

Parent Advisory Committee
May 10th, 2010; 5:30 to 7:30 pm;
Kandiyohi County Area Family YMCA; Willmar, MN

Present: Becky Romosz, Kandiyohi County parent
 Char Erickson, PACT 4 Wraparound Coord.
 Diane Moots, Kandiyohi County parent
 Gayle Dean, Kandiyohi County parent
 Kristi Giese, Kandiyohi County parent
 Laurie Bliss, Yellow Medicine Co. parent

Linda Hocum, Kandiyohi County parent
Linda Nelson, Kandiyohi County parent
Polly Ann Peters, PACT 4 Families Liaison
Sheila Bliss, Renville County parent
Virginia Sullivan, Renville County parent

Agenda Items / Topics for Discussion:

- Thank you notes for training scholarship funds
- Parent training event
- Ideas for 2010 brain conference

Discussion:

- Laurie made a motion to approve the April minutes; Polly seconded. Motion carried. Laurie made a motion to approve the agenda. Becky seconded. Motion carried.
- Becky gave updates from the Executive Board. Discussions at the Board included sustainability and the legislative initiative. Becky also gave an update on the CMH sub-committee and encouraged parents to provide input on the NAMI website (nami.org). A statewide LAC website will be up and running this summer.
- Discussed hosting a fall parent event, perhaps a PACER training on “Working Together-Professional and Parent Partnership in Special Education”. We will continue this discussion at the next meeting.
- Linda Hocum informed committee about a radio spot on Wednesday, May 12th at 10:00 a.m., on mental health. Kay Anderson, a Kandiyohi County children’s mental health case manager; and Becky Arens, from NAMI, will be speaking.

Action Taken / Recommendations:

- PAC approved and signed thank you notes to partner agencies who contributed to the scholarship training fund.
- Encouraged participation in the May 20th “Walk for Mental Health”.

Training Needs Identified:

- The Brain Conference planning committee is requesting input/ideas for breakout sessions. Ideas given were:
 - History/evolution of diagnoses of Autism/Aspergers (Dr. Sheehan?)
 - Transition from young adults with Aspergers – perhaps have some young adults tell their “success stories” of attending college, as well as their challenges and difficulties in the workforce (Jason Hocum, Eric Romosz?)
 - Advocating for your child with Autism
 - Dr. Dana Reeves from the metropolitan area; a psychiatrist who gives presentations on Autism (Linda H.)
 - The whole spectrum – some things are changing diagnostically (mental health vs. medical/neurological diagnosis, etc.)

Future Agenda Items / Unfinished Business / Topics for Further Discussion:

- Parent training event

Highlight Three Items to be Shared at Full Collaborative / Items to be Brought to Executive Board:

- Read thank you note to Executive Board.
- Ideas for Brain Conference – share with Brain Conference Committee.
- Planning a fall event/training, perhaps using scholarship funds to bring in a speaker.

Next Meeting Date / Location / Time

June 14th at 5:30 pm at the Kandiyohi County YMCA in Willmar. Pizza provided; Debb Sheehan to attend.