

2010 Year in Review



PACT FOR FAMILIES
COLLABORATIVE

Serving Kandiyohi, Meeker, Renville, and Yellow
Medicine Counties since 1993; and beginning
January 1, 2011—also serving McLeod County



MISSION STATEMENT:

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.



Executive Director's Report	3
Evaluation Department Highlights	5
21st Century Community Learning Center	7
Birth to Five Mental Health Grant	9
Chemical Health Coalitions—Renville & Yellow Medicine Counties	10
Family Liaison Program	14
Guía Program	15
Juvenile Justice/Mental Health Planning Grant	16
Restorative Justice/Circle Sentencing	17
School-Based Social Work Services	18
Wraparound	19
Financial Information	21
PACT for Families Membership	26

Executive Director's Report

In a year where scarce resources were ever more difficult to find, PACT for Families continued to hold firm to the notion that working together yields greater outcomes than competing for limited funds. Being purpose-driven is difficult at times when financial resources are inadequate and implementing reforms seems impossible. But time and again, I am impressed with what groups are able to do with limited money and focused approaches.



*Debb Sheehan
Director*

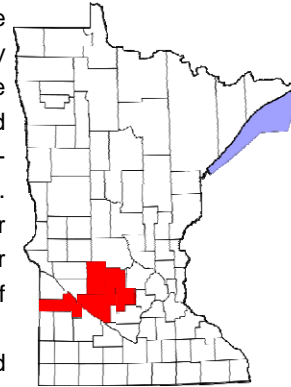
When people and organizations are full of determination, they can make amazing differences in their communities. An example of doing great things with few dollars is the use of discretionary funds during 2010 for activities including: mentoring initiatives, jump start educational programs, scholarships for summer and recreational programs, mental health awareness and training for kids and professionals, correctional diversion programming, school clothes for needy children, Incredible Years classes, and Child Guide support. While our discretionary funds were depleted before the end of the year, they were put to work in amazing ways throughout our region.

While we are not considered an advocacy organization, without holding the needs of children and families in our sight line, and trying to find interventions that make a difference, we are rudderless. Our LCTS/Reserve grants offered hope to families and children through partner agencies providing a wide range of services from day treatment to home visiting to truancy prevention. In addition to supporting partner projects this year, our Social Return on Investment and legislative packets have been presented to area law makers and sent to state legislators to keep them informed about the needs of rural families and the payoff of prevention and early intervention efforts.

According to the Minnesota Department of Human Services, "successful service integration requires commitment to collaboration and coordination within and across various settings in both the public and private sectors." In our 17-year history, PACT for Families Collaborative has been developing an infrastructure for partnering at both the system and service levels to plan, develop and deliver services to children with challenges and to families at risk.

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During the past year, we have been examining our infrastructure to assess whether it can handle the addition of another county. We have had many successes based on four counties working together—how would this change if we became five? And, how could we expand to an even wider geography, more diverse needs, and more partners? In many ways it may not seem logical that we would be open to sharing our wealth of resources and networks. If one did a strict cost-benefit analysis, there would have to be some skepticism. But in the end, our Chief Elected Officials, our Executive Board, and ultimately our larger membership supported not only the letters of the word collaboration, but its spirit as well.



A year of pros and cons, strengths and weaknesses, give and take has led us to the ideal of inclusion—to agree to become a collaborative of five counties, five sectors, and five interrelated systems. The Law of Fives notes that all things happen in Fives, or are divisible by or are multiples of five including the **five** natural senses of sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch, the **five** Elements: Fire, Air, Water, Earth, and Spirit and now too—the **five** counties of PACT for Families.



Evaluation Department Highlights

In 2010 the Evaluation Department of PACT for Families continued its primary task of collecting, analyzing, and reporting data in support of the collaborative's many efforts. In addition, the Evaluation Department assists partner agencies with their data needs. Our current efforts include online data collection when practical to reduce paper waste and to facilitate quick data turn around. We are using online data collection for the School Connectedness survey required for the sixteen 21st Century Community Learning Center grant sites. We have developed online surveys for the public health nurses' home visiting activities, for the Birth to Five Mental Health Grant, and for the Yellow Medicine County Chemical Health Coalition. Our biggest online data effort is the PACT for Families Schools/SHARE survey.



*Dr. Ed Downey
Evaluator*

When the SHARE project ended in the fall of 2009, the participating schools agreed that we would continue with a shortened version of the SHARE survey with 7th, 9th, and 11th graders completing the entire survey and 3rd and 5th graders answering questions about bullying and school safety. The modified survey, now known as the PACT for Families Schools/SHARE survey, was first given in the spring of 2010 and included the option of completing the surveys online. An extensive report of that data including comparisons with the 2009 data can be found at www.pactforfamilies.org. Most schools continued to do paper surveys. While we would prefer schools would use the internet option, we are very appreciative that PACT for Families schools are participating in this data collection effort. Continuing the PACT for Families Schools/SHARE survey is important for several reasons:

- The most important reason is that districts annually receive data that helps them reflect on their school environment in terms of safety issues, chemical health issues, bullying issues, etc. They are able to compare local school data with PACT for Families data as a whole and to compare data trends from year to year. The data allows districts to focus their efforts on improving local practices that impact these issues. Of course, the benefit to districts depends on the extent to which the data is used by administration, teacher groups, committees, etc. With the current push at a national level to turn the tide on bullying, PACT for Families schools are at a huge advantage having this ready access to data.

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- The PACT for Families/SHARE data is extremely valuable in terms of our grant writing efforts. We would not actually have received the SHARE Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant if we hadn't done the initial needs assessment survey in 2005 prior to writing the SHARE grant. That original needs assessment survey evolved into the SHARE survey as we know it today, and SHARE data has been used in securing additional grants including the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant which benefits eight PACT for Families school districts; the Guía grant; the recent Juvenile Justice/Mental Health grant; and chemical health grants for three of our counties. We need to have current survey data available when grant opportunities arise in order to have a leg up on the competition. Partners also use PACT for Families/SHARE survey data in their grant writing efforts. We believe that having annual data gives us an advantage in writing grants because we can report data trends in a timely fashion.
- Survey data is used for grant reporting purposes. The PACT for Families/SHARE survey has been modified to accurately address the data requirements of the federal Drug Free Communities grants held by the public health departments of Kandiyohi and Renville counties. Incorporating those elements into an existing grant program prevents the need for another data collection process.
- The PACT for Families Executive Board and collaborative committees use PACT for Families/SHARE data to provide focus for their efforts. More specifically the 5 to 25/5 Committee has three subcommittees that are focusing on the bullying, mental health, and chemical health issues reflected in this data.

By keeping all districts on board with the survey we can maintain accurate data that reflects the entire collaborative. To this point grantors have been impressed with our ability to gather this sizable amount of data on a regular basis. We need to keep everybody on board and maintain this level of credibility that is so badly needed when approaching grant projects.

Non Formal Education... 21st Century Community Learning Centers Programs



Ian Graue
Coordinator

“Would you tell me please, which way I ought to go from here?” said Alice.

“That depends a good deal on where you want to get to,” said the Cat.

“I don’t much care where ...,” said Alice.

“Then it doesn’t matter which way you go,” said the Cat.

—Lewis Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland*

“If we do it (education) badly, we hurt kids, if we do it well it compounds itself. **Quality matters. Quality is measurable; it’s malleable; and, it’s marketable.**” (Charles Smith, Director of David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality; May 1, 2009, Youth Program Quality National Research Release Symposium)

Furthermore, program quality influences the participation rates of youth, the satisfaction and retention of youth workers and the impact programs have on young people, families and the community.

Because quality matters (not only academic scores), the 21st Century program adopted a quality measuring tool known as *Youth Programs Quality Assessment* (YPQA) and all participating schools were trained in the use of this tool by the University of Minnesota Youth Work Institute in 2010. Program coordinators use this tool on an ongoing basis in order that the quality of all the after school programs may continue to improve. Why? Because quality matters!

In out-of-school-time (OST) or after school programs (*non formal education*), Alice’s question of ‘which way’ is less important than what happens along whichever way is chosen. It is the processes that matter in the program. Research indicates that the **supports offered and opportunities** available through OST programs matter greatly. Research indicates that the things that matter include:

Supports	Opportunities
Caring and nurturing relationships	Develop significant relationships in safe settings
Engaging activities	Gain a sense of mastery/ achievement (in something)
High expectations	Learn about and discover themselves
Continuity over time	Develop their own values
Opportunities for contributions	Contribute
	Realize success and have hope

These supports and opportunities are reflected in the YPQA tool. By using the YPQA, local OST coordinators are encouraged to reflect on how well their program is doing and how they may improve it. They set goals and then, at least each quarter they assess their efforts to achieve the set goals.

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YPQA helps our after-school programs continue to work towards the three state-mandated 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) goals:

- **Increase the academic achievement of participating students in one or more core academic areas.**
- **Increase the school connectedness of participants.**
- **Increase the capacity of participants to become productive adults.**

While all of the eight school districts have their own distinct approach to how they attain the goals (which way they go), they are all helped by YPQA and our ongoing support meetings. OST coordinators work with staff to design and implement programs that endeavor to allow for the above supports and opportunities.

Our programs are having an impact on the local youth. As the saying goes ...‘the truth of the pudding is in the eating’. In the **first year** (2007-2008) of the program, we had **133 students** who attended regularly (30 or more times). This has steadily increased over the years—**194 in year two, 282 in year three** and it looks like we will have in **excess of 400 students** attending regularly in **2010-2011!**

The students’ comments below also indicate that this program is fulfilling the 21st Century goals.

“I love it here! I think that it is great and awesome but we should do more art projects out of recycled stuff and we should... tell people to recycle. My teacher rocks!” (4th grade student)

“This is awesome! I never want 21st Century to end.” (5th grade student)

“Can we do this next week? I have one more idea I want to try.” (4th grade)

“(21st Century) program is not just for struggling/labeled kids. But we are a family and (we) learn in different ways.”

In conclusion, a 21st Century teacher comments:

“Pride (in one’s work) and selflessness are things that cannot be measured or quantified in a goal. They are things that the student feels.”

Seems that the cat was correct with its reply to Alice:

“Then it doesn’t matter which way you go.”
(Just as long as you go someway!)



Early Childhood Mental Health: Social-Emotional Wellness for Children ages Birth to 5 Years

The Birth to Five Mental Health Grant concludes on June 30, 2011. This two-year grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Services is focused on developing an early childhood mental health infrastructure. PACT for Families and the Early Childhood Committee have helped implement and strengthen a number of practices that will continue into the future.



*Linda Mathiasen
Coordinator*

Grant Implementations & Partners: Screening: The Ages & Stages Questionnaire: Social-Emotional (ASQ:SE) screening tool has been expanded to include physicians, public health nurses, early childhood teachers, and childcare directors. The ASQ:SE is a parent report and screens children for social-emotional delays as early as six months of age. It screens for age-appropriate social-emotional milestones at 6, 12, 18, 24, 30, 36, 48, and 60 months and carries a reliability of 94%. In addition to increased opportunities for earlier recognition of concerns, it provides a framework for enhanced communication between parents and professionals working with young children.

Referral Process: Families of children with elevated scores on the ASQ:SE are referred to a public health nurse or may seek direct services from mental health professionals. Public Health provides additional screening options and support to children and families that may not need intervention from a mental health professional. To complete the referral process and with a signed parent release, a communication system is established among the professionals helping the child and family.

Assessment and Intervention: The grant has helped to increase the capacity for local mental health providers to provide diagnostic assessments for the birth to five population. Lutheran Social Services, Western Mental Health, and Woodland Centers have staff trained for this population and have been providing services through grant funding. A range of early to intensive intervention is available in Kandiyohi, Meeker, Renville, and Yellow Medicine counties. Early childhood professionals can guide families and children to the appropriate mental health or other early childhood resource. It may be a parent education program such as Incredible Years, a mental health assessment, or further consultation. Early intervention is proven to help children receive what they need to be social-emotionally ready to learn at school, and to become productive citizens as adults.

Training: Social-emotional training has taken many forms during the grant. ASQ:SE training, with the aid of Help Me Grow and Heartland Community Action Head Start, has been provided to maintain the integrity of the screening tool and will be an annual offering of the PACT for Families Early Childhood Committee. A three-hour curriculum developed by the grant for childcare providers is offered ongoing through Child Care Resource & Referral. The grant also helped promote the Center for Inclusive Child Care's Six Keys: Strategies for Promoting Children's Mental Health training through discounted classes. Many mental health professionals participated in Early Childhood Service Intensity Instrument (ECSII), Diagnostic Classification (DC:0-3) training, and reflective supervision sessions.

Through continued partnership, PACT for Families believes these practices will continue to support early identification, access to needed services, and improved clinical and functional outcomes. Thank you to all the early childhood partners who came together to support young children's mental health. You are making a tremendous difference in a child's life.

Chemical Health Coalition of Renville County

Protecting our youth and creating a community for them to thrive in is the focal point of the RAPAD coalition in Renville County. This has taken shape through a variety of environmental strategies with the hopes of reducing the risk factors and increasing the protective factors in our community. Some of the strategies we have implemented in the past year include:

Student Involvement:

Students are included in the process of planning and implementing environmental strategies in Renville County. There are active youth groups in the RCW, BOLD, GFW, and Cedar Mountain school districts, as well as a community youth group in Morton. A youth group is in the process of being established at St. Mary's in Bird Island. The coalition recognizes that it is important to work "with" youth rather than working "on" youth.

Challenge groups are also held at RCW. Challenge groups are for youth who are "at risk" of alcohol use and abuse and their participation is voluntary. The youth meet weekly with a counselor where they can share with and learn from each other, as well as have the opportunity to develop skills that are important in moving away from using alcohol.

Youth from GFW, BOLD, and RCW along with many of their parents attended the Youth Leadership Academy in Brainerd, MN. Participants attended three sessions pertaining to leadership, marketing, and public presentations. They also had the exciting opportunity to attend two sessions with Craig Hillier, a renowned and motivating speaker who works with youth in developing leadership skills and how to navigate those treacherous roads to adulthood and come out the other side with confidence.

Prevention Curriculum:

Project Northland is an evidenced-based curriculum and is currently being implemented in grades 6-9 in most school districts in Renville County. Cedar Mountain had teachers trained to begin implementing the curriculum this year. It is a unique curriculum in that it not only includes involvement between teachers and students, but engages students' families and encourages them to participate as well.

Cultural Competence:

With the assistance from Wilder Research, RAPAD conducted focus groups within the Latino community in Renville County. A wealth of information was gleaned from this process that will have a huge impact on future coalition work. A presentation about cultural competence in Renville County was given at Program Sharing in St. Cloud in October, 2010.

Membership:

The coalition is always looking for new members within the organizations and populace of Renville County. There are often areas of interest that coincide between the coalition, organizations, and individuals so that a great deal of work can be accomplished by pooling resources and creating a unified approach to decreasing underage drinking. We celebrate our members with a banquet each year and cannot thank them enough for all that they do!

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Annie Tepfer
DFC Coordinator



Renee Brandt
ATOD Coordinator

Compliance Checks:

Compliance checks have continued in Renville County this year. Each time they have been conducted, the success rate climbs. The last compliance check was completed in November and had a 92% success rate. Responsible Beverage Server Training is also offered twice per year for businesses that serve and/or sell alcohol to train their new employees or provide a refresher course for all employees. This training provides education and tools for employees to better protect themselves, their place of employment, and our youth from the illegal sale of alcohol to minors.

MOST of Us®:

RAPAD is involved with the MOST of Us® Positive Community Norms project. The primary focus of this project has been the RCW school district. A survey of students at RCW is conducted each year. Messages for posters, student planners, radio, billboards, parent newsletters, and water bottles are developed based on the information from the survey, which measures perceptions and alcohol use and abuse among students.

“Change Direction” Diversion Program:

RAPAD, in partnership with probation and the county attorney’s office, has created an opportunity for youth who have been arrested for a first-time alcohol violation to receive education for themselves and their families on turning their lives around and away from alcohol use.

Social Host Ordinance:

RAPAD, the Renville County Sheriff’s Department, and the Renville County Attorney’s Office have been actively pursuing a Social Host Ordinance in Renville County. A Social Host Ordinance involves criminal charges for individual(s) who knowingly allow those under age 21 to drink alcohol at their home or property. The coalition has provided education through presentations to the Renville County Board and to city administrators from communities across Renville County. At a public meeting on Feb 22, 2011 the county commissioners unanimously voted to pass a Social Host Ordinance for Renville County. Each city will also need to pass a similar ordinance so that underage alcohol access can be uniformly curbed throughout the county.



5 Year Federal Drug Free Community (DFC) Grant Awarded

PACT for Families realized the coalition was off to a great start and wanted to continue and expand the organization’s efforts after the Department of Human Services state grant ends on June 30, 2011. PACT for Families applied for a DFC federal grant that provides money to local drug-free communities’ coalitions to increase collaboration among community partners to prevent and reduce youth substance use. DFC awarded RAPAD a \$625,000 grant that will assist the coalition in continuing our work for the next five years. The DFC awarded 169 new grants across the country with four awarded in Minnesota. Coalitions must provide a one-to-one match, but this match may be in-kind contributions. Much of the in-kind contributions will be the donation of time from coalition members who include teachers, youth, clergy, business professionals, law enforcement, school superintendents, media, the county attorney, and community leaders. The good news is RAPAD will be leading the community in youth alcohol and drug prevention for another five years, and we are very pleased with that opportunity.

Chemical Health Coalition of Yellow Medicine County

The Chemical Health Coalition of Yellow Medicine County is funded through a grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Services and PACT for Families Collaborative. The grant began in 2006 and will continue through June of 2011. The coalition focuses on three main aspects of preventing underage alcohol use: youth involvement, community awareness, and policy changes.



*Ann Orren
Coordinator*

One of the main accomplishments of the year is the passing of a Social Host Ordinance in Yellow Medicine County on November 9th. A Social Host Ordinance holds individuals (social hosts) criminally responsible for hosting or allowing an event on private or public property where persons under age 21 possess or consume alcohol, regardless of who supplies the alcohol to the minors. This ordinance is enforceable in the unincorporated areas in the county. Our next step is to talk with each city council and propose they pass the same or a similar ordinance.

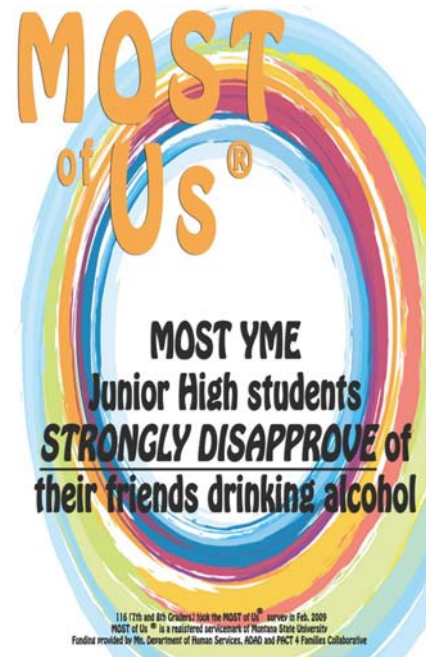
Alcohol compliance checks continue to be completed in the county at least twice per year with encouraging results—over 80% of businesses have passed during each check. In addition to compliance checks, the coalition has offered Responsible Beverage Server training for the last three years. This training is offered to all businesses with a liquor license. Bartenders, wait staff, and convenience store clerks are trained on their responsibilities when serving alcohol, how to check for fake ID's, and how to identify when someone is too intoxicated.

Youth groups in Canby and Yellow Medicine East (YME) continue to meet regularly and plan prevention activities. A youth group in ECHO was also established in 2010. They have hosted parent forums, school dances, bean bag tournaments, and other chemical free activities. Several students attended the third annual Leadership Academy this year in Brainerd. Project Northland curriculum is offered at YME, Canby, and ECHO schools. This program teaches children in the 6th through 9th grades about the effects of alcohol and ways to make healthy choices.

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A large media campaign has been used to increase community awareness regarding underage alcohol use. The goal of the coalition is to change the perceptions around these issues and to correct any misperceptions among community members. The grant is utilizing the MOST of Us® campaign, which uses positive messaging to inform the community that MOST kids are making healthy choices. Posters, a billboard, stickers, and promotional items have been created as a result of this campaign. Community awareness is also increased through the development of newspaper articles, conversation starters, public speaking engagements, and other media.



Family Liaison Program

Family Liaisons have been part of PACT for Families for a number of years. Currently, there is one full-time staff person providing services to families through this program, Polly Peters. The family liaison program is intended to support and empower parents and caregivers during times of high stress or when extra support might be needed. Families new to navigating children's mental health services or struggling with a combination of parenting or financial stressors all make use of this resource. The goals of the family liaison program are to:

- Nurture self-advocacy through respect
- Listen
- Help families increase their knowledge of and connect them to available resources
- Support families during the process

The family and liaison together set goals to help families accomplish various tasks. The liaison builds off the families' strengths and together examines ways to better address each unique situation.

Families are referred a number of ways – school social workers, mental health staff, county social workers, Head Start, and other community professionals. The program is voluntary, with families agreeing to participate. All referrals are reviewed through the PACT for Families office, and initial contact with the family is made by Polly. She sets goals with the family, and meets with them over a couple of months to address their needs. The program is free of charge and available to all families. The liaison program has been serving families in Kandiyohi, Meeker, Renville, and Yellow Medicine counties and has worked with 30 families over this last year. With McLeod County joining in 2011, family liaison time will be increased to better serve the expanded service area.

Rick Loseth, Clinical Supervisor



Guía Program—Chemical Health Intervention for Latino Youth

The Guía program completed its second full year of providing culturally-appropriate chemical health intervention services for Hispanic/Latino and their families. This program is available to youth ages 13-22 who are considered at-risk or at high-risk for using alcohol and drugs. At-risk youth are those who have experimented with the use of alcohol or other chemicals, are highly suspected of using, or have friends and siblings or other family members that repeatedly use. High-risk youth are those who have been identified as using alcohol or drugs repeatedly, have completed Chemical Dependency (CD) treatment, or who could benefit from treatment. Youth in the Guía program live in the PACT for Families Collaborative area (Kandiyohi, Meeker, Renville, and Yellow Medicine counties) and are eligible to receive services for up to eighteen months. A total of 73 youth were enrolled in the Guía program during the grant contract year, including 23 at-risk youth and 50 high-risk youth. In addition, 75 adult family members of program youth have received services from Guía staff so they can support their youth in remaining drug/alcohol free.



*Jennifer Briest
Coordinator*

The Guía program has continued to provide individualized services to youth and families through a team of coaches/guides (“Guía” is Spanish for “guide”) and a family liaison who assist in overcoming life’s hurdles without the use of alcohol or drugs. Our coaches have worked side by side with youth and families throughout this year to set and achieve life goals, such as graduating from high school, securing employment, enrolling in college, reducing use or abstaining from use of alcohol or drugs, and learning new skills. The program embraces an approach that views change as a process, honors cultural diversity, and builds upon the unique strengths and resiliency of youth, families, and our communities.

The Guía program continues to have a presence in area schools, including Willmar High School, Willmar ALC, YME, BOLD, and RCW. The program has recently expanded to Willmar Middle School. We offered activities throughout the year that supported alcohol and drug-free living; promoted greater awareness of use issues; and provided creative, educational, and social skill-building opportunities. These regular activities included bi-weekly talking circles, educational presentations from area professionals, Creating Lasting Family Connections chemical intervention programming, group recreational activities, Check and Connect contacts, and one-on-one relationship building.

Referrals for participation in the Guía program can be made by anyone who is aware of Hispanic/Latino youth or young adults affected by alcohol or drugs. The most common referral sources include youth self-referrals, school counselors, county case managers, parents or other family members, friends, or corrections workers. Referral forms can be found at www.pactforfamilies.org under the “Programs” link and mailed to: Guía, PACT for Families Collaborative, 2200 23rd St. NE Suite 2030, Willmar, MN 56201.

Juvenile Justice/Mental Health Planning Grant

In 2009 PACT for Families was awarded a one year \$50,000 planning grant to develop ideas and programming on how to best serve young people with mental health problems and/or chemical health issues and have found themselves in the justice system because of non-violent crimes. The plan, of course, was to follow the planning grant with an additional 30-month grant submission in April 2010 that would allow an additional six months of planning and 24 months of implementation.

We made good planning progress in all four counties during the early part of 2010. A monthly meeting was held in each county from January through July. Prior to meeting we surveyed service providers, stakeholders, families, and youth about available services as well as gaps in services, and their ideas for additional programming. At each first meeting Greta Smolnisky, project coordinator, presented a list of factors that individuals from the respective counties identified as positive (what each county was doing right, what strengths exist within the communities, what resources are available, etc.), negative (what problems exist, what resources are needed, what obstacles need addressing, etc.), and neutral (factors neither positive nor negative that may bear on the issue of improving services for corrections-youth with mental health and co-occurring MI/CD concerns). At subsequent meetings participants generated potential programming options and defined the youth population most in need of that programming. Individuals from each county were nominated to the Steering Committee, which met in late March to review an outline of what became PACT's "Phase 2" funding request for the 30-month Implementation Grant. The Implementation Grant was submitted in April and the county committees continued to meet and develop programming within the broader parameters of the initial grant and the Phase 2 grant proposal and to focus on meeting the specific needs of youth in each county. Meeker and Renville counties' committee members refined a diversion model developed to identify youth with mental health concerns when they first appear in court. Yellow Medicine County committee members identified young adults who were incarcerated but who would soon reenter the community as their target population. Kandiyohi County began developing a plan to provide needed skills and assistance to justice-involved youth in transition to adulthood.

Unfortunately, PACT for Families was notified in late September that the Phase 2 funding was not approved and the only ideas that could be implemented from the months of committee meetings are those ideas that either did not involve expenditure of additional dollars or that counties could fund through other sources. Clearly some aspects of the programming identified by each county planning committee can be implemented without additional money, so long as there is continued collaboration among the people and agencies that this planning grant helped draw together. This year of planning has emphasized that improving services for justice-involved youth with mental health concerns is important. Progress toward meeting the needs of these youth will continue so long as the conversations initiated during the past year continue as well.

Dr. Ed Downey, Program Supervisor

Restorative Justice/Circle Sentencing

Restorative Justice efforts in Kandiyohi County this past year have been very successful. In June, Kandiyohi County Community Corrections and PACT for Families Collaborative reported year one grant evaluations to the Otto Bremer Foundation. We were proud to report that we had met our objectives and we were able to prove that, in the case of one particular youth, Restorative Justice involvement had conservatively saved the county an estimated \$12,535.00. These cost savings go even deeper when we look at all the at-risk youth that we serve and how we are helping them stay in the community and repair the harm caused by their crimes. Kandiyohi County Commissioners and administration have recognized the cost savings the program has for the county and will cover funding of the program for the remainder of the year (July through December) that right now is funded by the Bremer Foundation grant, which ends June 30, 2011.



*Tricia Buggs
Coordinator*

In addition to meeting our objectives, we saw two youth successfully complete the program this past year. It is gratifying to watch youth move through the process and make positive changes in their lives. The process creates trust and relationships between these youth and the community and results in reduced recidivism and provides cost savings to the county. The Circle process helps youth develop skills, increase competence, and learn how their behaviors impact the community. We continue to have an outstanding base of community volunteers that help youth develop these skills. Without the volunteers the program would not be possible.

Finally, this past year the steering committee, made up of local Judges, representatives from the County Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Community Corrections, Prairie Lakes Youth Programs, local law enforcement, business owners, and community volunteers began to look at the feasibility of having Circle youth clean and repair damage caused to victims' properties. It was proposed that these youth could respond to damage to property/graffiti clean-up for crime victims as a whole, not necessarily for those crimes that the youth specifically committed. Liability and the need for waivers are being considered as well as looking at legislation that would allow for youth to do this as part of their Circle Sentencing compact. The group also continues to discuss ways to increase referrals and what direction the program should take.

School-Based Social Work Services

School-based social workers or counselors have been part of PACT for Families for a number of years. The first two positions began in 1996, and now there are nine full-time and two part-time staff working in ten school districts across the five counties. The school districts include ACGC, Litchfield, BOLD, Buffalo Lake/Hector/Stewart, Renville County West, Cedar Mountain, ECHO Charter School, Canby, New London/Spicer, and Willmar. Each position is unique to the building and district they work in. Four of the positions serve grades K-12 (BOLD, Cedar Mountain, ECHO Charter, and Canby); the other positions cover a combination of elementary, middle school, and high school grades, all dependent on the buildings they are assigned to by the district.



*Rick Loseth
Clinical Supervisor*

The full-time and part-time positions are over a ten-month period, covering the school year with time before and after school for increased student or family contact. Several staff help with targeted services or special programming at the end of the year and into June; others work with a “jumpstart” program in August or before school starts to help kids get re-engaged with school. During the school year, staff provide a critical link from the school to students and their families. They are involved with Individual Educational Plans and provide a combination of classroom presentations, small group, and individual meetings with students. While these are many of the common duties, each position provides something unique to the building and grades they are working with.

During the 2009/10 school year, PACT for Families’ school-based staff saw 1,446 kids and had over 16,500 contacts with them. Those contacts include meeting with students one-to-one, in small groups, or presentations to a classroom. On the more qualitative side of their daily work, school social workers address truancy issues, work with students who are in conflict with others, deal with anger issues, provide encouragement, and offer steady guidance.

Feedback from kids, parents and the school all support the real difference school-based staff make in the lives of kids every day in school and help to carry the success to their home and community.

Wraparound

Wraparound is a voluntary, strength-based team process for developing and implementing plans for families with complex needs. It is a small scale representation of the larger picture of collaboration.



*Char Erickson
Coordinator*

PACT for Families Collaborative shares much of the same values of Wraparound, including strength-based collaboration and empowerment of families. Wraparound provides a forum for families, service providers, and informal supports to all work together toward a common goal. Teams are chosen by the families, and meet on a regular basis to identify and monitor goals in a strength-based, supportive atmosphere.

As Wraparound Coordinator, I am available to facilitate Wraparound teams when circumstances are unusually complicated or when there is no trained facilitator available. In 2010, I had the opportunity to facilitate a total of 21 teams. Some of these teams continue to meet, while others were short-term teams that disbanded or transitioned to another facilitator. Following is the breakdown of these Wraparound teams. The numbers only represent teams facilitated by the Coordinator; other teams are facilitated by social workers or Wraparound-trained providers.

Teams in Kandiyohi County	16
Teams in Meeker County	2
Teams in Renville County	1
Teams in Yellow Medicine County	2
Child Welfare/Child Protection Teams	8
Children's Mental Health Teams	3
Reserve Teams ~ no county social worker	10

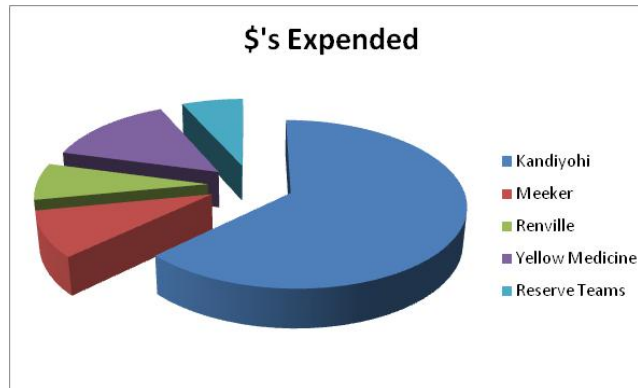
Three Wraparound orientations were provided in 2010, with a total of 25 people attending:

- January 21: Provided orientation to two Renville County Public Health nurses
- March 12: Fourteen people attended orientation, plus one parent who shared her story
- December 3: Nine people attended orientation, plus one parent who shared her story

(continued on following page)

PACT for Families integrated funding has designated Wraparound dollars for services or items that cannot be funded through other means. In 2010, each of the four counties had a designated pot of money for this purpose. PACT for Families also maintains a “reserve fund” for teams in which there is no county social worker. With decreased funding in 2010, teams were very resourceful to find ways to meet needs, such as utilizing our e-mail network, contacting area churches, requesting scholarships, etc. Wraparound funds have been used to pay the balance when a financial gap remains.

The Wraparound Committee is excited about the addition of McLeod County and plans are underway to provide Wraparound orientation and flexible funding in 2011.



<u>County</u>	<u>\$'s Expended</u>	<u># of Kids Served</u>
Kandiyohi	5540	91
Meeker	790	17
Renville	638	6
Yellow Medicine	1242	13
Reserve Teams	590	16

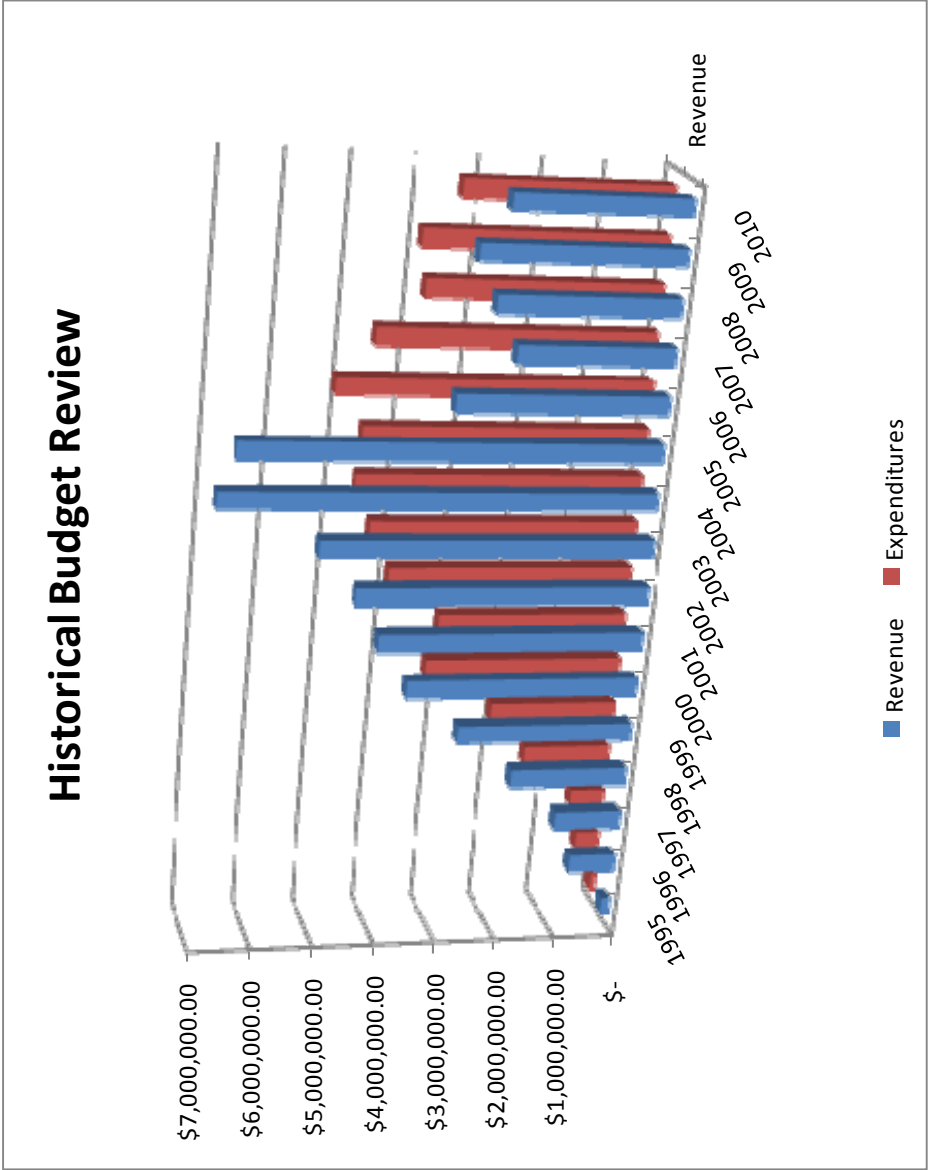
Examples of what Wraparound dollars were expended on include:

Activity fees and supplies, camp, childcare, gas cards, reimbursement for PCA's to attend Wraparound meetings, rewards & incentives, rent, school pictures, and utilities.

Financial Information

The PACT for Families budget is determined by the dollars available through a number of funding sources, including state and federal grants, foundations, local dollars, and membership contributions. These dollars are put into an Integrated Fund and used to address the goals and programs that have been established by the collaborative. The 17-year history of PACT for Families, combined with lessons learned thus far, have demonstrated that system integration does help to extend the resources that are in place and help to develop new resources. We have worked closely over the years with our partners to reduce duplication and maintain and expand services for families. Each year PACT for Families undergoes an audit by the Minnesota Office of the State Auditor to assure that solid accounting principles are followed and dollars are distributed correctly. The PACT for Families budget is developed by the Executive Board and approved by the Chief Elected Officials Board.

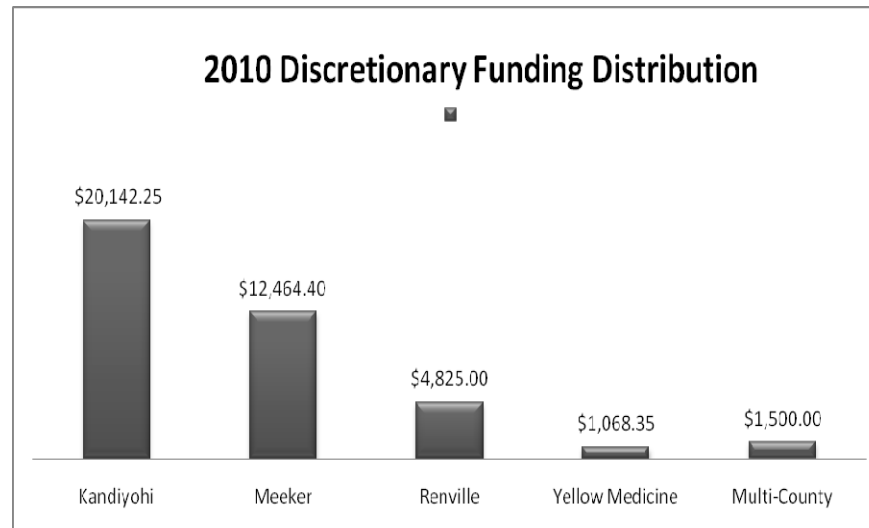
Year	Revenue	Expenditures
1995	\$ 131,075.89	\$ 75,377.05
1996	\$ 772,126.65	\$ 405,211.38
1997	\$ 1,090,701.29	\$ 576,497.98
1998	\$ 1,915,720.42	\$ 1,455,809.70
1999	\$ 2,867,167.16	\$ 2,074,854.08
2000	\$ 3,764,957.92	\$ 3,228,540.25
2001	\$ 4,267,543.73	\$ 3,090,173.90
2002	\$ 4,682,137.61	\$ 3,978,715.85
2003	\$ 5,310,772.86	\$ 4,333,591.85
2004	\$ 6,935,081.00	\$ 4,623,731.00
2005	\$ 6,670,502.48	\$ 4,569,100.94
2006	\$ 3,396,624.97	\$ 5,063,195.49
2007	\$ 2,514,822.89	\$ 4,490,574.30
2008	\$ 2,896,170.00	\$ 3,779,091.91
2009	\$ 3,231,693.91	\$ 3,899,396.00
2010	\$ 2,817,276.59	\$ 3,357,465.95



Flexible Funds/Discretionary Grants/Discretionary Plus Grants

In 2010 allocations for Flexible funding, Discretionary grants and Discretionary Plus grants were consolidated into one Discretionary pool. Below you see the breakdown of funding awarded throughout the year by county. Dollars allocated through the Discretionary fund are requested through a brief application process, available through the PACT for Families office or website, and accepted anytime during the year. Discretionary funds are typically meant to provide funding for new, unique or one-time programs or services. Members are asked to not request LCTS Discretionary funds when other monies are available to fund a project or when the activity is something the agency would normally be expected to do.

These funds were provided through dollars generated by the Local Collaborative Time Study (LCTS) and allow for creativity and vision in meeting the needs of children and families. These funds will continue into 2011 with an increased allocation for the new fiscal year of \$60,000 to better meet the growing needs in our communities.

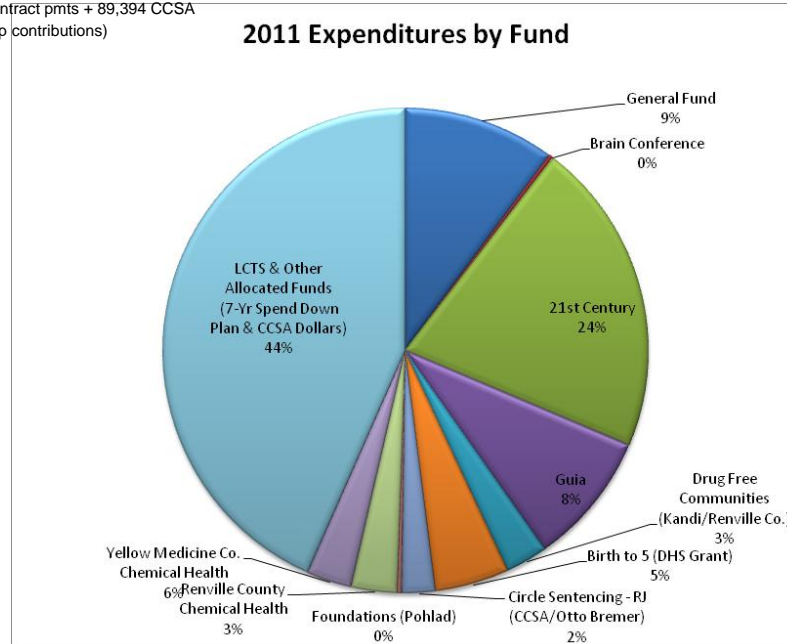


2011 Expenditure Breakdown

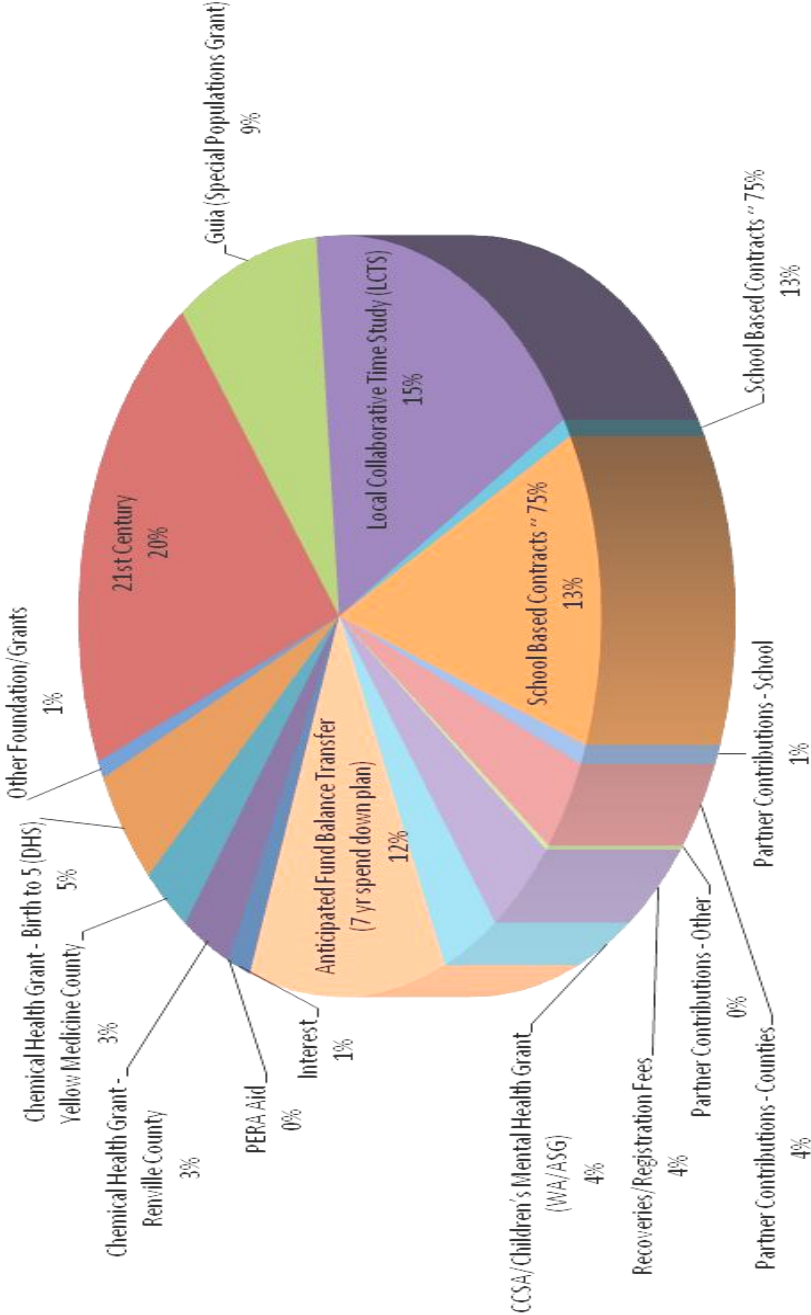
General Fund	\$	334,039.00	
Brain Conference	\$	8,350.00	
21st Century	\$	690,000.00	
Guia	\$	292,000.00	
Drug Free Communities (Kandi/Renville Co.)	\$	92,938.00	
Birth to 5 (DHS Grant)	\$	162,349.00	
Circle Sentencing - RJ (CCSA/Otto Bremer)	\$	72,470.00	
Foundations (Pohlad)	\$	10,000.00	
Renville County Chemical Health	\$	100,168.00	
Yellow Medicine County Chemical Health	\$	99,300.00	
LCTS & Other Allocated Funds (7-Yr Spend Down Plan & CCSA Dollars)	\$	1,427,769.00	*
	\$	3,289,383.00	
LCTS / General Fund Allocations Breakdown			
Competitive Grants	\$	300,000.00	
Discretionary (includes Flex Funds)	\$	60,000.00	(includes pmts through McLeod startup)
School Based SW/Counselors	\$	663,880.00	(437,797 will be paid by schools through contracts)
Wraparound	\$	129,304.00	(includes pmts through McLeod startup)
Intensive Home Based Services	\$	109,394.00	(includes pmts through CCSA)
Universal Contact (PH)	\$	80,000.00	
Family Liaison	\$	71,191.00	(includes pmts through McLeod startup)

*(s/b--1,427,769 --400,000 fb transfer +485,578 lcts rev.+ 437,797 school contract pmts + 89,394 CCSA + 15,000 McLeod startup contributions)

2011 Expenditures by Fund



Estimated Revenue



We would like to thank our PACT for members for their continued partnership. With all of us pulling together...

...PACT for Families has been able to leverage \$27.3 million in state and federal grants.

According to Social Return on Investment research, every dollar invested in programs for children returns between \$3 and \$34 in benefits to society. Just think what the total dollars would be for the grant funds that have been leveraged in overall return value to our communities—that is between \$82 and \$928 million dollars of value!

Still, our greatest returns are seen on the faces of the children and families who benefit from these services.

Thanks for all you do to pull together with your collaborative partners:

Kandiyohi County Community Corrections
Kandiyohi County Family Services
Kandiyohi County Public Health
Meeker County Court Services
Meeker County Social Services
Meeker County Public Health
McLeod County Court Services
McLeod County Social Services
McLeod County Public Health
Renville County Human Services
Renville County Court Services
Renville County Public Health
Yellow Medicine County Family Services
Countryside Public Health
6West Corrections
Upper Sioux Community
Greater Minnesota Family Services
Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota
Western Mental Health Center
Woodland Centers
Project Turnabout



Rice Memorial Hospital/Institute
Canby Youth Center "The Connection"
City of Morton
Eighth District Nurses Association of Minnesota
Goodwill Easter Seals
Heartland Community Action Agency
Litchfield Area Mentorship Program (LAMP)
Minnesota Valley Counseling Cooperative (MVCC)
Prairie 5 Head Start
Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center (PWELC)
Safe Avenues, Inc.
SW/WC Little Crow Cooperative
U of M Extension Service - Kandiyohi County
U of M Extension Service - Renville County
U of M Extension Service - Yellow Medicine County
Willmar Community Education & Recreation
Atwater/Cosmos/Grove City Public Schools
BOLD Public Schools
Buffalo Lake/Hector/Stewart Public Schools
Canby Public Schools
Cedar Mountain Public Schools
Central MN Christian School
Community Christian School
Dassel/Cokato Public Schools
ECHO Charter School
Eden Valley/Watkins Public Schools
Gibbon/Fairfax/Winthrop Public Schools
Glencoe/Silver Lake Public Schools
Hutchinson Public Schools
Lester Prairie Public Schools
Litchfield Public Schools
MACCRAY Public Schools
New London/Spicer Public Schools
Renville County West Public Schools
Willmar Public Schools
Yellow Medicine East Public Schools