de 6 a 7:30 p.m. en la escuela Willmar Senior High  
2701 30th Street NE Willmar, MN

**Corwin Kronenberg hablara de metodos efectivos de comunicacion. Estos incluirán:**

- \*Eliminado Las Barreras De Comunicación
- \*Dando Opciones
- \*Tomando Decisiones Que Se Respeten
- \*Separando Al Niño Del Comportamiento
- \*Escuchar Mas Y Hablar Menos
- \*Enseñando Responsabilidad Y Comportamiento

Corwin Kronenberg es padre, maestro, autor y es un experto al hablar en las áreas de auto-concepto y disciplina. Miles de padres y maestros han asistido a sus conferencias dando a el excelentes evaluaciones la audiencia la aplaude por la dinámica de sus presentaciones. El presenta sus diferentes temas con entusiasmo, drama, humor y credibilidad. Corwin ha Ganado el reconocimiento nacional de orador, esto debido a su estilo entretenido y la importancia de la información presentada.

Corwin ha desarrollado un programa para mejorar la comunicación con los niños. El compartirá este programa con usted en su presentación. Esta conferencia será una oportunidad para usted de reír y al mismo tiempo aprender mejores técnicas de comunicación, sobre como hablar con sus hijos.

**Por favor regístrese en el edificio (WCER) Willmar Community Education and Recreation, Teléfono 320-231-8490, 325 SW Willmar Avenue. Abierto a todos los adultos interesados. Gratis.**

**Guardería de niños quizás este disponible, si usted desea este servicio es OBLIGATORIO registrarse antes de las 12 del día de el Lunes 3 de Mayo, incluya una forma de contacto de emergencia. Este servicio será en la escuela Kennedy para edades de 4 a 10 y para niños en edades de 6 semanas a 4 años este servicio será en el centro de cuidado de niños del YMCA, en el edificio de servicios humanos y salud (Health and Human Services Building) Por favor comuníquese o venga al WCER, para reservar el servicio de guardería.**

# Wraparound Initiative Info...

By Janae Langhoff, LGSW;  
Wraparound Initiative Project Director

## ONE DAY - TWO OPPORTUNITIES

### REGIONAL ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG PREVENTION FORUM AND SCHOOL CONNECTEDNESS AND BULLYING PREVENTION SESSION

#### About the Forum –

Topics will include: Overview of the National Academy of Science (NAS) Report "Reducing Underage Drinking"; Methamphetamine Use in Minnesota; and the Economic Costs of Alcohol Use.

#### Intended Outcomes :

- Learn about recommendations on how to reduce alcohol and other drug problems in your community.
- Understand the social and economic impact of alcohol and other drug problems in communities in Minnesota.
- Learn about the findings of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Report "Reducing Underage Drinking."
- Become aware of local resources for alcohol and other drug prevention and network and collaborate with partners in your community.
- Have an opportunity to share how to address local needs with staff from state agencies.
- Identify possible topics for future regional forums.

#### About the School Connectedness and Bullying Prevention Session –

The session presenter, Nancy Riestenberg, is a Minnesota Department of Education violence prevention specialist with the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program.

#### Intended Outcomes :

- Compare school connectedness research and models to comprehensive bullying prevention.
- Survey bullying research and discuss implications.
- Review components of Whole School Approach.
- Discuss programming in elementary and secondary settings.
- Practice individual interventions to harmful speech.

#### ONE DAY - TWO OPPORTUNITIES

Location	Date	Forum	Bullying
Mountain Iron - City Hall Community Room 8586 Enterprise Dr. S., Mt. Iron, MN	April 20	A.M.	P.M.
Thief River Falls - Best Western Inn Hwy. 32 S., Thief River Falls, MN	April 22	P.M.	A.M.
St. Paul - Como Pavilion on the Lake 1360 No. Lexington Parkway, St. Paul, MN	May 6	A.M.	

Year six of the six-year Wraparound Initiative grant begins in October 2004. We are required to submit a "re-application" for continued funding each year. We completed this re-application for year six and put it in the regular mail, which is a major event for us. It's not unusual to be scrambling at the final hour for numbers, data, etc. and racing to the post office for overnight delivery service!!

The re-application addressed our accomplishments this past year in both a qualifiable (what we did) and quantifiable (numbers) narrative format. We also submitted individual work plans identifying what our primary goals are going to be between now and March, 2005 and specifically: who, when and how we are going to achieve the goals.

Some of the highlights from the re-application are as follows:

- ◆ The school-based staff provided information and referral services to over 3,000 children and worked with over 1200 students on a short-term basis.
- ◆ Over 400 people were trained in Wraparound and System of Care principles.
- ◆ A total of 296 children were enrolled in the Wraparound Initiative and 185 children were enrolled into the National Outcome Study.
- ◆ The "Celebrating Excellence" award has been awarded to a total of 29 individuals.

If you would like more information about the Wraparound Initiative please feel free to give me a call at 320-235-8930.

## What's Going On /Continued from page 6

Another important part of my job is building relationships with the children themselves. I believe it is important for me to gain the trust of the children in order to gain the trust of the parents. I have lunch groups in each of the schools to socialize with the children and let them know that I care about them. They enjoy having lunch with me and we spend most of the time talking about what is going on in their lives and building their self-esteem. It gives me pleasure to know that they feel safe at school and are excited to learn. I also work with the Child Guides to find after-school activities for the children, and I attend after-school homework club when time permits. I believe these after-school activities are beneficial to both the children and the families because it gives parents an alternative to leaving their children at home unattended or dropping them off at daycare. These after-school activities are also a way to connect with the parents by allowing me to keep them informed on their child's progress in school.

This program would not be doing as well as it is if it weren't for all of the people involved and coming together to work as a team. We've done a great job and have a lot to be proud of. As the old saying goes, "It takes a community to raise a child."

*Rosa Eddy  
Early Riser Family Liaison*

Kennedy School has been strongly promoting Character Education this school year. Each month of the school year has been designated a character word. These words include: respect, cooperation, gratitude, perseverance, caring, and responsibility. The month of March is both Caring and Food Share month. To show the community how much Kennedy kids care, the children are stocking the shelves and the area Food Shelf. The school is concentrating on four different foods: Oodles of Noodles, Tons of Tuna, Fill the Hoops with Soups, and Crazy about Crackers. The children have been excitedly bringing in lots of food. On April 1<sup>st</sup>, there will be a school assembly where the children will be able to see how much food they have collected. A representative from the Food Shelf will then talk about how important and helpful the food will be to our local families.

*Corinne Dahl  
School-Based Social Worker*

A couple of weeks ago I was driving my 13-year-old daughter to piano and she asked me, "Mom do the kids you work with ever get any better?" I thought about the children and families when we first met, formed teams, set goals accomplished goals, redefined goals, stared at each other when we couldn't figure out what to try next, celebrated success, etc. I told her, "Yes." They do. I asked her if she was getting any better at piano. She said she was. I asked her if she ever had songs that challenged her or if she played them with ease the first time around. She said she still had to work at it and practice. I told her the same was true of the teams I work with. We have the same outcome in mind—for the child to succeed to the best of his or her ability in all areas of life

*Diane Helgeson  
Case Manager*

#### FORUM/SESSION

##### GENERAL INFORMATION:

A Regional Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Forum and School Connectedness and Bullying Prevention Session will take place at each location. These separate events will each make up one-half of the day's agenda as follows:  
A.M. = 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., with registration at 8:30 a.m. P.M. = 12:45 - 3:45 p.m., with registration at 12:15 p.m. You are encouraged to attend both events  
(lunch will be provided), or just the Forum or just the Bullying Session (lunch will not be provided if you choose to attend only one of the events).

##### REGISTRATION:

Registrations are being accepted by the Minnesota Prevention Resource Center. There is no cost to attend; however registration is required and attendance is limited to 80 people at each location. Register one week prior to the specific location/date by e-mail, fax or mail by contacting: Cathy Angell Minnesota Prevention Resource Center 2720 Highway 10 NE Mounds View, MN 55112-4092 Fax: 763-427-7841 e-mail: [canqell@miph.org](mailto:canqell@miph.org) <<mailto:canqell@miph.org>> .



# Evaluation Report

By Ed Downey, Ed. D., Evaluation Supervisor

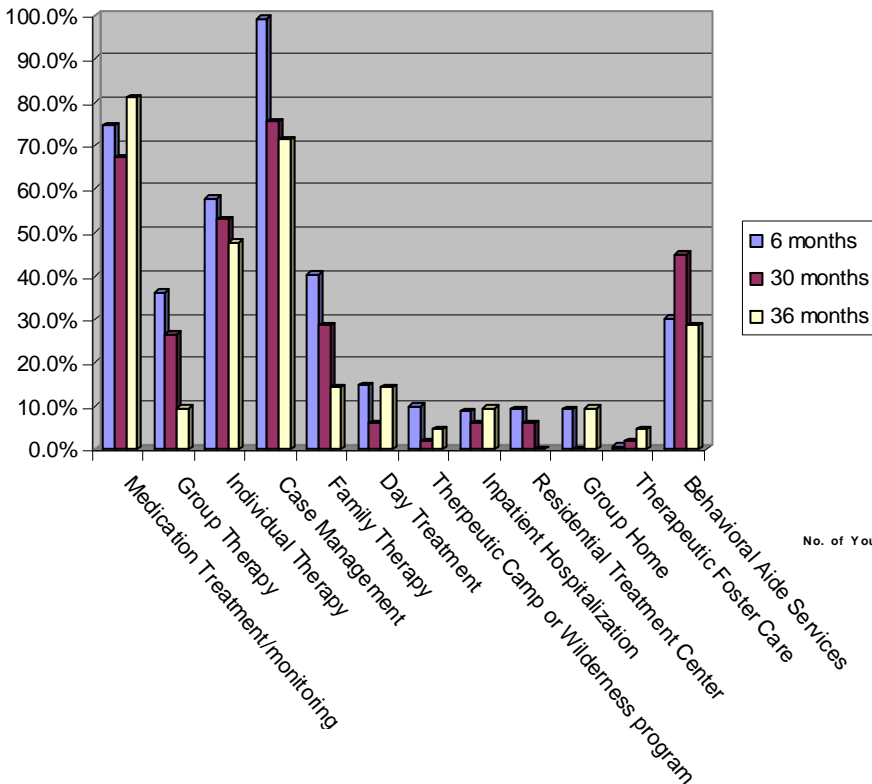
Outcomes. We have outcomes. Very positive outcomes. Now that we have had a number of families “graduate” from the Wrap-around Initiative National Outcome Study we have 3 years of data on some children. When we look at data for these children using the Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS), the Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL), and the Behavioral and Emotional Rating Scale (BERS), we see significant improvement in scores. The data in the accompanying charts reflect information on 35 children. In Chart A we see the mild CAFAS Scores gradually increase over time and the severe scores drop. In Chart B we see a similar pattern with the CBCL scores. The normal scores show a positive trend upward and the critical scores decline. While I don’t include a chart for the BERS scores because of space considerations, those scores also show a similar trend of improved scores. While it is great to see this improvement in scores for our children, there is reason for a bit of caution. If you take a close look at these two charts you will see that the pattern of improvement extends from baseline to 30 months and then there is a dip at 36 months. We are seeing what I refer to as a “bounce back effect.” At this point we have no plans to collect 42 month data so we have no way to know if this “bounce back effect” will increase even more over time. All we can say at this time is that some children apparently do not retain all of the positive gains that have been made during the time in our system of care.

To what can we attribute this 36 month decrease in scores on these measures? There are of course many factors that impact how well children do in improving their mental health functioning. One of those factors is the amount and variety of services that the child and family receive. Another of the evaluation tools that is used in our outcome study is the Multi-Sector Service

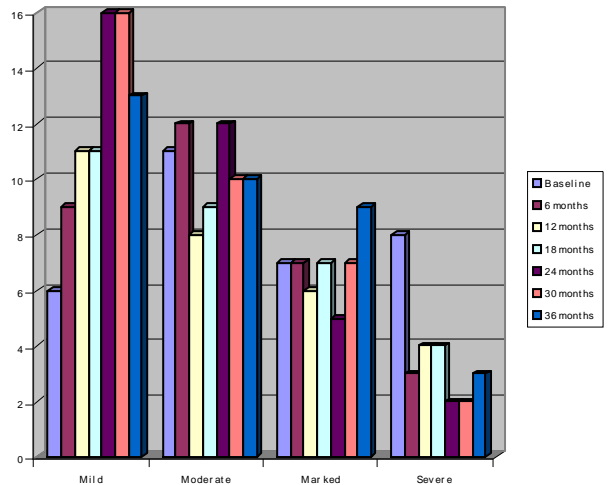
Contacts (MSSC). This tool asks the parent/caregiver to identify the services the child and/or family has received during the last six months and to indicate how the services met the child or family’s needs. Twenty three different types of services are included in the MSSC. As would be suspected the most intense use of services occurs during the first six months that the child and family enter the system of care. Chart C show a sampling of the 23 services measured by the MSSC and the percentage of children and families that received those services during the first 6 months and then again at the 30 month point and the 36 month point. The amount of services do tend to decrease over time. For example, during the first six months 57.7% of children received individual therapy. At thirty months the number decreased to 53.1% and then to 47.6% at 36 months. For the most part Chart C shows significant decreases from 6 months to 36 months in the more frequently used services. A notable exception is the increase from 30 to 36 months of the number of children monitored for medication treatment.

The data presented here is probably suggesting more questions than answers. Consider this: Are children, for whatever reason, leaving services too soon?

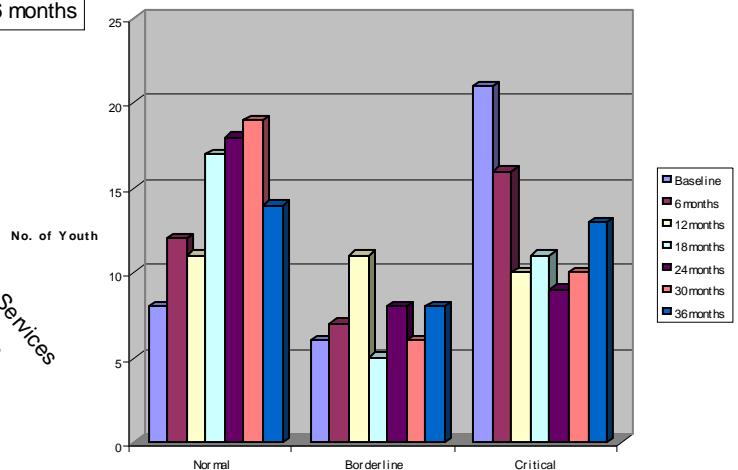
**Chart C - Percentage of Children/Families Receiving Services**



**Chart A - CAFAS Scores - Over Time**



**Chart B - CBCL Total Scores - Over time**



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

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There are decisions about sustainability and resource allocation made every day by PACT 4 partners. For example, this last year LCTS (Local Collaborative Time Study) groups considered outcomes as part of the decision making process, in recommending projects for funding. For those at the last Full Collaborative meeting, you completed a survey about committees which the Executive Board will use to re-organize, or re-focus committee roles and responsibilities. Those results have been analyzed and one of the results follow. A full account will be made available at the next full collaborative meeting.

**Q:** What Factors do you Believe Contribute to a Committee's Success?

**A:** Purpose, goals, mission, and direction ranked the highest in factors believed to contribute to a committee's success followed by interpersonal skills of members (commitment, acceptance, respect, listening, and communication).

**Q:** Would Partner Organizations be Committed to Send a Representative to Committee Meetings if not Required to do so by PACT 4 Contracts?

**A:** Of the 63% of those responding to the question (N = 46), 78% felt partners would send a representative without requirement in contracts.

**Q:** How Do You Feel About the Requirement That Partners Who Have a Contract Through PACT 4 are Required to Send a Representative to Committee Meetings?

**A:** Of those responding to the question, (N = 45) 71% felt that PACT 4 should continue to require those with a contract to send a representative to Committee meetings.

**Q:** How Would Having a Budget to Carry Out Work Plans of the Broad Committees be Helpful?

**A:** Of the 66% of people responding (N = 38), 58% felt it would be helpful for committees to have a budget, 24% had mixed reactions or concerns, and 16% believed it would not be helpful.

There has been much partner interest in the Safe Schools Healthy Students grant mentioned by Marty Hydaker and several other national representatives. In checking the website, the application release date has once again been pushed back. It is now due to come out May 28th, 2004 with a deadline of July 12th, 2004. This will put us in a serious time crunch again. I will be convening a meeting of school districts who may be interested in applying and/or coordinating efforts just as soon as I have information that will be useful. Keep watching your mail.



As we enter the final 6 months of Project SUCCEED, we are looking carefully at the impact the project has made in our four county area. Over 70 children and families have received support from trained professionals in their communities during the past two years! While we are thrilled with those numbers, we are mindful that nearly 40 children and families will be lacking SUCCEED level services this fall when they still need interventions and supports most. Clearly our work is not yet done.

## Project

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One of the best outcomes for any project is that of children and families experiencing success that will carry them into the future and position them to face any challenge with confidence. At one of our recent SUCCEED core team staffings, our team shared in the joy of hearing that a family was ready to exit the program after 17 months of intervention by their SUCCEED nurse. This child had entered the program at birth due to extreme parental risk factors and continued in services despite three major placement changes during the first year of life. At intake for SUCCEED, the risk factor scale score, the absence of attachment to a caregiver and the social/emotional scale scores placed him in the high risk categories. These challenges were compounded by developmental lags that soon became concerns for a very young baby. During the 17 months with the project, this child received consistent care and intervention from the same nurse and the family caregivers each forged a bond with that nurse rather than starting over each time the child moved into different care. That alone is a success for both the family and the community system responding to the need.

As with all success stories, this one has a happy ending. This now 17 month old child is exiting from Project SUCCEED completely on target for developmental milestones, having established a secure attachment with his primary caregiver and scoring no concerns on his social/emotional scales. His family has a plan in place to support him, they know who to contact if they have concerns in the future and the cost to the community was minimal compared to the costs for intervention later in his childhood. It's hard to imagine a better outcome for any child than that! Maybe the task at hand is not to merely celebrate this child's success, but rather to imagine that same level of response and success for EVERY child in need during their critical first six years. That would be the ultimate outcome, wouldn't it?

A learned man by the name of Henry Miller offered the world words of wisdom that have become favorites of mine. He said, "Many people would succeed in small things if they were not troubled by great ambitions." I hope that we all find ourselves troubled by the great ambition of seeking that ultimate outcome for our youngest children...together we can SUCCEED for them.

by Sara Carlson, Project Coordinator

# Now Available On-Line!

All forms / applications are now available on our PACT 4 web site (*Flex, Discretionary, and Wraparound*).

[www.pact4.org](http://www.pact4.org)

## FAMILY NEEDS

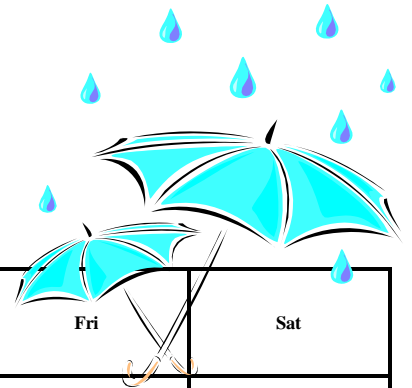
*Family Needs is a section which features area families in need. If you are able to donate any of the listed items, please do so by contacting the referring agent or the Collaborative office:*



A family is in need of a refrigerator and a stove. Another family is in need of some children's clothing for boys ages eleven (*size 12-14*) and seven (*size 10*) and for girls ages fifteen and thirteen (*both in size 5-7 in juniors*). And another family is in need of an electric washer and dryer. If you can donate any of these items, please contact Char Erickson [coat] at (320) 235-8917, Sue Lindstrand [stove & fridge] of Families Matter...Just Imagine at (320) 222-2454, Diane Onell [children's clothing] at (320) 231-8907 or Diane Helgeson [washer/dryer] at (320) 235-8936.

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

# April 2004

Child Abuse Prevention Month



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1  TA (Technical Assistance) Partnership Conference Call Child and Family Services Review	2 Wraparound Skills Training - Part I, 8:30-12:00; Room 2055 KCHHSB	3
4	5	6 Executive Board, 11:30-3PM, Room 2055 KCHHSB  Personnel Com- mittee, 10:30- 11:30; Room 2055 KCHHSB	7	8 Wraparound Skills Training - Part II, 8:30-12:00; Room 2055 KCHHSB	9	10
11 Easter 	12	13	14 Full Collabora- tive Meeting (see below for details)  LCTS Grantees Mandatory Meeting, 2:00-4:00; Multi Purpose Room	15 Conference Call Language Access-Ask the Experts in Cultural Competency, 1PM  TA Partnerships Conference Call Medicaid and Systems of Care, 4PM	16 Wraparound Skills Training - Part III, 8:30-12:00; Room 2055 KCHHSB	17
18	19	20 One Day-Two Opportunities Session (see page 6)	21 TA Partnership  Conference Call Part 4 Family Involvement, 4PM   Administrative Professionals Day	22 One Day-Two Opportunities Session (see page 6)	23 Georgetown "TLC" "Transforming, Linking and Caring" Meeting, Multi Purpose Room KCHHSB Willmar, MN	24
25	26 Mandatory Grantee Meeting SUCCEED (Safe Schools Healthy Students Grantees to be in attendance.) Through 4130.	27	28  Conference Call Early Childhood Mental Health	29 CaMaFLuS (Case Manager's, Family Liaisons, Supervisors), 1-3, Multi Purpose Room KCHHSB  Conference Call Juvenile Justice, 4PM 	30	

\*\* The Full Collaborative meeting will be on Wednesday, April 14th, from 12:00 noon to 2:00, in the multi purpose room at the KCHHSB in Willmar. The Mentor's 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 Subcommittee will meet from 10:30 to 12:00, in the multi purpose room, and the CEO Board will meet from 10:00 to 12:00, room 2055. All are prior to the Full Collaborative meeting. Call Shawna to RSVP.

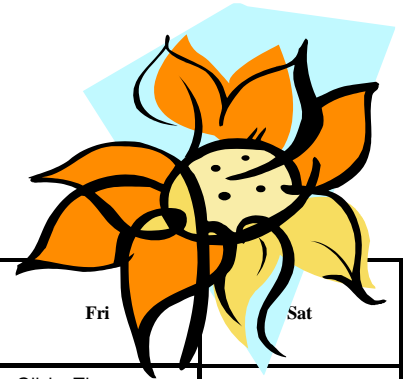
\*KCHHSB = The Kandiyohi County Health and Human Services Building is located just North of Willmar on Hwy's 71 & 23 next to the Willmar Regional Treatment Center.






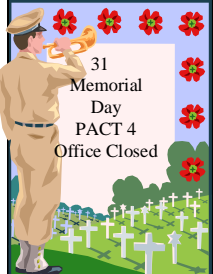
\*RCOB = Renville County Office Building. The RCOB is located off Hwy 212 on DePue Ave in Olivia,

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

# May 2004

Mental Health Awareness Month



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>** The Full Collaborative meeting will be on Wednesday, May 12th, from 12:00 noon to 2:00, in rooms 116/117 at the RCOB in Olivia. The Mentor's Committee will meet from 10:00 to 12:00, room 313, the Early Childhood Committee will meet from 10:00 to 12:00, room 116, the Family and Children's Mental Health Committee will meet from 11:00 to 12:00, in room 117, and the Training Subcommittee will meet from 10:30 to 12:00, room 117. All are prior to the Full Collaborative meeting. Call Shawna to RSVP.</p> <p>*KCHHSB = The Kandiyohi County Health and Human Services Building is located just North of Willmar on Hwy's 71 &amp; 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>						1
2	3	4 Executive Board 11:30-2:00; Room 2055 KCHHSB	5 Cinco De Mayo 	6 Conference Call Youth and Social Marketing, 4PM   One Day-Two Opportunities Session (see page 6)	7	8
<p>← Children's Mental Health Week →</p>						
9	10 Corwin Kronenburg Willmar (see page 4 for details)	11	12 Full Collaborative Meeting (see above for details)	13	14	15
16	17	18	19  Conference Call Vanguard Communications 2PM  Conference Call Family Run Organizations, 4PM 	20 Conference Call Learning From State About Youth With Special Needs, 1PM   Conference Call Medicaid and SCHIP, 4PM	21 Project SUCCEED Core Staff Meeting, 10:00-12:00; ITV (Interactive Television) Room 1090 KCHHSB	22
23	24 Community Evaluation Team Meeting, 10:00-1:00; Multi Purpose Room KCHHSB	25	26	27	28	29
30						
	31 Memorial Day PACT 4 Office Closed					

The February Full Collaborative Meeting in Olivia had 77 in attendance.

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

**Wednesday, April 14th, 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)**

### **Celebrating Excellence**

Wendell Veurink from Greater MN Family Services was awarded a certificate, which honors those who are nominated for their outstanding work using the wraparound process.

### **Committee Survey**

Chris went over the 4 new broad committees that the Executive Board is looking at establishing: Governance (Executive Board, Chief Elected Officials Board) Service Delivery: (most existing committees fall under this one) Community Education/Training & Technical Assistance (social marketing, training through PACT 4) Evaluation Committee. A survey was distributed for partner feedback on current committees: how they operate, what they work on, missions, and work plans.

### **Logic Model**

Ed Downey went over the Logic Model for PACT 4. Gave a history of how it came about and how it can be used in the future in sustainability planning.

### **Priorities**

Priorities here discussed and how the Executive Board is using this data from past surveys, etc. to determine what to focus dollars toward and what to sustain. Becky Romosz went over the list of 9 priorities and briefly gave an update on Executive Board decisions on each priority.

Chief Elected Officials Board will meet in April to discuss the 2005/2006 budget.

Grant updates: 2 re-applications are due at the same time: PRIDE-4 and Wraparound Initiative are both due at the same time. We also applied for a Policy Academy on Improving Services for Youth with Mental Health Disorders and Co-Occurring Substance Abuse Disorders in the Juvenile Justice System. The Feds are choosing 8 sites across the nation to award this grant to.

After School Enrichment has tentatively gone to committee in the legislature.

In the next round of cuts in the Pawlenty administration, there would be a potential \$40million cut to Human Service, but mental health has been so far protected.

### **LCTS Grants—Final Approvals**

Executive Board reviewed and approved the LCTS grants that were forwarded on from the county groups. Letters will be going out shortly for the grants that were awarded. There will be a mandatory meeting held after next month's Full Collaborative meeting in Willmar for all 2004-05 grantees.

Final reports for the 2002-04 LCTS grants are due by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **LCTS Funding**

Received for the 4th quarter of 2003: **\$885,578**. This dollar amount was calculated on the formula of 75% for own area; 25% on the state. We also got a set aside of **\$96,773**. This brings the total amount for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter to **\$982,351**.

Beginning January through March 2004, 100% of funding will be based on our regional population; we hope this continues.

### **Report from Marty Hydaker**

A brief report regarding Marty's visit was distributed. Marty will be sending a full report within the next few months.

### **Families Matter...Just Imagine**

Patty Butler spoke on the organization. and plans on doing some training for parents. Went to Mental Health Day on the Hill with youth and Families Matter...Just Imagine staff and PRIDE-4 staff. In all, 9 kids from among the 4 counties attended. A banner from each of the 4 counties was made by the kids.

On March 31st there will be a Record Keeping training for parents at 6:00 in the Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services Building, Multi Purpose Room.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Executive Board* - Discussed priorities, sustainability and approved LCTS grants. Talked about the Safe Schools Healthy Students grant—the RFP will be coming out in May. Discussed how we can put different schools together and apply for several. Project SUCCEED has its final grantee meeting in April in Kansas City.

Century 21 Grant RFP is being released now. Qualified applicants must have a 40% or

higher reduced lunch population. For more information, Steve Brisendine from Willmar Community Ed & Rec should be contacted, as they have been successful in receiving a Century 21 grant.

*Early Childhood Committee* –Talked about sustainability and committee structure. Next meeting: April 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00

*After School/Truancy Committee* - Met as a combined group. Discussed LCTS, after school, update on truancy (busy time of year), Eric Vogel updated on an Out-Of-School Time Commission; mayor Les Heitke of Willmar is on this commission.

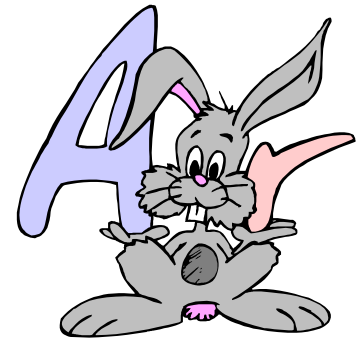
*Mentor Committee* -Welcomed Bryan Thiery and spent the time discussing the county programs and how they work.

*Family & Children's Mental Health* - Again discussed purpose and task, but spent the majority of the meeting discussing the plans of the Training Sub-committee and giving suggestions. Will not meet next month.

*School Supplies Committees* -Will meet after this meeting. This will be a transition year, as the school supply drive will be outsourced to community partners after this year.

*Personnel Committee* - Will meet in April.

*Community Evaluation Team*- Met in January and reviewed the data profile report from ORC MACRO. Discussed the role of committee and the changing function from the beginning of the formation of the committee. Next meeting is March 29<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am-1:00pm and the Committee is always looking for more members.



#### Make Note

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

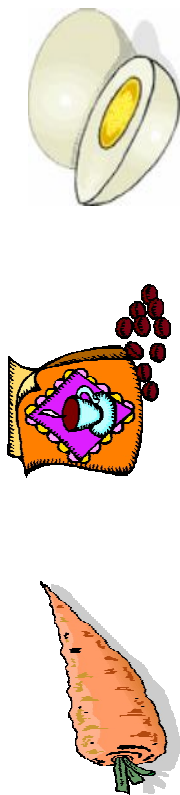
\*KCHHSB = Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services Building in Willmar. Located off Hwy 71/23 just North of Willmar, next to the Willmar Regional Treatment Center.

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)



## IN THE “TEST KITCHEN” OF LIFE

A YOUNG WOMAN WAS COMPLAINING to her father about how difficult her life had become. He said nothing, but took her to the kitchen and set three pans of water to boiling. To the first pan, he added carrots; to the second, eggs; and to the third, ground coffee. After all three had cooked, he put their contents into separate bowls and asked his daughter to cut into the eggs and carrots and smell the coffee. “What does all this mean?” she asked impatiently.

“Each food,” he said, “teaches us something about facing adversity, as represented by the boiling water. The carrot went in hard but came out soft and weak. The eggs went in fragile, but came out hardened. The coffee, however, changed the water to something better.”

“Which will you be like as you face life?” he asked. “Will you give up, become hard—or transform adversity into triumph? As the ‘chef’ of your own life, what will you bring to the table?”

*-Adapted from the Access Christian Web site-*