



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

PACT 4 Bulletin

September 2004

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PACT 4 FAMILIES-AFTER SCHOOL SUMMER ENRICHMENT REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS 2005-2006



PACT 4 FAMILIES is pleased to announce grant Dollars for Before, After School And Summer Enrichment Program funding. Funding is over a two-year time frame of January 1, 2005 - December 31, 2006.

The dollars for these projects are through LCTS Funding and are available to all PACT 4 member agencies/schools.

see page 3 for details

FULL COLLABORATIVE MEETING NOTICE

The next Full Collaborative Meeting is:

Wednesday September 8th, 2004

12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

**Kandiyohi County Health & 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

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



2004 Executive Board

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

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

Carmen Clementson, KC Family Services
Serves through 05—1st term
(320) 231-6232 / carmen_s@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

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

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

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

Arliss Stenger, Parent (MC 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 (KC Resident), (Chair)
Serves through 06—2nd term
(320) 235-2204 / becro-mosz@yahoo.com

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

Toni Braness, Collaborative Director (non-voting)

PACT 4 Families Mission
“As a collaborative we will work together to reduce duplication and provide a family driven continuum of quality, innovative, and cost effective services for children and their families. These services will be culturally sensitive and strength based.”

Director’s Corner

by Toni Braness, PACT 4 Director

Director’s Corner

Continued on page 4

Empowered Youth Are the 'Magic' in Every Community

When life gives you lemons, make lemonade. This timeless adage is a fitting epitaph for Wynnewood, Pa., native Alexandra Scott, who, although being given more than her share of life's lemons, spent most of her young existence making lemonade—lots and lots of lemonade. Alexandra, who won the hearts of countless individuals with her tireless quest to raise \$1 million to support pediatric cancer research by selling lemonade, lost her battle with neuroblastoma, an aggressive form of childhood cancer, on Aug. 1. She was 8.

Diagnosed with neuroblastoma at age 1, Alexandra opened her first lemonade stand at age 4 to raise money for pediatric cancer research. At 50 cents a glass, she raised \$2,000 in her first year of sales. Before her death, Alexandra saw Alex's Lemonade Stands set up in all 50 states, Canada and France, raising more than \$700,000. Since her passing, Volvo of North America has pledged to help maintain the fundraiser to ensure that Alexandra's \$1 million goal is achieved.

Alexandra's brief but accomplished life illustrates and reinforces the case for youth to feel empowered to have a positive impact in their communities. According to the “Do Something Young People's Involvement Survey,” 73 percent of America's young people believe they can make a difference in their communities. Helping them to reach that potential is a major focus for America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth.

"Young people can inspire and energize others in your community in a way that you've never seen before—and they want to help," says Danielle Moore, manager of youth engagement initiatives at America's Promise. "This generation is engaged in community service at rates not seen since the WWII generation, and they will continue to serve. When you stop to think about it, there's a certain magic when young people who have received the Five Promises turn around to make sure that other kids in their communities get them too. That magic is in every community."

The heartening stories of youth of all ages doing just that are voluminous. In Lawrence-Douglas County, Kan., for example, [Emily Johnson](#), with support and guidance from her father, founded Emily's Helpful House, an organization dedicated to creating volunteer opportunities for local youth in grades K-6. Emily, who founded Emily's Helpful House as a third grader, will enter sixth grade this fall, and still helps oversee the organization.

John Kirby, a recent high-school graduate from Amarillo, Texas, profiled in the latest issue of *The Promise Letter*, refuses to let his challenges with cerebral palsy deter him from his service as a peer mentor.

In Spokane, Wash., a [class of middle-school students](#), led by their art teacher, devised a campaign to raise awareness about methamphetamine abuse and encouraged Spokane residents to call a local hotline to report individuals suspected of producing the drug.

And attendees at the first annual "America's Promise to Our Youth" gala celebration, hosted in June by America's Promise, saw first-hand the positive results of youth empowerment, as six exemplary youth presenters spoke with poise and conviction about how receiving the Five Promises has made a difference in their lives.



The Talking Piece

Reflections of Restorative Justice

By Sharon Hendrichs Restorative Justice Coordinator

Circles in Kandiyohi and Yellow Medicine Counties continue to bring victims, offenders and community members together to restore relationships in an environment of understanding and support. As we meet families and bring diverse groups together to circle, we make sure to create an environment of safety and equality. One of the basic principles of a circle is that we are all equal. We are given equal opportunity to participate and have equal capacity. By creating an environment of safety, equality and shared decision making each person in the circle knows they will be heard. By truly hearing someone, we will learn the necessary skills or tools to better support them. Each person brings with them a set of values to the circle. By being aware of our own values as well as the values held by others, we can create an atmosphere of respect. The strength of a circle is created by the values within it and the principles that guide it. We must not compromise our values for others but instead understand that others' values are equally important. As new members enter the circles, we will not greet them by race, religion, sex, age or ability but rather as a relative in the circle of life.

There are currently six circles: *New London, Pennock, Granite Falls, Canby and two in Willmar*. Each circle continues to succeed in many different ways working with youth involved in the justice system. We are looking to increase the number of volunteers in the circles currently meeting. If you or someone you know would like to join a circle in your area, call PACT 4 for more information.

Training Announcement:



PECFAS (Preschool and Early Childhood Functional Assessment Scale) and PECFAS Screener Training is scheduled for two Fridays: September 24 and October 1, 2004. Registration is at 8:15 with training starting at 8:30. The first day (September 24th) will be spent on becoming a reliable rater on the PECFAS. The second day will complete the PECFAS training and train on the PECFAS Screener. Attendance at both training days is required. Participants will need to read part of the PECFAS training manual before attending the September 24th training day. Contact Shawna at the PACT 4 office to register (by Monday, September 20th) and information on the reading requirements. Cost for the training for PACT 4 members is \$20 for both days - includes lunch and snacks!



After School Grants

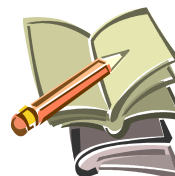
Priorities are for before school, after school and summer programming that will:

- 1) provide structured activities for children, with priorities for grades 5 through 8
- 2) engage children from diverse social, ethnic, and economic backgrounds (outreach)
- 3) be provided where there are limited or no after school activities for that age child
- 4) provide structured activities that combine academic, social, and/or recreational activities
- 5) involve youth and parents in the planning, design, and evaluation of the activities

Please Remember:

Funding for before, after school and summer activities may not be available through your county LCTS in 2005-2006.

**GRANTS ARE DUE
No later than Friday, October 8, 2004.**



All materials are available at www.pact4.org or Contact Shawna @ the PACT 4 office to have them sent to you.

**Now
Available
On-Line!**

All forms / applications are now available on our PACT 4 web site

(Flex, Discretionary, LCTS After School and Wraparound).
www.pact4.org

Director's Corner

Continued from page 2

There are even more anecdotes of empowered youth making a difference in the [Great Ideas Database](#), accessible through the America's Promise Web site, and more are sure to come, as the 5 Promise Ambassadors Network (5PAN), set for launch next month, aims to engage hundreds of young people across the country in service and leadership initiatives that support the Five Promises.

"There are 50 million young people ages 10 to 24 in this country," says Maya Babu, a member of the America's Promise Youth Partnership Team and Board of Directors. "Imagine the tremendous potential, the human resource potential. It's that age group, if we can be tasked, that can help deliver the Five Promises to our peers and to younger children."

Learn more about 5PAN by visiting www.americaspromise.org/5pan. To contribute to the Alex's Lemonade Stand Fund, visit www.philafound.org/Alexslemonade.html

[Tools & Resources](#)

Invest-in-Kids E-Petition Aims to Bring Youth Policy to Forefront

The Every Child Matters Education Fund is circulating an Invest-in-Kids e-petition to rally support for a 10-year, \$400 billion plan to urge our nation's leaders to adopt smart youth-focused policies and programs to stop child abuse, increase access to early childhood and after-school care, and ensure every child good health care. Representatives from the fund will present the petition to President George W. Bush and Sen. John Kerry after Labor Day to increase awareness and visibility around youth policy issues during the presidential campaign. For more information and to sign the petition, visit www.everychildmatters.org/epetition.

Author Encourages Making Olympics a Family Affair

With the 28th Olympic Games set to begin this weekend, the next two weeks of events present a unique opportunity

for families to bond, and also to offer children lessons in geography, math and character education, according to Sue Macy, author of "Swifter, Higher, Stronger: A Photographic History of the Summer Olympics." In addition to watching the events together, Macy suggests other family activities surrounding the Olympics, such as using maps to locate the various countries athletes are from, measuring diving heights or track distances and discussing winning and losing in terms of good sportsmanship. To order "Swifter, Higher, Stronger," visit www.suemacy.com/swifter.html.



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 request has come from Kandiyohi County to assist a family. They are in need of sturdy kitchen chairs and a dresser or two. If you can donate any of these items please call Kay Anderson at (320) 231-7802.

Please share this information with others you think may help donate.

Social Marketing & Training Report

By Danette Hendrickson, Social Marketing and Training Coordinator

I spent last week in Denver at a Regional Sustainability conference for the Wrap-around Initiative. It was a full agenda with families co-presenting for most of the workshops. The family voice was the most interesting and informative of all the workshops I attended.

Without the family voice, one of the projects I am working with, the Data Dissemination Committee, would not accomplish its goals. This committee's task is to take evaluation data, turn it into information easily understood by stakeholders, and publish the information. Without the help of families to guide what information is relevant and needs to be shared this process wouldn't meet its goals, of helping to reduce the stigma of seeking mental health services for children, building the capacity in our communities to serve children with mental health needs, sustaining successful programs that are currently in place and achieving these tasks with financial stewardship and efficiency for time.

There is evidence on the National level that when families and family services, schools, public health, and other child serving agencies work together all of these goals are met. As we pull out local information from what children and families have shared through the PACT 4 collaborative partners we will be able to have more statistics on how lives have improved through Wrap-around and other processes that help children succeed at home, in school and in their communities.

I'd also like to thank all of the partners who helped with the back to school supply drive. Keep in mind that the 3rd Annual Brain Conference will be held on Nov. 16. Have a great fall and school year.



WHAT'S GOING ON...

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

Meeker County

Another school supply drive down, hopefully many future drives to go!!! August 16 and 17, approximately 230+ Meeker county children received school supplies, enabling them to go back to school feeling prepared, confident, and ready for a great year. I often get asked the questions: "Who really gets these supplies?" "Do they really go to people who need them?" Our committee has chose (for many reasons) not to ask for income verification when handing out supplies. We instead have "good faith" in families that they are getting only what they truly need. Please know that it is not easy for people from all walks of lives we have people from all walks of lives and "cultures" that need supplies. It is...the single moms and dads who have a job (sometimes 2), but can not make ends meet because they are just above the poverty level. It is...the parents who are disabled and not able to get disability benefits. It is...those families who have come into an unexpected financial strain such as a loss of a loved one, or a job lay off/ company closure. It is...older children trying to raise their entire family, then just trying to raise themselves. It is...grandparents raising their grandchildren because they have had to take on the parental role for one reason or another. It is...high school kids who are out on their own and despite obstacles against them, still trying to graduate from high school. It is...the non-English speaking families who have children who have to be the "communicator" between the family and the school. It is...the older child who feels ashamed and embarrassed about getting school supplies, but knows that this is how they need to get them. It is...the excited kindergartner who is excited about their first day of school, and LOVES their new backpack. No matter what the family makeup was, these families all had something in common. **They all have the desire to want to see their children succeed and become the best that they can be.** They all showed their appreciation and gratitude to those who either bought supplies, helped with fundraisers, or donated their time. So to an-

swer the question "Do they really go to people who need them?", hopefully we won't have to differentiate who the people who needed them. These people were all of us.

*Tonya Hastings
Case Manager*

Kandiyohi County

We hear a lot about the importance of being "culturally competent." This probably means different things to different people, but in the end it means learning from others! Kandiyohi County Family Services has a formal "Vision Statement" that reflects a desire to be culturally competent. "That we, as an organization, provide services in an atmosphere that is comfortable, professional, secure, and private for both the people served and the staff providing services. Programs and services are easy to access and responsive to people's needs. Adequate resources exist with which to meet these needs." For agencies such as Kandiyohi County Family Services, this would involve having ready access to interpreter and translator services and knowing how to use them. It means doing demographic studies-formal or informal-to see what the cultural needs are in this community. It means, among other things, training staff to be culturally sensitive. As a Children's Mental Health social worker, being culturally competent means not only respecting the culture of families but showing interest in their culture. It means being willing to learn where a family is coming from, and appreciating what makes them who they are.

*Char Erickson
Children's Mental Health Case Manager*

The concept of diversity can only be hammered into us for so long until we ask ourselves, "How can we, as parents, community members, educators, agency representatives and service providers, translate what we hear into definitive pragmatic action?" This question is not only a valid one, but also an excellent starting point to begin implementing change in our own individual functions as to better serve those whom we are here to serve.

To better understand the concept of family cultural competence, perhaps we should define for ourselves what we each hold as family constructs. Typically, we cite the traditional American nuclear family: mom, dad, kids. Not only has this been perceived as the standard for family structure with respect to modeling our own lives, it has been the formula for which family services of any stripe has grown to accommodate. However, as we see in our everyday lives, a new paradigm of family structure is emerging to challenge our previous understanding of "family"; single parent families, extended families, multi-ethnic families....As one can see, there are a host of different social constructs that serve in the role of family, and there are certainly more than this short list.

So now that we have defined (or perhaps refined) our vision of "family," how do we take all that we have learned from countless in-services, seminars, presentations and the like, and apply it to our real day-to-day interactions? This is perhaps the most difficult portion of this challenge, for there is no magic one size fits all solution. What we can do, though, is communicate to families our willingness to accept a family structure that may not parallel our own work to their strengths. Many times, non-traditional families are challenged simply due to the community in which they live suffering from lack of exposure to anything but the "traditional" family structure. The last thing they need is the feeling that services or agencies are unwilling to accept their diversity. Family services in all realms should function not only in protective and supplemental resourcing roles but also serve as agents of change in a collateral context. The more we learn to accept the ever-changing face of the American family, the more culturally competent we become in our positions as well as our personal lives.

*Jon Marchand
Pride-4-Job Coach*

Washington Learning Center in Willmar will be hosting Transportation Night on Thursday, September 9, 2004 from 5:00 -

What's Going On....
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What's Going On....

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Kandiyohi County Cont.

7:00 pm at the West Hanger Area of the Willmar Municipal Airport. This event is free of charge, but families are asked to pre-register at (320)231-8490. Food will also be available for purchase.

Families will be able to explore all kinds of transportation vehicles and have the opportunity to climb in, look at, and ask questions about the different modes of transportation.

Please join the Willmar Public School Early Childhood Department for this night of fun. If you have any questions, please call Washington Learning Center at 231-8490.

Sara Larson

School-Based Social Worker

Renville County

An ICWA conference was held on August 25th through the 27th at Prairie's Edge Casino and Resort by Granite Falls. ICWA stands for Indian Child Welfare Act. ICWA is a congressional act that was passed to establish standards for the placement of Indian children in foster or adoptive homes, to prevent the breakup of Indian families, and for other purposes. The conference was hosted by the Upper Sioux Community and sponsored by the Indian Child Welfare Advisory Council and the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

There was a great turnout for the conference. A diverse crowd, which included family members, tribal members, social workers, mental health providers, corrections agents and judges, were present for the gathering. Some of the sessions of the conference focused on the history of ICWA and how to apply the concepts in today's environment. Other sessions included discussions about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum, Qualified Expert Witnesses Under ICWA, Methamphetamine (Meth), Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, Paving a Path to Youth Self-Esteem and Tribal/County Collaboration.

Andre Wohnoutka
Case Manager

Pride Project



(Persons Realizing Independence and Developing Empowerment)
by Mary Ryan,
PRIDE- 4 Coordinator

Family Cultural Competency...how do we define what is the culture of an individual family? In a January 1994 **Family Relations** article entitled *Cultural variations in parenting: Perceptions of Caucasian, African-American, Hispanic, and Asian-American parents*, authors Teresa Julian, Patrick McHenry, and Mary McKelvey discussed the research they have done on Parenting styles based on cultural and reference group socialization, individual and family experiences, personality style, and characteristics of children.

Their research found that Caucasian middle-class parenting is characterized by an authoritative style. Generally, children are taught to love and respect each other, that all people are individuals, and that they are free to be open and honest. They are also encouraged to value individual differences, doing rather than being, the future rather than the present, emotionally detached relationships, material well-being, competition, and to consider many options when solving problems.

This study also found that major characteristics of African-American families are reflected in parenting. These include respect for authority figures, a strong work ethic and emphasis on achievement, a balance between the rights of individuals and the needs of the group, sense of duty or obligation to kin, notion that good deeds will be reciprocated in the short or long term, value a variety of responses, abilities, and talents, expression of emotions by both males and females, and a strong religious orientation.

Families of Spanish descent in the U.S. tend to recognize the integral nature of family in their daily lives, the functional dominance of males, complemented by a positive and traditional role for women, reinforcement of sex-role distinctions through child-rearing practices, strong kinship bonds, centrality of children, repression of feminine attributes in males and a precedent for a male as head of the household. In addition, Mexican-American families have been found to be

more cohesive than other minority family forms.

Traditionally, Asian-American families have been patriarchal and often include extended family. Family life is central, children are expected to show duty, obligation, and self-sacrifice to elders, and the first son inherits the family's worth. With gradual assimilation into Western culture, there has been a shift in traditional beliefs. Values that seem to remain important regardless of the group or its degree of assimilation in the majority culture include a strong sense of importance of family over the individual, self-control to achieve societal goals, and appreciation of one's heritage. Asian-American families are described as hard-working, conforming, and cohesive, transmitting cultural values similar to those of Caucasian, middle-class families. However, the study also found Chinese American parents to be more controlling, more achievement oriented, and more encouraging of independence than Caucasian parents.

This study indicates some cultural differences in perceived parenting attitudes, behaviors, and involvement. Cultural groups may vary widely, depending on such factors as specific ethnic groups, demographic origin, and level of adaptation to the majority culture. But when social and economic status are the same, parents from different cultural groups are more similar than they are different.

Parenting beliefs and attitudes reflecting greater strictness and control might indicate that parenting for ethnic families is a more difficult task, because socialization involves the bicultural effort of attempting to promote self-esteem within one's own culture and to develop competencies to deal with the harsh realities of the wider society. Greater support for the parenting efforts of ethnic families may be necessary.

Rural community development has traditionally focused on building things like new schools, recreation centers, and airports. But it has become increasingly more important in order to strengthen our rural communities that we work together, get to know and help each other, and to learn the art of being a neighbor. Because each individual family within the four-county area of PACT 4 has a unique family culture, it is important we remember to meet each other with open minds and a willingness to learn and share our family cultures.



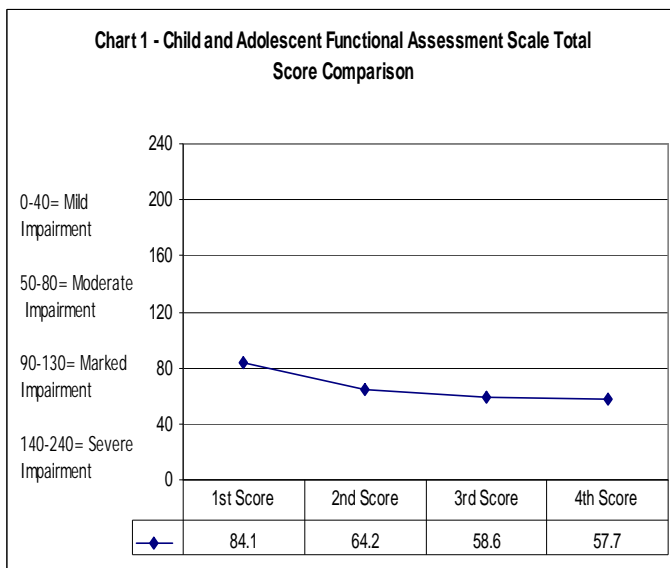
EVALUATION REPORT

By Dr Ed Downey, PACT Evaluator

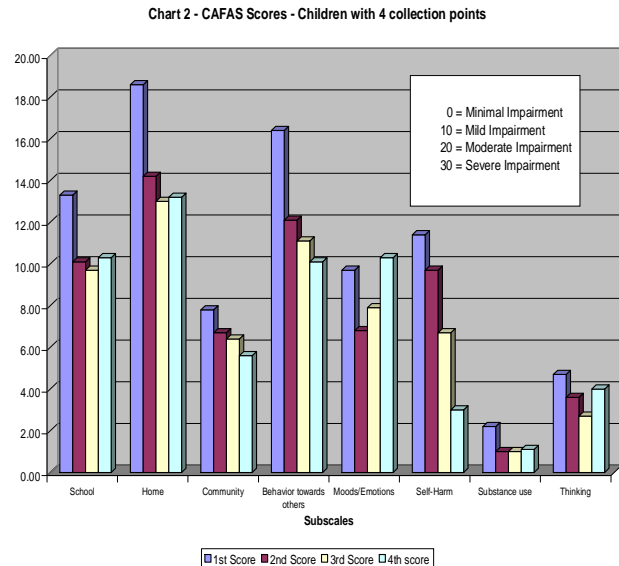
This fall we officially stop enrolling children and families in the SAMHSA National Outcome Study but will continue to collect data on the enrolled children for another year or until they have been involved for 36 months. We are currently in the discussion phase about what level type of evaluation we will continue when the grant formally ends. It is common practice among systems of care that have been funded through SAMHSA grants to continue some aspects of the evaluation that has been part of the grant requirement. Some of the questions we need to answer are: What do we hope to gain from continuing the system of care evaluation? What tools should we continue using? Are there other tools we should consider? How often should we do the evaluation with families? How long should we keep families engaged? Which families do we enroll in our ongoing study? Who will actually do the data collection with families? Do we try to do a follow up study with the families who have been a part of the existing SAMHSA study? In the coming weeks we will be engaging various people in discussions to help us answer these questions. If you have ideas you wish to share or if you want to be a part of these discussions, please contact Jen Hovland at 235-8933.

The following charts show data that has been collected on the Type I forms completed and submitted to us by staff who are providing an intensive level of services to children and youth with mental health concerns. The data reflects scores from the Children and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale for Children (CAFAS) for 73 young people who have been receiving a Type I level of service from some PACT 4 partner. These scores may include some children who are a part of the National Outcome Study but includes many others who are not.

The first Chart shows the average total CAFAS scores for four collection points.



The second chart shows the subscale scores. In both charts smaller scores are desirable and in both charts we see good progress over the four collection points. On only one subscale do we see an increase from the first to the fourth score. We do see some bounce back from the third to the fourth collection point on some subscales but overall the data shows that PACT 4 partner efforts through the Type I services is having a positive impact.



Did you know? From April 2002 to March 2004 over 15,000 individuals benefited from some type of service from a PACT 4 partner using Local Collaborative Time Study (LCTS) dollars.

Youth Engagement Strategies (YES) in Greater Minnesota

The Emma B. Howe Memorial Foundation has issued an RFP for the Youth Engagement Strategies (YES) program. The Foundation seeks to fund innovative strategies for engaging youth in their communities. These strategies should address issues that create barriers to engaging disenfranchised youth in their own communities; and support creative approaches to addressing barriers and service gaps.

A total of \$500,000 over 3 years will be allocated to fund this grant program. Successful applicants will receive a three-year grant. Eligible applicants must be located in Greater Minnesota and must collaborate with at least one nonprofit organization and another organization, such as schools, local government agencies, businesses, media outlets, house of worship, etc.

Application deadline: October 1, 2004



For more information and application guidelines, please visit <http://www.minneapolisfoundation.org/grants/rfps/youth.htm>

FAMILY FORUM

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

CELEBRATE ART! CELEBRATE COFFEE!

September 17th & 18th



The 7th annual Celebrate Art! Celebrate Coffee! Festival, an all-day Saturday street event, arrives Sept 18th foreshadowed Friday evening with a concert by the sensational men's cappella quartet Four Shadow, performing at the WEAC. As usual, this popular and free downtown Willmar festival is loaded with something for everyone. From 10:00 to 4:00, the streets are full of artists demonstrating and selling their art works: children delighting in the hands-on Children's Activity Tent; the streets are full of music from continual multicultural stage presentations.

Kids won't want to miss this year's children's art opportunities in the Children's Activity Tent. The kids will be making t-shirts by filling in multi-cultural stencil designs with fabric markers and sprays. The t-shirts are free, and the kids will be allowed to keep them.

They'll also be decorating pre-cut picture frames with a variety of things. The frames can be used to house photographs that will be taken and printed for them to keep. Three more art stations will provide opportunities for kids to paint family murals on banners, dabble at the button station, and be creative using finger painting. The Willmar Arts Council again thanks Pact 4 Collaborative for continuing to fund the Children's Tent, thus providing free creative opportunities for kids.



The new fax number for **Families Matter** is (320)222-2459 and our new 800 number is 1-866-490-7533. Both are in working order. Thanks for your patience as we got these two numbers back up and running. Any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Patty

Did you know that almost one-third of the U.S. population is from racial, ethnically and culturally diverse groups and did you know that more than 10.5 million U.S. residents report they speak little or no English? The number of spoken, living languages listed for the U.S. is 176. Hispanics number 37 million or approximately 13% of the population, "Black only" number 35 million people or 12% of the population, Asian and Pacific Islander number more than 10 million or approximately 3.6% of the population, and lastly American Indian and Alaska Native population approximates 2.5 million (this information was gathered from 2000 Data Census)

When you look at the United States, we are becoming a very diverse country, with cultural factors influencing that diversity. Recently, I attended a workshop on cultural & linguistic competence and I found the information very interesting, so I hope you will find just a few pieces of the information that I will share in the following as interesting and enlightening as I did. The following is one of the best descriptions of "Culture" I have seen in print:

"Culture is an integrated pattern of human behavior which includes but is not limited to- thought, communication, languages, beliefs, values, practices, customs, courtesies, rituals, manners of interacting, roles, relationships, and expected behaviors of a racial, ethnic, religious, social or political group; the ability to transmit the above to succeeding generations; dynamic in nature".

Did you know that cultural factors influence all of the following internal factors?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Perception of Mental Health | Age & Life Cycle Issues |
| Acculturation/Assimilation | Gender & Sexuality |
| Socioeconomic Status/Class | Sexual Orientation |
| Education | Religion & Spiritual Values |
| Language | Social History |
| Family Constellation | Health Beliefs & Practices |
| Political Orientation/Affiliation | |

So closer to the services we provide:

The following are some cultural influences on beliefs and practices related to institutions and providers of health care & mental health services:

- Reliance on traditional remedies and healers
- Delaying access to care
- Historical mistrust of health care, mental health and social service professionals
- Experiences of racism, discrimination and bias
- Cultural and linguistic barriers

The following are some cultural influences on beliefs and practices related to children with disabilities or special health care needs:

- Superstition
- Malevolent Forces
- Religion
- Familial Folklore

So in closing, the workshop ended with the following posed to all of us and I pose it to all of you as a way to remind ourselves to be aware

**"As a culturally competent _____
I am capable of interacting positively with
People who do NOT
Look like
Talk like
Think like
Believe like
Act like
Live like ME!!!!!!"**





September 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 First Day of School For most Schools 	2	3	4
5	6 Labor Day PACT4 Office Closed 	7 Personnel Committee 10:30-11:30 Room 2055 Executive Board 11:30-2:00 Room 2055	8 PACT 4's Combined Committee's Meeting: 10:00-11:00 Multi Purpose Room Full Collaborative 12:00-2:00 MPR	9	10	11
12	13	14 Brain Conference Planning Committee; 2:00-4:00 Room 2055	15 PRIDE 4 Steering Committee; 4:30-6:30 Room 2045	16 Conference Call "Depression, Anxiety and Violence in Racial/ Ethnic Minority Girls"	17 SUCCEED Core Team Meeting; 10:30-12:00 Yellow Medicine County	18
19	20 Kandiyohi County LCTS Group Meeting; 11:00-12:00 MPR	21	22 Autumn Begins 	23	24 PECFAS Training (Part 1) 8:15-3:30 Room 2057	25
26	27 Evaluation Committee; 10:00-12:15 Room 2057 Data Dissemination Committee; 12:15-1:45 Room 2057	28	29	30		

** The Full Collaborative meeting will be on Wednesday, September 8th, from 12:00 to 2:00, in Willmar. The Mentor's Committee will meet from 11:00 to 12:00 noon, room 1010, and the Early Childhood Committee will meet from 11:00 to 12:00, room 2057. 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



October 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 PECFAS Training (Part 2) 8:15 -3:30 Room 2057 Mid Year LCTS Grant Applications due to PACT 4	2
		5 Executive Board; 11:30-2:00 Room 2055	6	7 Yellow Medicine County LCTS Group Meeting; 1:30-3:00 Law Enforcement Center Granite Falls	8	9
10	11	12	13 *Early Childhood, Men- tors, Community Ed/ T&TA all meet at the Farmer's Daughter prior to the Full Collaborative Meeting *Full Collaborative 12:00-2:00 Farmer's Daughter, Litchfield	14	15 SUCCEED Core Team Meeting; 10:30-12:00 Renville County	16
17	18	19	20	21 Greater MN Family Services-8th Annual Training Event: "Drugships" and "The Art Kid Whispering" Redwood Falls	22	23
24	25 Evaluation Committee 10:00-12:15 Room 2057 Data Dissemination 12:15-1:45 Room 2057	26	27	28	29	30 
31 Happy Halloween 						

The July Full Collaborative Meeting in Willmar had 82 in attendance.

The next Full Collaborative Meeting is scheduled for...

Wednesday, September 8th, 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

Families Matter / Youth Presentation
 Families Matter and some youth that they work with gave a PowerPoint presentation of some of the activities they're involved with and some outings they've had this summer; and then some of the kids performed a dance program they had created, using sign language and break dancing.

Update on Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant

Grant was sent off last Friday. It combines all our member school districts, juvenile justice, county social services and public health. Grant would have money in it each year for school repairs and replacements, training opportunities and family liaisons. School administrators and principals all gave input. We should hear whether we receive this grant on or about October 1, 2004. The grant is scheduled to begin also on October 1, 2004.

Grant Updates

We were going to give an update on Early Risers, but with the long program today, we will postpone the update until the September or October meeting. Early Risers staff are currently running summer camps that are four weeks long.

After School Funding

RFP's, (Request for Proposal) instructions, applications are all available after the meeting today and on PACT 4's website. Applications are due October 8th to PACT 4's office. More information will also be in the newsletter. For questions, contact Lori or Rick. At this point, we do not know if after school, before school, and summer school programs will be able to apply for an LCTS grant, as this After School money was taken out of LCTS funding.

Social Workers—Schools

Have begun or will begin advertising for social workers to work in the following schools: RCW, BOLD, Willmar (Kennedy Elementary—replacement position), EV/W,

and 1/2 time at ECHO Charter School. Public schools will pay 20% and PACT 4 will pay 80% of salary & benefits at least for the next two years. Charter/private schools will split the cost at 50%/50%. PACT 4's Receptionist position is also open, as Claudia Trevino will be going to school to get her social worker degree.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Early Childhood Committee - Reviewed a questionnaire for the Service Delivery Committee. Elected three co-chairs: Diane Winter, Jean Younger, and Dona Haines. Elected two recorders: Becky Knudson and Donna Brau; and the representatives for the Service Delivery Committee will be Suzanne Crain and Donna Brau. Sara Carlson gave a Project SUCCEED update and a PECFAS Screener update.

Training and Technical Assistance Committee - Discussed today's training with Dr Tim Tinus. Have 35 signed up for the clinical-focused and 45 for the family-focused training. Also worked on the children's mental health resource presentation to schools. Canby still is scheduled to be the pilot site this fall. Talked about how the Training Committee will be progressing into the Community Education/Training & Technical Assistance Committee.

School Supplies Committees - Yellow Medicine and Renville County have given their supplies needs for the mass Wal-mart order. The order will be placed in the beginning of August and we'll pick up the middle of August. There are various community drop sites set up. Meeker County is now almost completely run by volunteers. They sell buses for \$1 at various community businesses, and churches are also selling buses. This is going really well and revenue is up.

Mentors Committee - Grant was submitted to U.S. Department of Education for mentoring programs. Will hear something by the end of August. It's a three-year grant. Worked on the Needs Assessment Questionnaire for the Service Delivery Committee. Lori Clasmann and Janet Liebl were elected co-chairs. Recorder will be Sherri Zieglmeier.

Community Evaluation Team—There will be a Data Dissemination Sub-Committee meeting today at 4:30. The purpose of this committee is to discuss how to get all the information and data collected through the evaluation efforts out to partners and the community. Made plans for an Outcome Study Graduation Celebration on August 14th at the YMCA in Willmar from 6:00pm—9:00pm. Discussed possible meeting time changes. Ed

Downey gave an overview of the Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant being written. Jen Hovland shared an orientation packet for new committee members. Next meeting is July 26th from 10:00am—1:00pm.

Executive Board—Discussed the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant being worked on. Toni Braness and Becky Romosz reported on the Institutes they attended in San Francisco. Reviewed and approved bills. Discussed the upcoming 4.5 FTE social worker positions opening in RCW, BOLD, EV/W, Willmar and ECHO Charter. Received resignation of Receptionist. Other items discussed included: proposal from Early Childhood Committee, parent incentives request, MACSSA Update, and Time on Task computer program.

Families Matter.....Just Imagine—Upcoming events: Valleyfair trip on August 6th—are trying to get more chaperones and are selling Papa Murphy's pizza to help raise money for the trip for food and extras; upcoming training for parents on August 11th about "How to Keep the Relationship Alive" when you have a child with mental health issues; (working with George Dubie on this training); upcoming site visit from Otto Bremer Foundation—they do a site visit first, then award grants; are starting to write another grant for the youth programs support; Sue Lindstrand is starting a parent support group for parents of children with an Asperger's diagnosis. Star Bradburn runs support groups in Olivia for parents of youth in transition; will be offering a basic Spanish Class—8 spots are open, beginning Monday July 9th from 5:30pm—8:00pm for six weeks, two times a week at the Families Matter office.

Other

Celebrating Excellence award given to Families Matter staff, who were recognized by a parent. Greater MN Family Services is holding their Annual Training on October 21 at the Redwood Community Center. The guest speaker is Dr. Jamie Chambers out of Sioux Falls. In the morning he will talk about "Drug Ships: How Kids Build Relationships with Chemicals" and in the afternoon, "Developing the Art of Kid Whispering". Brochures were made available, with a note that through a Discretionary Grant, those in our 4-county area would only pay a \$25 registration fee. There will be no August meeting; the next Full Collaborative meeting is on September 8th in Willmar.



Responsibility

The greatest gifts you can give your children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence.

“I am only one; but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; I will not refuse to do the something I can do.”

Helen Keller

If you want a share of the rewards, you must take a share of the work. “If you want children to keep their feet on the ground, put some responsibility on their shoulders.”

Abigail Van Buren

You alone have the responsibility to shape your life. The power to succeed or fail is yours alone.

“Hold yourself responsible for a higher standard than anybody else expects of you. Never excuse yourself.”

Henry Ward Beecher

A person who continually makes excuses instead of taking responsibility continually makes the same mistakes.

Author Peggy Anderson



**PACT 4 Families
Collaborative**

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

We're on the Web!
www.pact4.org

If you have any questions regarding the content of this newsletter or would like to be included on the mailing list, please contact Cynthia at (320) 231-7030 or e-mail to cynthia_c@co.kandiyohi.mn.us