

**Full Collaborative Meeting**  
**Wednesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010; 11:45 am to 1:45 pm**  
**Kandiyohi Co. Health & Human Services Building; Willmar, MN**

**Present:** Becky Knudson, Heartland CCR & R  
Bonnie Fimon, McLeod Co. Social Service Ctr.  
Brian Gauer, PACT 4 21st CCLC Grant Coordinator  
Char Erickson, PACT 4 Wraparound Coordinator  
Chery Johnson, Kandiyohi Co. Public Health Asst. Director  
Chris Sullivan, Renville County  
Cindy Louwagie, Countryside Public Health Nurse  
David Peterson, Circle Volunteer  
Dean Shuck, Kandiyohi County Commissioner  
Deb Brandt, Heartland Community Relations Director  
Deb West, Kandiyohi Co. Comm. Corrections Director  
Debb Sheehan, PACT 4 Director  
Diane Winter, Meeker Co. Public Health Director  
Dick Larson, Kandiyohi County Commissioner  
Elaine Bolland, Harmony Visitation Center Coord.  
Eric Vogel, U of MN Youth Work Institute  
Gwenn Garcia, PACT 4 Guia Grant Coord.  
Jane Ryan, Dassel/Cokato Early Childhood Programs  
Jill Bruns, Renville County Public Health Director

Joel Peterson, Circle Volunteer  
Kim Hanson, Woodland Centers Unit Director  
Linda Mathiasen, PACT 4 Birth to 5 Grant Coord.  
Linda Senst, McLeod County Pyblic Health  
Lisa Kraft, Hutchinson Schools Director of Special Svcs.  
Loren Hacker, Canby School Superintendent  
Lynn Kuehn, ECHO Charter School  
Marci Robertson, Western Mental Health Program Supervisor  
Mary Kay Sinner, Renville Co. Public Health Family Health Sprvsr  
Pam Lukens, Lester Prairie Schools  
Pat Thomas, Meeker Co. Social Svcs. Supervisor  
Paul Carlson, New London/Spicer School Superintendent  
Rick Loseth, PACT 4 Families Supervisor  
Ron Kutzke, Meeker County Commissioner  
Shelly Huseby, Goodwill/Easter Seals Mission Svcs Mgr  
Susan Arvidson, Yellow Medicine Co. Family Svcs Social Worker  
Tina Schauer, GSL Schools/McLeod Family Connection  
Tricia Buggs, PACT 4 Kandiyohi Co. Community Circles Coord.  
Virginia Sullivan, Renville County parent

**1. Approval of Minutes**

Dick Larson offered a motion to approve the June minutes as presented; Paul Carlson seconded. Motion carried.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Tricia Buggs offered a motion to approve the agenda as written; Gwenn Garcia seconded. Motion carried.

**3. Committee Reports**

a. Executive Board – Fiscally, we're halfway through the year. We've received 45% of our projected income and spent 51%. The board continued the data privacy discussion and chose the date of September 9<sup>th</sup> for the annual retreat. The topic is change and expansion. McLeod County is considering a request to join PACT 4 and so the topic will fit right into discussions around that possibility. Members also discussed the LCTS claiming changes, and the LCTS grant application process. At the next meeting, the PACT 4 management team will present a proposal to the board on their recommendation for the process. Also discussed the discretionary grants year-to-date - we're sitting at \$34,383 awarded, with a budget for \$40,000. Approved two new members: West Central Industries and Youth Connection Center (they work with Somali youth).

b. Adolescent Services Committee – Discussed the future distribution of remaining crisis cards and a speaker from Shelter House shared information about their services.

c. Early Childhood Committee – Goals were discussed, received an update on the Birth to 5 Mental Health grant, which has started its second and final year, worked on a November collaborative presentation, will get a survey out to child care providers to find out what their needs are, and talked about applying for discretionary grant dollars to be a site for a Lessons From the Field training.

d. Elementary/Middle School-Age Committee – Discussion involved regrouping and refocusing the committee, and contacting districts to make them aware of the committee and get more involvement.

e. Wraparound Committee – Discussed meeting satisfaction surveys and youth surveys, elected a new chair and vice-chair, and discussed a collaborative presentation in September.

f. Parent Advisory Committee – Discussed a parent event possibly in October that would be open to all parents, and would include a short Wraparound training for parents.

**4. Double Dutch – Jill Bruns, Renville County Public Health**

Jill's presentation was about teen pregnancy and STD prevention, and how to learn from other countries about lowering teenage birth rates. The United States teenage birth rate is the highest in the developed world and is about four times the

European average. The Netherlands, Germany, and France have some of the lowest teenage births, abortions, and sexually transmitted diseases (STD's) in the world. They began a mass campaign over 20 years ago, with the message: **Safe Sex or No Sex**. Some reasons for their success: they begin discussions about sex at an early age—before embarrassment and before it can be interpreted as sending a signal that the time has come to start having sex; they expend much less time and effort trying to prevent young people from having sex and more time and effort in educating and empowering young people to behave responsibly when they decide to have sex. Some methods that they use are: media campaigns to change social norms and thinking, education in the schools, access to and payment for contraceptives. The “Double Dutch” philosophy includes education that is focused on postponing sex and good decision making, especially for young teens, the expectation that if and when a teen decides to have sex, they always use birth control – both the boy and the girl; not just one or the other. “Young people in the Netherlands feel comfortable discussing sexuality. Requests for contraceptives are not associated with shame. And the media is willing to carry explicit messages designed for young people. The result is that using contraceptives ‘is as ingrained as not going through a red light’.”<sup>i</sup>

According to Bruns, lessons could be learned from the teenage drinking campaign and applied to the problem of teen pregnancy: the USA has successfully launched the campaign in schools and the media about drinking and driving; society now frowns on drinking and driving; acknowledges that drinking does occur, even underage drinking; emphasizes it's best if you don't drink; but if you do drink, don't drive! “The United States cannot simply adopt European approaches completely. We are different in many ways. We place a greater value on abstinence and –given the early age at which our teens begin sexual activity—that is a good thing. But valuing abstinence must not override young people's rights to accurate information that can protect and even save their lives. At a time when 70 percent of 18-year-olds in the USA have had sexual intercourse, we cannot afford to ignore the needs of sexually active youth.”<sup>ii</sup>

Jill shared the packets that have been handed out in the counties of Renville and Redwood, and 18,000 condoms were distributed. STD rates either remained stagnant or went down. Jill received one call from a parent, and it was a respectful exchange. Distribution has dropped off, but she is still working with county administration to get more packets out.

## 5. Grant Reports

a. Restorative Justice/Circle Sentencing – Tricia Buggs, grant coordinator, gave a program update and shared results of a recent volunteer survey. The volunteers are the heart of the program and overall gave favorable responses to the questions. Two circle volunteers were present to share their view of circle and how the experience has benefitted them.

## 6. Other

a. Next Meeting – September 8<sup>th</sup> at the Health and Human Services Building in Willmar.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Shawna Steffen, PACT 4*

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<sup>i</sup> *The Welfare of Europe's Children*, The Policy Press, Bristol, 2000

<sup>ii</sup> *European Approaches to Adolescent Sexual Behavior and Responsibility*, Advocates for Youth, 2008.