

Full Collaborative Meeting
Wednesday, February 11th; 11:45 am to 1:45 pm
Renville County Office Building; Olivia, MN

Present: Alex Espinoza, PACT 4 Guía Coach/Coordinator
Amber Mitchell, Renville County student
Anel Flores, Heartland CCR & R-Latino Outreach
Ann Orren, PACT 4 Yellow Medicine Co. Coalition Coord.
Anna Tensen, Shelter House Youth Advocate
Annie Tepfer, PACT 4 Renville Co. Coalition Coord.
Becky Knudson, Heartland CCR & R
Brian Skogen, Canby/PACT 4 School Social Worker
Bryan Thiery, YMCA Community Outreach Director
Cathy Nelson-Messer, Heartland Head Start
Char Erickson, PACT 4 Wraparound Coordinator
Chery Johnson, Kandiyohi Co. Public Health Asst. Director
Chris Sullivan, Renville County
Cindy Louwagie, Countryside Public Health Nurse
Debb Sheehan, PACT 4 Director
Debi Brandt, Heartland Community Relations Director
Denise Shoultz, Harmony Visitation Monitor
Diane Winter, Meeker Co. Public Health Director
Dick Larson, Kandiyohi County Commissioner
Eric Vogel, U of MN Extension Youth Work Institute
George Dubie, Greater MN Family Services Director
Gwenn Garcia, WCIC/PACT 4 Guía Intervention Spec/Coord.
Jane Ryan, Dassel/Cokato Early Childhood Programs
Janice Madden, Project SHARE Director
Jennifer Mendoza, PACT 4-Guía Coach/Liaison
Jerry Brustuen, Renville County Human Svcs. Director
Julie Slaughter, Renville County parent
June Kahlstorf, EV/W IMPACT Coordinator
Karen Christensen, MH DHS-ATOD Division
Karen Norell, YME School Principal
Kathy Willing, Renville County parent
Kim Hanson, Woodland Centers Unit Director
Laurie Bliss, Yellow Medicine County parent
Loren Hacker, Canby School Superintendent
Lori Clasemann, MentorWorks Too Kinship Coordinator
Lori Teicher, EV/W IMPACT Program
Lynette Braun, Rice Hospital PET Program Coordinator
Lynn Kuehn, ECHO Charter School
Mary Kay Sinner, Renville Co. Public Health Nurse
Maureen Mitchell, Renville County parent
Pat Thomas, Meeker Co. Social Svcs. Supervisor
Rick Loseth, PACT 4 Families Supervisor
Robert Finneseth, LAMP-Kinship Program Director
Roger Rueckert, ACGC School Superintendent
Ron Kutzke, Meeker County Commissioner
Rosa Eddy, PACT 4-Guía Family Liaison
Sally Belgum-Blad, PACT 4 21st Century Coordinator
Sherri Aringm, MH DHS-ATOD Division
Tammie Knick, GFW School Social Worker
Tammy Thompson, Meeker Co. Probation Director
Tricia Buggs, PACT 4 Restorative Justice Coordinator
Vicki Lippert, Renville Co. Human Svcs Social Worker
Virginia Sullivan, Renville County parent
Wendell Veurink, Greater MN Family Svcs Counselor

1. Approval of Minutes

Bryan Thiery offered a motion to approve the February minutes as presented; Julie Slaughter seconded. Motion carried.

2. Approval of Agenda

Kathy Willing offered a motion to approve the agenda; Bryan Thiery seconded. Motion carried.

3. Committee Reports

- a. Executive Board – George Dubie, Board Chair, stated that fiscally PACT 4 is very strong even though there have been great changes to the yearly budget. “There seems to be a myth out there that the Collaborative is going down and is going to fold,” said Dubie. The Board has labored hard and designed a seven-year budget to keep the core infrastructure going to coordinate services and look for grants to help the four counties we serve. “The restructuring that has been done has secured PACT 4 for many years to come,” stated Dubie. At the May meeting, a personnel update was given, and it was noted that the final position for the Guía grant has been filled. This person will be working in Meeker County and in Willmar.
- b. Adolescent Services Committee – an electronic version of the crisis card will be sent to all school administrators by Loren Hacker, Canby Superintendent. Committee continues its work on resource lists for the website and will be inviting someone from the Resource Center to the next meeting.
- c. Early Childhood Committee – learned that the Birth to Five grant from DHS is for a different amount than what was originally believed. Instead of receiving \$320,000 each year, \$340,000 has been awarded over a two-year term. The grant will increase the capacity of mental health providers to provide services to that population. Woodland Centers and Lutheran Social Service are the primary partners involved in this grant, but Child Care Resource and Referral, early childhood staff, and public health staff will also partner on it. A part-time coordinator will be hired for the grant.
- d. Elementary/Middle School-Age Committee – discussed the School Connectedness conference on August 18th and how to get the word out on a broad scale. An email will be sent to school administration to help spread the word to their staff; also discussed technical requirements for the conference. Connectedness highlights that have been sent to school staff and put in the PACT 4 newsletter will discontinue for the summer. A timeline for completion and distribution of the connectedness DVD was created. The hope is to get them out to school principals before the end of the school year.
- e. Mentors Committee – four people attended the National Kinship Conference that was recently held in Litchfield. Kinship

is a national rural network of mentor programs. None of the current mentor programs in the four counties received funding through the LCTS process. We're waiting on the outcome of one federal grant application through the Department of Justice.

- f. Wraparound Committee – reviewed meeting satisfaction surveys – teams are health, goal-focused, and Wraparound isn't being seen as just a funding source, as it has in the past. Approved a survey for youth involved in teams and will start sending them out soon. Committee is looking for more members, especially agency representatives.
- g. Parent Advisory Committee – looking at ways to partner with the newly formed Resource Center program. A training scholarship committee was formed to create criteria for parents to apply for a scholarship to attend trainings.

4. **Creating Lasting Family Connections**

A demonstration of the Creating Lasting Families Connections curriculum being used by the Guía grant was given. Program goals are to: 1) increase community engagement through implementing a successful family recruitment strategy, empowering participants to successfully implement the program and its evaluation; 2) improve participating parents' knowledge and attitudes regarding drug issues, and improve their family management skills; 3) increase the knowledge and use of community services, including treatment and rehabilitation services, among participating families when needed; 4) improve the communication and refusal skills of participating youth; and 5) delay onset and reduce frequency of alcohol and drug use among participating youth. The training is modular in design and runs for fifteen weeks. Several of the modules are designed to allow the participants to create the topics and the depth and detail of their discussion. Modules also use role-play. All materials and the role-play are in both English and Spanish. There are currently eight to twelve families and their youth involved in the sessions.

5. **Grant Reports**

- a. Restorative Justice/Circle Sentencing – Tricia Buggs, coordinator, has now seen the process from start to end with a youth who recently graduated. At the end of the celebration circle, he and his father said that they would like to continue as volunteers. The number of current volunteers is about 30. We're still looking for funding and should hear from Otto Bremer and United Way by the end of the month.
- b. SHARE – is winding down with a little over five months left. Janice Madden, coordinator, is busy making sure that goals are being met, encouraging sustainability and ensuring that the programs are utilizing funding as best they can. The Coordinating Council will meet on May 27th. There has been low usage of the Strengthening Families program, so those funds will be going towards preschool scholarships. Advisors and Liaisons are winding up activities for this year and trying to maintain programs next year. One school is examining how to keep their liaison next year without the SHARE funding. The grant also paid for three people to attend a national train-the-trainer Bridges out of Poverty training, so now we have our own local trainers.
- c. 21st Century Learning Community Center – programs are winding down their academic year. Most of the fifteen sites will be finished by the end of next week. Summer programming will follow. RCW will be taking a field trip to Jeffers, MN to coordinate with a hieroglyphics program they ran. Two other big excursions are planned with extra funds from year one. A group from Cedar Mountain will be flying to Washington, D.C. and a group from ECHO Charter School will be traveling on a Great Mississippi River Road Trip. Two programs will be going to Wolf Ridge near Duluth. Canby is exploring Geocaching with their high school students. Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunting game played throughout the world by adventure seekers equipped with GPS devices. The basic idea is to locate hidden containers, called geocaches, outdoors and then share your experiences online. On June 10th there will be training for 21st Century staff: MN DNR Project Learning Tree/Project WET. This academic enrichment training covers ways to get kids outdoors and interested in the environment.
- d. Guía – is getting ready for summer programming and looking for local activities and resources to keep the youth involved and engaged.
- e. Chemical Health Coalitions – there was a youth leadership academy held in May in Brainerd. Youth, parents, and coordinators from all the Minnesota coalitions came together. They learned about leadership qualities and teamwork, about all the different projects and activities that initiatives across the state are running. There will be another leadership conference held in the fall. Both grants are working on MOST of Us® promotional items that will be ordered and distributed. There will be two beverage server trainings in Yellow Medicine County. Youth will participate in community parades and county fairs.

9. **Other**

- a. Next Meeting – June 10th at Peter's on the Lake in Litchfield.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Shawna Steffen, PACT 4.