

Full Collaborative Meeting
Wednesday, March 12th, 2008; 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm
Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services Building; Willmar, MN

Present: Amanda Olson, Harmony Visitation Center
Amber Mitchell, Student Renville County
Ann Orren, PACT 4 YM County Coalition Coord.
Annie Tepfer, PACT 4 Renville Co. Coalition Coord.
Arliss Stenger, Meeker Co. parent
Becky Romosz, Kandiyohi County parent
Brian Skogen, Canby/PACT 4 School Social Worker
Cathy Nelson-Messer, Heartland Head Start
Cheryl Loge, Litchfield School Social Worker
Chris Sullivan, Renville County young adult
Cindy Louwagie, Countryside Public Health Nurse
Connie Schmoll, Shelter House Inc. Director
Crystal Danielson, Renville Co Human Svcs Intern
Danette Hendrickson, PACT 4 Social Mktg Coord.
Debb Sheehan, PACT 4 Director
Debbie Gerrety, Renville Co. parent
Diane Winter, MC Public Health Director
Dick Larson, Kandiyohi County Commissioner
Donna Brau, YMCA Child Care Ctr. Program Director
Eric Vogel, U of MN Extension Youth Work Institute
George Dubie, Greater MN Family Svcs Director
Grace Lippert, MentorWorks Too
Greg Schmidt, MACCRAY School Superintendent
Janice Madden, Project SHARE Director
Jill Bruns, RC Public Health Director
Jon Marchand, Greater MN Family Svcs Programs Coord.
Juliane Boraas, Shelter House Youth Advocate
Julie Slaughter, Renville County parent
June Kahlstorf, EV/W IMPACT Coord.
Kathy Gaslin, EV/W IMPACT
Kathy Kaping, Willmar/PACT 4 School Social Worker
Kathy Willing, Renville County parent
Karyl Mooney, Renville County parent
Kayla Hanson, Western MH/Canby School Counselor
Kim Hanson, Woodland Centers Unit Director
Laurie Bliss, Yellow Medicine Co. parent
Lori Clasemann, MentorWorks Too Kinship Coord.
Lynette Braun, Rice Hospital PET Program Coord.
Lynn Kuehn, ECHO Charter School
Malea Radermacher, Renville Co Human Svcs
Maureen Gaedy, Goodwill/Easter Seals Mission Director
Maureen Mitchell, Renville County parent
Paul Carlson, NL/S School Superintendent
Rick Loeth, PACT 4 Families Supervisor
Rod DeBoer, Central MN Christian School Superintendent
Ron Kutzke, Meeker County Commissioner
Russ Lammers, PACT 4 Evaluation Assistant
Sarah Reznechek, RCW School Social Worker
Tammie Knick, GFW School Social Worker
Vicki Lippert, Renville Co Human Svcs Social Worker
Virginia Sullivan, Renville County parent
Wendell Veurink, Greater MN Family Svcs Counselor
Wendy Walz, Litchfield School Early Childhood Prog.

1. Approval of Minutes

Arliss Stenger offered a motion to approve the February minutes as presented; Karyl Mooney offered a second. Motion carried.

2. Approval of Agenda

Karyl Mooney offered a motion to approve the agenda as written; Laurie Bliss offered a second. Motion carried.

3. Summer Camp Announcement

PACT 4 has again been awarded scholarship dollars from the Pohlad Family Foundation for children to attend overnight camps this summer. This will be the sixth year that PACT 4 has been awarded camp scholarship dollars. The award is similar to last year – scholarships are available for kids ages 8-15 to attend an American Camping Association accredited camp in Minnesota. Priority is for kids who have never been to camp before to attend. Scholarships are awarded on a first come, first served basis.

4. Grant Updates

PACT 4 sent in an application yesterday for a special populations chemical treatment grant. This is a Department of Human Services grant and would complement what is currently being provided in the typical arena, by using the Talking Circle and Wraparound processes. If approved for funding, the grant would offer pre/post services to adolescents who are of Latino descent.

We're also in the process of preparing an application for SAMHSA, similar to the special populations grant. The targeted population is the adolescent age, but it doesn't have a particular cultural focus. With both grants, we'd be able to fund chemical use prevention and post-treatment using successful models that we've used in the past, such as PRIDE-4 Coaches and Talking Circles, to help transition youth back into their home life after treatment. This grant is due mid-April.

One other smaller one-time grant that will be submitted is a grant through the Otto Bremer Foundation. This grant would enable us to get funding for consulting services to examine the organization as a whole and decide how to best position ourselves for the future. PACT 4 will be a different organization with vastly different financial resources than what has been the norm in the past. What will our collaborative look like? Do we need to "re-invent" ourselves? If we pass the first round, a site visit is expected in April or May.

5. Women's Shelter Presentation

Connie Schmoll from Shelter House, Inc. gave a presentation about the programs they run. In homes where domestic violence occurs, children are at high risk for suffering physical abuse. Each year, an estimated *minimum* of 3.3 million children witness domestic violence. The mission of Shelter House is "Striving to create environments free of domestic abuse and sexual assault." Families served are victims of domestic violence, victims of sexual violence, and children of victims of domestic and sexual violence. Their primary service area includes the counties of Kandiyohi, Meeker and Renville. Emergency residential services are available to families that live in Yellow Medicine County.

Every nine seconds in the United States, a woman is assaulted or beaten. Around the world, at least one of every three women has experienced domestic violence in their life. Of the 22 women murdered in Minnesota in 2007 by domestic partners or family members, sixteen were murdered by current or former husbands or boyfriends. There are a number of informational handouts available for free at www.mcbw.org.

Shelter can house up to six families at one time. There are set-aside play areas for children. Quilts are donated by community churches. In addition to shelter, services include intervention, information and support, accompaniment to appointments, transportation, safety planning, criminal justice support, legal advocacy, and emergency supplies. "Safety planning is one of the most important things we do", said Connie. "Most victims are very isolated so they need resources to go to court, to get household supplies" and other things.

Harmony Visitation Center is supported by a PACT 4 LCTS grant. Trained staff supervise parental visits and monitor exchanges, with primary focus on the safety and comfort of the children. Fees for services are assessed in accordance with an income-based sliding fee scale. Monitored exchanges enable children to be transferred from one parent to the other without witnessing hostility or abuse. Monitored exchanges are provided for cases in which contact between the parents results in conflict, but contact between the parent and child is anticipated to occur without issue. Supervised visits are held at the Kandiyohi County Health and Human Services Building and at the downtown Harmony office. Visits may be scheduled evenings and weekends. Family activities and work schedules are taken into consideration. All visits are by appointment only.

Information about Shelter House and all of its programs can be found at www.willmarshelter.com.

6. Committee Reports

- a. Executive Board – reviewed new grant opportunities and submissions. Welcomed back MACCRAY School District as a PACT 4 member. A group of PACT 4 staff have been working on updating the employee handbook. An employment attorney has reviewed and made slight changes, and the Board approved a final version. The old handbook was drafted similar to Kandiyohi County, but the biggest difference is that PACT 4 staff are not union employees; they're considered at-will employees. Received updates on LCTS grants and site visits. Learned that the 21st Century grant is underspending funds, but carryover is allowed the first two years. Both chemical health grants are going well. Heard about the Pohlad grant award. "Our future is so uncertain," said Jill Bruns. "We know a year, year and a half, we won't have much money left and grants as we know them won't be there." To that end, a vision of the organization was discussed. With a little reserve left do we give it all away, or do we maintain a basic infrastructure to continue to look for grants? These are tough decisions to make and we need to be realistic. Also discussed was the Parent Advisory Committee and parent participation. What advice are we expecting from them? This discussion will continue as we move forward.
- b. Adolescent Services Committee – continued work on the business-size crisis card to give to students, which would have phone numbers of local agencies to call for concerns about themselves or their friends. Beyond that, committee members will work on having laminated posters with holders for the cards, to give to K-12 schools, Ridgewater and Minn West campuses. Have not finalized a mission statement yet.
- c. Early Childhood Committee – will be putting known training opportunities in the PACT 4 newsletter. The committee would like to give input and be involved in the planning stages for the next Brain Conference. Rebecca Warpula was elected to be the committee designee to the planning committee. Finally, doing an Incredible Years presentation at the next Full Collaborative meeting was discussed.
- d. Elementary/Middle School-Age Committee – continuing to expand efforts to market school connectedness through printed materials, booking Dr. Bluhm for a workshop, and using local data obtained through the SHARE and MN Student surveys.
- e. Mentors Committee – discussed summer opportunities, specifically the Pohlad Camp scholarships, Salvation Army camps, and YMCA summer day camps. All of those are on a first-come, first-served basis. Also discussed a new grant possibility, which addresses building healthy teen dating relationships.

- f. Wraparound Committee – the DVD is progressing, voiceovers are done, and the goal is to have it completed by the end of the month. An off-shoot of the Bridge Builders group is a youth group birthday party help squad in Spicer. They would like to provide birthday parties for kids who cannot afford them at a supervised place with transportation provided. A ‘kit’ would include a cake and party favors. For more information, contact Char Erickson in the PACT 4 office.
- g. Parent Advisory Committee – talked about the Board’s discussion regarding stipends. Parent Retreat brochures are available today and will be on the PACT 4 website. Presenters lined up are: Char Hand, Wendell Veurink, Kenny Turck, and Sally Belugum-Blad. Registration ends April 11th. Committee is also working on fundraising projects, one of which is having a booth at the West Central Tribune’s annual spring garage sale at the Willmar Civic Center. Donations for the table can be given to any Parent Advisory member.

8. Grant Reports

- a. Restorative Justice/Circle Sentencing – the new coordinator will be starting next Monday. Her name is Tricia Buggs. The Advisory Committee continues to meet to help make the program active again.
- b. SHARE – the Coordinating Council met last week and discussed how to distribute the year four carryover funds. Renville County West school staff will be trained on the *Strengthening Families* program. The Advisors and Liaisons met this morning and reviewed grant-sponsored activities and year four allocations. Much of the discussion centered on upcoming proms and how to enforce the message that proms should be chemical-free.
- c. Chemical Health Coalitions – Renville/Yellow Medicine Counties – Renville County is continuing work on town hall meetings. Invitations will be sent out to all businesses and every family in the school districts. A prevention support group has begun in school buildings. *Project Northland* is being taught at GFW and *Towards No Drug Abuse* is being taught at BOLD. Yellow Medicine County has similar activities. *Project Northland* is being taught in Canby, town hall meetings have begun, the Canby youth group has been conducting traveling presentations to groups such as the Rotary Club, and plans to present to city councils and school boards. A beverage server training was held in February. Students from 4th and 5th grades are writing letters to juniors and seniors, asking them to make safe choices during prom. Youth involved in both county coalitions will be presenting at the PACT 4 Annual Banquet next month.
- d. 21st Century Learning Community Center – sites are working on summer programming, field trips and other outdoor activities. Through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Project Wild and Project Wild Aquatic will be presented in June. This training focuses on development, awareness, knowledge and skills using hands-on training activities.

9. Other

- a. Next Meeting – April 1st, the Annual Banquet will be held at the Blue Heron in Willmar.
- b. Youth Work Institutes – May 13th in Willmar, from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. Catalogs are available at Full Collaborative meetings and at the PACT 4 office.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Shawna Steffen, PACT 4.