

Full Collaborative Meeting
Wednesday, June 11th, 2008; 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm
Peter's on Lake Ripley; Litchfield, MN

Present: Any Wilde, Meeker County Commissioner
Ann Orren, PACT 4 Yellow Medicine Co. Coalition Coord.
Annie Tepfer, PACT 4 Renville Co. Coalition Coord.
Arliiss Stenger, Meeker Co. parent
Bob Fox, Renville Co. Commissioner
Bryan Thiery, YMCA Mentor Program Director
Char Erickson, PACT 4 Wraparound Coordinator
Cheryl Loge, Litchfield School Social Worker
Chris Sullivan, Renville County young adult
Clark Gustafson, Meeker Co. Social Services Director
Craig Martin, Greater MN Family Svcs In-Home Counselor
Debb Sheehan, PACT 4 Director
Debi Brandt, Heartland Community Relations Director
Diane Onell, Meeker Co. Social Services Social Worker
Diane Winter, Meeker Co. Public Health Director
Dick Larson, Kandiyohi County Commissioner
Elaine Bolland, Harmony Visitation Center Coordinator
George Dubie, Greater MN Family Services Director
Janice Madden, Project SHARE Director
Jill Bruns, Renville County Public Health Director
Jon Marchand, Greater MN Family Svcs Programs Coord.
Julie Slaughter, Renville County parent
June Kahlstorf, EV/W IMPACT Coordinator
Kathy Gaslin, EV/W IMPACT
Kathy Willing, Renville County parent
Katie Nordberg, Meeker Co. Public Health Intern
Kim Hanson, Woodland Centers Unit Director
Lori Clasemann, MentorWorks Too Kinship Coordinator
Lynette Braun, Rice Hospital PET Program Coordinator
Lynn Kuehn, ECHO Charter School
Marci Robertson, Western Mental Health Program Supervisor
Mary Kay Sinner, Renville Co. Public Health Nurse
Pat Thomas, Meeker Co. Social Svcs. Supervisor
Rebecca Warpula, Dassel/Cokato Early Childhood Programs
Robert Finneseth, LAMP-Kinship Program Director
Rod DeBoer, Central MN Christian School Superintendent
Ron Kutzke, Meeker County Commissioner
Sheyanne Mooney, Renville County student
Tammy Thompson, Meeker Co. Probation Director
Tricia Buggs, PACT 4 Restorative Justice Coordinator
Virginia Sullivan, Renville County parent

1. Approval of Minutes

Arliiss Stenger offered a motion to approve the May minutes as presented; Julie Slaughter offered a second. Motion carried.

2. Approval of Agenda

Mary Kay Sinner offered a motion to approve the agenda as written; Rebecca Warpula offered a second. Motion carried.

3. Intensive Home-Based Services (HCBS) – Greater Minnesota Family Services

Jon Marchand from Greater Minnesota Family Services presented about the Intensive Home-Based Services program – otherwise known as HCBS (Home and Community-Based Services). In existence for almost ten years, the focus initially was to serve youth on probation who were not eligible for Medical Assistance or third-party insurance. The program has expanded to include those youth who have mental health concerns that put them at “imminent risk of out-of-home placement”. Services are family-driven and address concerns in the home. The youth tend to need a great deal of work on accountability and responsibility. Youth served by the program may have mental health, chemical dependency, and/or academic concerns. Many have active IEP’s. Referral sources are generally from county corrections and social services. Goals include getting them involved and integrated into the community, and helping them improve their behaviors so they can stay in their classrooms, homes and communities. As of the last LCTS reporting period, HCBS had an 89% success rate for kids remaining in the home. Avoiding long-term placement is cost-effective for counties.

Meeker County is served by Craig Martin. Rational Emotive Theory is the primary approach used with kids. Focuses are on oppositional behavior, anger, isolation, family unrest, chemical dependency issues, self-esteem and academics. Craig works with school counselors to make sure assignments are done. Projects included model cars, journaling, esteem building and identifying feelings. Activities include an anger group and a sobriety speaking group. Youth went to a variety of high schools into the classrooms, talked about sobriety, and shared what life is like sober. It was a peer-to-peer presentation that had a tremendous impact. Kandiyohi County is served primarily by Melissa Morales, who recently took over from Jon Marchand. She continues many of the same activities as well as outreach to Hispanic youth and she works on lowering rates of recidivism within schools and the community. Kandiyohi County focuses on community involvement and visibility, such as the Adopt a Highway ditch clean up program, volunteering at the Humane Society, lawn care and shoveling for elderly or disabled community members. The belief is that if youth are working within the community, they’re removing themselves from negative peer impact and bringing positive aspects into their lives. Renville County is served by Wendell Veurink. By teaming with the referral source, family dynamics are recognized and planned for accordingly. Wendell also does group work and has developed a speaking unit composed of those he’s working with, to present to area schools and groups. Youth hear from others their own age about their experiences working with counseling services. Yellow Medicine County is served by Shea Joyce. Treatment programs are client-centered, and she works on solution-focused counseling, hand-in-hand with Signs of Safety. She works more with child protection cases, Adlerian counseling, an individual’s role in the family and how it pertains to the rest of the family relationship.

Greater Minnesota is a Circle of Courage agency. The Circle of Courage is a model of positive youth development first described in the book *Reclaiming Youth at Risk*. The model integrates Native American philosophies of child-rearing, the heritage of early pioneers in education and youth work, and contemporary resilience research. It is based in four universal growth needs of all children: belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity. More information about Circle of Courage and Greater Minnesota Family services can be found at their website: www.greatermnnesota.org.

4 Committee Reports

- a. Executive Board – Jill Bruns reported. The Board reviewed policy controls to assure everything is ready for the audit. Approved a new member: CABHS (Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Services), located on the former WRTC campus. Grant updates were received. Discussed the LCTS payback, and different re-payment options. For the first time, the Board had reports from every committee, which was much appreciated. The vision, future plans and ideas come from the committees. Many grants are written and awarded because of work done or a need seen by a committee. The bulk of the meeting was spent with Rick Pietrick from the MN State Auditor's office, receiving his audit entrance and discussing new auditing processes this year. The Otto Bremer Foundation did not fund our organizational effectiveness request, but the Board still would like to go through a similar process on a lesser scale.
- b. Adolescent Services Committee – Kim Hanson reported. The committee talked about how to get feedback from administration in schools that were sent the mental health crisis card to distribute. The committee would like to find out how many have actually been distributed and would like to poll youth groups, to get their feedback on the cards. Once this is received, the committee will determine the next phase of card distribution in other places. Ideas for future projects include youth panels, video trainings, and parent trainings.
- c. Early Childhood Committee – Mary Kay Sinner reported. Each of the counties found grants and other monies to pay for printing a new supply of the *Joy in the Journey* books, which are given out to new moms after their baby is born. Parents who go through the mental health component at early childhood screening are given free books and the committee discussed different book choices and how to pay for them. A grant will be written and submitted to Target for this purpose. The committee liaison to the Brain Conference planning committee reminded other committees that each one is being asked to submit two exhibitors for the Brain Conference. Contacts should be given to Danette Hendrickson at the PACT 4 office. A timeline for next year was developed and includes a plan for the year and goals for each of the meetings. Also discussed a new federal home visiting grant and the committee decided that it would be a good thing for PACT 4 to pursue.
- d. Elementary/Middle School-Age Committee – no report; committee does not meet until next week.
- e. Mentors Committee – Lori Clasemann reported. The committee has been working with PACT 4 on submitting a federal mentoring grant, which has a three-week turnaround time and is due next Friday. Letters of Support are being solicited. Gave input on models of sustainability beyond the grant period. The project will target one-to-one mentoring as well as school-based models, such as lunch or reading buddies. The grant will have an ambassador component, helping with mentor recruitment. Work was begun on a combined summer activity for mentors/mentees from all of the programs.
- f. Wraparound Committee – Char Erickson reported. Had a small turnout today, and members looked at in-kind tracking results and trends compared to one year ago. The number of child protection, guardian ad litem, and probation officers participating on teams has greatly increased – a positive trend. More teams are using a neutral facilitator. Individual therapists have been attending Wraparound meetings more. A lot of the cases are not billable time, so that shows buy-in from them and agencies. In Kandiyohi County, more teams are being formed, and less Wraparound money is being accessed. Teams are relying on informal supports and activities, and using Wraparound less as a funding source than as a resource for families. The DVD is done, and ways to make it available were discussed. It will be shown at an upcoming Collaborative meeting and each county will get one. There's a Wraparound page on the PACT 4 website that has the brochure, a parent's story, and helpful links.
- g. Parent Advisory Committee – Julie Slaughter reported. The committee discussed the Board response to their suggestions on reducing costs, and made a few more for the Board to consider. Also discussed upcoming trainings, and the committee is still in need of recipes for the cookbook fundraiser. They can be sent to Julie Slaughter.

5. Grant Reports

- a. Restorative Justice/Circle Sentencing – Tricia Buggs reported. When she started in March, there was one circle with two youth involved. She is up to seventeen volunteers, five youth involved in two circles and possibly another circle on the way.
- b. SHARE – Janice Madden reported. The Coordinating Council has approved a tentative year four no-cost extension budget, which was submitted to the federal project officers on May 31st. The June SHARE newsletter on the PACT 4 website has more details of what this budget entails. Another focus of the Coordinating Council has been mental health services in schools. A subcommittee was formed and has recommended providing funds for mental health services in the schools that

were not part of Woodland's school-linked mental health grant proposal. This proposal was sent to Coordinating Council members via email, asking for an approval or denial by Friday, June 13th. SHARE will be paying for up to 40 participants per school district to attend the Bridges Out of Poverty Conference in August. The Advisors/Liaisons will meet again on August 6th.

- c. Chemical Health Coalitions – Renville/Yellow Medicine Counties – Ann Orren reported for Yellow Medicine County. She has been working on getting posters, promotional items and media material ready for launching social norms campaigns in the fall. Pilot testing was done with three classrooms (using the response devices demonstrated at last month's Collaborative meeting) and it proved to be very interesting. What Ann thought would be popular was absolutely not popular with the kids. Annie Tepfer reported for Renville County and is working on much of the same goals and activities for the summer. A letter was submitted to local papers asking parents of graduating students not to provide alcohol at graduation parties. A radio spot has been recorded asking that adults not provide alcohol to minors.
- d. 21st Century Learning Community Center – Tricia Buggs reported on behalf of Sally Belgum-Blad. The State has chosen the same theme as year one (Know Your World) for year two as well. (This is a theme Ed Downey came up with and was voted on by all grantees last year at a meeting.) Sally is working on federal and state reports and local sites have begun summer programming.

6. Other

- a. Grants in Progress – Even though Otto Bremer did not approve the Organizational Effectiveness grant, they were very encouraging of PACT 4 and its various partners and urged them to apply for funds for other needs. They see their goals matching the needs of agencies, and are trying to look at resources to rural communities.

PACT 4 has passed the first round with Robert Wood Johnson and has been approved to submit a full proposal. We were one of 56 approved, out of 500 applicants. This is for the Healthy Teen Relationships grant. We are actively looking at whether we will submit a final application, as the match is quite high and in-kind is very limited. The application is due July 8th, if we decide to go ahead.

As mentioned above, we're working on submitting a federal mentoring grant. We've already received a lot of great input and feedback from the Mentor Committee. One of the items that the feds are looking for is evidence that local government is in support of this mission and project. The grant is for up to \$500,000 over a three-year period.

The home visiting grant that the Early Childhood Committee referenced is due July 21st. We'll take a careful look at it and decide whether to follow up with an application.

The special populations chemical treatment grant being its programming on July 1st. Advertisements for staff are running in newspapers and on the Job Service website.

Debb noted that all these grants underscore the importance of our committees and their focus and because of them, we have already established this critical piece and it is extremely helpful in putting together applications, especially when they have a short turnaround time. Thanks to all committees and partners who help with the various pieces of each grant application.

- b. Next Meeting – July 9th in Willmar.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Shawna Steffen, PACT 4.