



The next Full Collaborative Meeting will be held Wednesday, July 9th at the Kandiyohi County Health and Human Services Building; 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

PLEASE RSVP to Shawna (320)235-8938 or email shawna.steffen@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

(Minutes of past meetings are available at www.pact4.org)

PACT 4 NEWSLETTER

PACT 4 was formed on the principles of Wraparound. In this newsletter, and past and future newsletters, there are articles that revisit these principles and provide real-life examples of local people to demonstrate why Wraparound is a best practice.

COMMUNITY-BASED

Wraparound plans support the most accessible and responsive strategies, as well as the least restrictive settings.

Not surprisingly, research has shown that Wraparound is most successful when there is community “buy-in.” People will invest only in what they believe in. The more awareness, participation and buy-in by agency and community members, the greater the chance of success.

This brings about the question: Who attends Wraparound meetings? What entities are represented, and how many “informal supports” participate? PACT 4 tracks as accurately as possible the make-up of Wraparound teams for in-kind reporting purposes. The chart to the right shows the many different people who have attended Wraparound meetings from January 1 to May 31, 2008, based on information submitted to PACT 4.

Whatever conclusions are drawn from this data, it is clear that many different agencies and informal supports are represented on Wraparound teams. Each quarter these numbers increase and new categories are added indicating a trend of increased community awareness and buy-in.



*Char Erickson, Wraparound Coordinator
char_e@co.kandiyohi.mn.us*

Meetings Attended

Parent	77
Foster Parent	10
Youth/Child	11
Neutral Facilitator	55
Child Protection/Child Welfare Worker	59
Guardian ad litem	20
In-Home Provider	28
Family Member	20
Family Friend	10
Children’s Mental Health Case Manager	14
Day Treatment/Adolescent Staff	10
Probation Officer	15
School Teacher/Special Ed Teacher	5
School Social Worker	11
Individual Therapist	11
Family Liaison	14
Circle of Support Ally	2
MN Workforce Center Counselor	4
Shelter House Advocate	4
Residential Treatment Staff	4
Interpreter	2
Community Support Worker	2
Financial Worker	1
County Supervisor	1
Restorative Justice Coordinator	1

PACT 4 Families Collaborative Summer Office Schedule is as follows:

Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Friday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

2008 Executive Board

Arliss Stenger, Parent (Meeker Co)
(Vice-Chair)
Serves through 2010 - 3rd Term
(320)453-8153/arliss_stenger@yahoo.com

Becky Romosz, Parent (Kandiyohi Co)
Serves through 2009 - 2nd Term
(320)235-2204 /
becromosz@yahoo.com

Carmen Clementson, KC Family Services
Serves through 2008 - 2nd Term
(320)231-7811
carmen_c@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

Deb West, KC Community Corrections
Serves through 2008 - 1st Term
(320)231-6218 /
d_west@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

Debi Brandt, Heartland CA Agency
Serves through 2009-1st Term
(320)235-0850 /
debib@heartlandcaa.org

George Dubie, Greater MN Family Svcs.
Serves through 2010 - 1st Term
(320)235-3664/
gdubie@greateminnesota.org

Gerald Brustuen, RC Human Services
Serves through 2009 - 2nd Term
(320)523-2202 / jerry_b@co.renville.mn.us

Jill Bruns, RC Public Health (Chair)
Serves through 2008 - 2nd Term
(320)523-3723 /
jill_bruns@co.renville.mn.us

Loren Hacker, Canby School District
Serves through 2010-3rd Term
(507)223-7226 /lhacker@canby.mntm.org

Val Mersch, Fiscal Agent
(non-voting)
val_m@co.renville.mn.us

Debb Sheehan, Director
(non-voting) (320)231-7036 /
debb_s@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

Chief Elected Officials

Dick Larson, Kandiyohi County
Amy Wilde, Meeker County
Jane Remiger, Yellow-Medicine County
Bob Fox, Renville County

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

Chemical health is an important topic at PACT 4, and even more so as we launch a new grant initiative July 1 for pre-treatment and post-treatment programs for youth of Hispanic/Latino origin. We are partnering with the West Central Integration Collaborative in this effort and are very excited to begin the journey.

According to a recent news article by the Associated Press, “many of the nation's estimated 10.8 million underage drinkers are turning to their parents or other adults for free alcohol.” This may not be news to many of us who work with young people, but it is really disheartening, especially when we see the many harmful impacts early alcohol and drug use can have on the still developing brains of adolescents.”

Terry Cline, administrator of SAMHSA underscores this message in his comment that, "Parents and other adults can play an important role in helping influence — for better or for worse — young people's behavior with regard to underage drinking."

According to D.U.M.B. (Drinking Underage Maims the Brain), sponsored by the American Medical Association, there are many things parents can do to counteract a culture of tacit acceptance of underage drinking.

Here are 5 things they note that Parents Can Do:

Talk to your children. It might not seem like it, but kids listen to their parents. Discuss the long-term consequences of drinking in a way that they will hear it and make them think twice before making an irreversible mistake.

Voice your concerns to legislators and television executives about the powerful influence on children of the misleading images of alcohol consumption.

Step Up Enforcement. Too many adults fail to take underage drinking seriously. Urge your local and state law enforcement officials to enforce underage drinking laws and communicate to violators that there are lasting legal as well as physical consequences.

Support implementation of comprehensive school health programs addressing preventable, unhealthy behaviors.

Encourage product labeling to warn people of the dangers and negative health effects of alcohol.

"In far too many instances parents directly enable their children's underage drinking — in essence encouraging them to risk their health and well-being," said acting Surgeon General Steven K. Galson. "Proper parental guidance alone may not be the complete solution to this devastating public health problem — but it is a critical part."

Debb Sheehan

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Chemical Health Coalitions

The **Minnesota Positive Community Norms Project** is a statewide initiative that will be carried out in Renville and Yellow Medicine Counties through county coalitions to prevent underage drinking. Here are tools and strategies that will be used for the project.

- ?? **Science of the Positive™** defines three critical domains: Spirit, Science, and Action. When these three domains align, a synergy is created which significantly enhances prevention efforts. The Positive Community Norms Model uses these three domains to frame environmental prevention efforts. The spirit domain focuses on positive social norms within the community on which we can grow healthy behaviors and enhanced protection. The science domain focuses on measuring and correcting misperceptions about the positive norms in the community. The action domain focuses on guidelines that support and promote healthy behaviors. When these positive norms, perceptions, and guidelines are aligned, positive community norms are established in a community.
- ?? The **Montana 7-Step Process** provides a framework to guide communities through the process of establishing positive community norms. The seven steps include planning and environmental advocacy, gathering baseline data, message development, communication planning, pilot testing and refining, campaign implementation, and evaluation. The process is repeated as the knowledge and skills of the community increase. Training for each of the steps is provided.
- ?? **Training and Guided Support** provided to communities include face-to-face multi-day sessions as well as online webinars. A guide is available to provide additional assistance and answer questions.
- ?? **Regional Prevention Coordinators (RPC)** will serve as resources for the project.
- ?? **Most Of Us® Student Surveys** are administered once each year (early in the second semester) in partnership with local schools to all students in grades 7 – 12 to measure student behaviors, attitudes, and perceived norms. A Statistical Report and Key Findings Report are provided to each community.
- ?? A **Poster Catalog for Student Messages** provides a fast, cost-effective means for communities to obtain semicustomized posters based on proven designs. The Poster Catalog is updated periodically with new designs and photos.
- ?? **Materials for Parent Communications** include message templates, pieces for direct mail, and other media messages to correct parent misperceptions, facilitate dialog in the home, and promote parental protective behaviors.



Annie Tepfer, Coordinator
Renville Co. Chemical Health Coalition
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Ann Orren, Coordinator
Yellow Medicine Co. Chemical Health Coalition
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21st Century Update

E.A.G.L.E. (E VW Are Great Learners Everyday)

Eden Valley/Watkins' "Hands on Learning Expands Our World-After School Program" had a terrific first year. Our participating students were eager to learn and explore new skills. We had many exciting enrichment activities for our participants, such as: "Engineer for a Day" and "Isolating our DNA," where students created complicated bridges and a DNA module using K'Nex; "Tessellations," where students designed a picture using a repeated pattern; and "Police Sketch Artist," by using a large face shot of themselves, participants learned how investigators work with artists to make a sketch of a suspect. Many students commented that they didn't realize learning math, literacy and science concepts could be so much fun. The program year came to a close when EV/W participants learned about flying and took their first flight through the *Young Eagles* program at the Hutchinson Airport.

Students are eagerly anticipating our "Hands on Learning Expands Our World" summer program and many are looking forward to next fall as well. Of the many positive comments we've received, one mother stated, "My son absolutely can't wait for the nights the program meets, and when asked how school was for the day that is all he talks about. The program has done wonders for him as a person and academically!"

Denise DeJuliannie,
EVW 21st CCLC Site Coordinator



Yes we flew, and we have Young Eagles Certificates to prove it! Zack Ludwig, Joel Schmitz, Brandon Anderson, Tina Streit, and Zachary Schlottman.

For more information, contact Sally Belgum-Blad at 320.231.7031 or sally_b@co.kandiyohi.mn.us. Funding for the PACT 4 Families Collaborative 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant program is provided by the federal government through the No Child Left Behind Act and is administered by the Minnesota Department of Education.



Evaluation Update

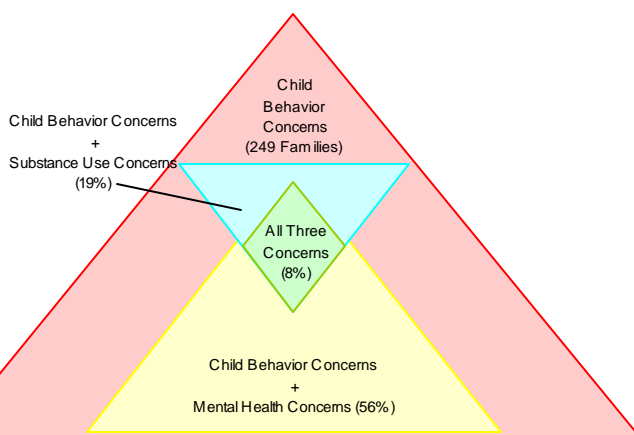
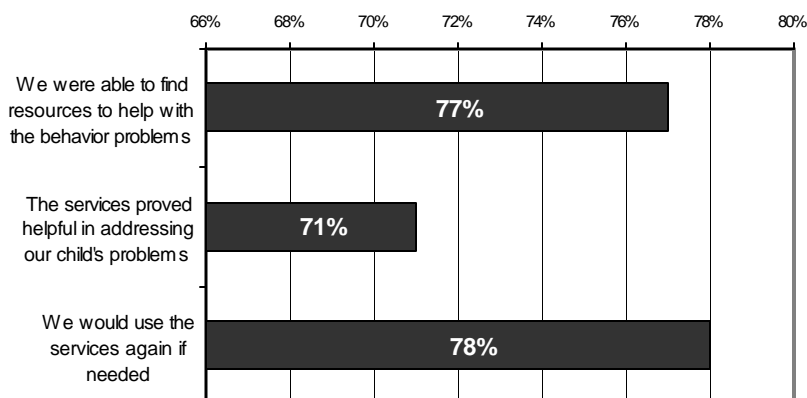
2007 Family Needs Survey: *During the past year, have one or more minors in the family had significant behavior problems for which you needed help?*

I would like to continue reporting results from the 2007 Family Needs Survey conducted among households in the PACT 4 area last summer. In April, I wrote about youth with mental health concerns and in May about youth with substance use and abuse concerns. This month, I will present data related to behavior problems that families have needed help addressing, of which 18% of the responding households (249 out of 1346) said had occurred in the past year.

Congratulations to the partnering agencies of PACT 4 Families Collaborative. The chart shows the percent of favorable service-related responses in regards to addressing child behavior issues. Most of the families reported positively in the areas of **service access, effectiveness, and satisfaction.** At times when you might feel that you are not impacting families through your work, remember that over time, results happen. Keep up the effort you give for kids and families. It makes a difference in their lives.

Service-Related questions regarding child behavior.

Asked of those who reported that one or more children in the household have had significant behavior problems for which they've needed help addressing in the past year. N = 249.

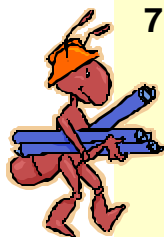


Co-Occurring Disorders

Among the 249 households that have children with significant behavior problems, 136 (56%) also report that one or more children have been diagnosed as having mental health issues; 36 (15%) have youth who had substance use problems in the past year; 19 (8%) report having youth with behavior, mental health, and substance use problems co-occurring. This shows that one set of problems is typically occurring with something else. Keep this in mind as you work with families and select professional development trainings. There is no question that you are up to the challenge.

Sarah Wennerberg, Evaluation Specialist
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7th Annual Community Conference on the Brain



Save the Date: November 13, 2008 ** Ken Winters, Ph.D. director of the Center for Adolescent Substance Abuse Research, a Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Minnesota, and a Senior Scientist with the Treatment Research Institute, Philadelphia, PA will keynote the 7th Annual Community Conference on the Brain.

This year's focus is how chemicals—natural and synthetic—affect the brain. Sessions include: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Emotional Wellness: It Takes A Village, the Developing Brain and Alcohol and more. Watch for registration materials in September.

Full Collaborative—June Highlights

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. Youth served by the program may have mental health, chemical dependency, and/or academic concerns. Referral sources are generally from county corrections and social services. 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.

Committee Reports:

Executive Board – approved a new member: Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Services (CABHS). Discussed the LCTS payback options. Received grant and committee updates. Learned that the Otto Bremer Foundation did not approve our organizational effectiveness grant request. 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.

Adolescent Services – discussed how to get feedback from administrators about the distribution of the mental health awareness cards that were distributed to students last month. Discussed the next steps in the process of getting the cards and information out into the communities of our four counties.

Early Childhood – discussed the books given after preschool screenings, and decided to apply to Target for a grant to buy them. Developed timelines for the committee's goals and plans for the next year. Also discussed a new federal grant for Home Visiting. Consensus was that it would be a good grant for PACT 4 to pursue.

Elementary/Middle School-Age – no report; committee doesn't meet until June 18th.

Mentors – discussed and did some work on the national mentoring grant that PACT 4 will apply for and is due next Friday, June 20th.

Wraparound – compared in-kind support to one year ago and looked at the trends. More teams are being formed and less money is being accessed, so informal supports and resources are being used more often. The Wraparound DVD is finished, and will be shown at a future Collaborative meeting, possibly in September.

Parent Advisory – continued discussion on the proposal on reducing costs from the Executive Board and made a few more suggestions. Discussed upcoming trainings.

Grant Reports:

Restorative Justice – In March, there was one circle with two youth involved. We're up to seventeen volunteers, five youth involved in two circles and possibly another circle on the way.

SHARE – the Coordinating Council approved the tentative year four no-cost extension budget. The June SHARE newsletter on the PACT 4 website has more details of what this budget entails. Looking at funds to provide mental health services in the schools that were not part of Woodland's school-linked mental health grant proposal.

Chemical Health Coalitions – both grants are putting together focus groups to find out what kind of marketing materials appeal to youth, to help launch a social norms campaign in the fall. Radio ads are running, promoting the grants.

21st Century Learning Center – The “Know Your World” theme will carry on to year two. Working on federal and state reports, and sites are beginning their summer programming.

Other – PACT 4 passed the first round of the Robert Wood Johnson grant for promotion of healthy teen relationships, and a decision needs to be made as to whether we will submit a final application – the match portion is quite high. Of 500 applications, 56 were approved for the second round. The full application is due July 8th.

The Home Visiting grant is due July 21st. We will take a careful look and decide whether or not to follow up with it.

On July 1st, programming begins for the special populations grant that PACT 4 was awarded.

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 grant applications, especially when there is a short turnaround time. Thanks to all committees and partners who help with the various pieces of each grant application.



Restorative Justice



Sentencing Circles

Statistics

Current Youth	5
Current Volunteers	17
Number of Active Circles	2
Circles Now Forming	1

Special points of interest:

??Kandiyohi and Swift Counties came together in May and June to offer Circle training free of charge to Circle Volunteers. Nine volunteers from PACT 4 Sentencing Circles in Kandiyohi were trained. The trainers were Sharon Hendrichs and Terry Anfinson. Terry is well known in Minnesota for his efforts in bringing Restorative Justice, Community Circles to the United States. Sharon has been a key supporter of Sentencing Circles in Kandiyohi County since 2000. She helped lay the foundation for much of how the program is run today.

A Circle gives all participants an equal voice. As previously described, the Circle process comes from the Native American tradition. Participants sit in a circle and a talking piece is passed from person to person. Only the individual with the talking piece is allowed to speak. This ensures that everyone has the opportunity to be heard and reduces domination of discussion and/or power of any one individual.

An important piece of the Circle process is that of the Circle Keeper. The Circle Keeper is responsible for guiding the purpose of the Circle. As such, Circle Keepers are always open to all the possible uses of the Circle process.

Volunteers make the difference

Volunteers come from many walks of life bringing a combination of backgrounds and experiences to each Circle. Their interest in working with youth and desire to make their communities safer drive the program. Without volunteers, Circle Sentencing would not be possible. Circle volunteers hold the youth accountable for

In Kandiyohi County, Circles are used as an alternative sentence for juvenile offenders. This type of Circle is often referred to as a Sentencing Circle. In other communities, Circles have been used to resolve conflicts in the work place, between students in school, and as healing strategies for those affected by tragedy.

Even among Sentencing Circles there can be different uses. For example, in Kandiyohi County, Sentencing Circles are only used for juvenile offenders. Other communities use Circle for adults or both adults and juvenile offenders. Sentencing Circles further differ from program to program by the type of cases or offenses they will accept.

Some Sentencing Circles deal with only certain types of offenses, such as in Washington County where they use Circles for domestic assault cases.

Others, such as the PACT 4 Families Restorative Justice program in Kandiyohi County, deal with a variety of different types of offenses, such as: burglary, theft, and vandalism.

Cases are looked at individually by the Program Coordinator as well as the steering committee for the program. There is no right way. Each Circle benefits from the understanding that no Circle outcome or individual involved will be the same.

The uniqueness and ability to tailor the process are what make the Circle process a powerful tool for evoking change and resolution.

their actions, impose a sentence for the youth, and help direct the youth toward a better understanding of themselves and their behaviors. Volunteers are committed to the offenders. They spend approximately five hours a month for two years with each youth. That's almost 250 hours devoted to one youth to help

them to gain insight and make necessary changes

Thank you to all of the volunteers in the PACT 4 Restorative Justice Circle process.

Tricia Buggs
tricia_b@co.kandiyohi.mn.us




Lori Clasemann and her grandchildren at the Metrodome, following the ceremony where she accepted the Salvation Army's Northern Division 2008 Volunteer of the Year Award.


Congratulations to Lori Clasemann, MentorWorks Too-Kinship Director. Clasemann was recently recognized by the Northern Division (Minnesota and North Dakota) of the Salvation Army as **2008 Volunteer of the Year**. This honor recognized Clasemann's role in developing a Mentor program and creating a free household and clothing pantry in Renville, MN. The pantry serves people beyond the Renville County limits. Clasemann also coordinates a [Back to School Supplies drive](#), [Santa's Closet](#), a [Winter Coat Drive](#) and gets kids to [Salvation Army camps](#) in the summer. Clasemann's philosophy is, "Do what needs to be done." She believes that "Everyone should live in the grace zone, not the comfort zone." Clasemann walks with people on their journey by helping with physical and emotional needs. Congratulations Lori, on this outstanding achievement! You have touched many lives in the PACT 4 four-county area. Your continued efforts on behalf of others is greatly appreciated.

For the most up-to-date list of events, check the PACT 4 website at www.pact4.org

July 2008

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1 ; Executive Board; 11:30-2:00; #2055	2	3 	4 Independence Day. Office Closed.
7 ; 21st Century Site Coord Mtg; 1:00-3:00pm; #2057 ; Circle; 5:30 pm; Lakeland Ctr; Seminar 4	8	9 ; Committees & Full Collaborative; 10:00-2:00; KCHHSB; Willmar	10 ; Restorative Justice Advisory Comm; Noon-1:00pm; Blue Heron-Game Room	11
14 ; Circle; 5:30 pm; Lakeland Ctr; Seminar 4 ; Parent Advisory Comm; 6:00 pm; YMCA	15	16	17	18
21 ; Circle; 5:30 pm; Lakeland Ctr; Seminar 4	22	23 ; 4-County ATOD Networking Mtg; 9:00-11:00am; #2055 ; Elementary/Middle School Age Comm; 10:00-12:00; #1010	24	25
28 ; Circle; 5:30 pm; Lakeland Ctr; Seminar 4	29 ; Restorative Justice Volunteer Mtg; 11:45-1:00pm; #2075	30	31	

August 2008

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
4 ; Circle; 5:30 pm; Lakeland Ctr; Seminar 4	5 ; Executive Board; 11:30-2:00; #2055	6	7	8
11 ; Circle; 5:30 pm; Lakeland Ctr; Seminar 4 ; Parent Advisory Comm; 6:00 pm; YMCA	12	13	14 ; Restorative Justice Advisory Comm; Noon-1:00 pm; Blue Heron-Game Room	15
18 ; Circle; 5:30 pm; Lakeland Ctr; Seminar 4	19	20 ; PACT 4 Staff Mtg; 8:30-1:00pm; Office Closed	21	22
25 ; Bridges Out of Poverty Conference; 9:00-4:00; E-Free Church in Willmar ; Circle; 5:30 pm; Lakeland Ctr; Seminar 4	26 ; Bridges Out of Poverty Conference; 9:00-4:00; E-Free Church in Willmar	27	28 	29
30				

**PACT 4 FAMILIES
COLLABORATIVE**

If you have any questions regarding the content of this newsletter or would like to be included on the mailing list, please call (320) 231-7030.

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please contact shawna.steffen@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

It is the policy of PACT 4 Families to provide equal employment opportunity for all, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, sexual orientation, or age.

Family Guide To Keeping Youth Mentally Healthy & Drug Free

A Family Guide To Keeping Youth Mentally Healthy & Drug Free is a public education web site developed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to communicate to parents and other caring adults about how they can help promote their child's mental health and reduce his or her risk for becoming involved with alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs.

<http://family.samhsa.gov/>



PACT 4 Families Collaborative
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED