

FAMILY POLICY BOARD COMMITTEE

Monday, January 7, 2013

Health & Human Services Building – Basement Auditorium

12:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Boehm, Jennifer Borchard, Vicki Burke, Janet Chaney, Chris Crye, Rande Daykin, Mike Desmond, Mary Fitzpatrick, Maureen Freedland, Sara Halvorson, Troy Harcey, Ann Kappauf, Lacie Ketelhut, Catherine Kolkmeier, Ann Kramer, Monica Kruse, Lyndsey Langer, Lorie Lautz, Keith Lease, Kathryn Mayer, John Medinger, Mary Meehan-Strub, Tom Miller, Nancy Pohlman, Pat Ruda, Regina Siegel, Sarah Spah, Jodi Widuch and Jason Witt

CALL TO ORDER

Mike Desmond called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. and then asked for a motion to approve the December 3, 2012 meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 12/03/12 MEETING

MOTION by Regina Siegel/Jodi Widuch to approve the December 3, 2012 minutes as presented; **Motion carried unanimously.**

REBUILDING FOR LEARNING: Troy Harcey

- Troy Harcey provided a Power Point presentation that highlighted the following information:
- Troy reports that this community has a lot of well intended people who are really trying to help but we need to look at “where do we have redundancies?”
- We need to look at “where do we have gaps in services”.
- Troy reports that they surveyed 679 secondary school students and asked questions about their home environment, do they have family supports, etc. They asked these questions to find out what may be the problems that make the student not present when they are at school.
- Collaboration is important so no one organization is trying to take this on as it is bigger than this.
- They have a steering committee that includes Karl Green, Doug Mormann, Matt Harter, Regina Siegel, Randy Nelson, Jason Witt, Larry Kirch and Troy Harcey.

The Next Steps:

- They want to develop a website of resources.
- Work on internal barriers that agencies have and external barriers and develop better communication between agencies.
- They are having the “Rebuilding for Learning Summit III on Tuesday, August 13, 2013.
- They want to develop more collaboration between schools, families, local agencies, etc.

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND BOARD UPDATES:

- **HHS Board Update/Family Policy Board Executive Committee: Monica Kruse**

Monica Kruse talked about the Frac Sand Mining Summit and reported that people from all over the area, i.e., Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa participated and there was electronic participation in this summit which talked about the impact on health and resources. Monica reports that there were representatives from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, etc. Monica reports that it was disappointing in that there are no serious guidelines around this issue and that it is viewed as a good economic boom and good for economic growth.

- **HS Director Update: Jason Witt**

As part of its "Food for All Initiative, the Franke Foundation is making available \$100,000 grant opportunity for a collaborative effort related to purchasing, cooking and distribution of healthier food for people in need in La Crosse County. Any 501(c) (3) organization is eligible to apply and applications must demonstrate collaboration with local government. Jason said Human Services is able to work with more than one agency in the local government collaboration part of their applications, and that any agency applying should feel free to contact him.

- **Family and Children's Section Update: Nancy Pohlman**

Nancy Pohlman reports on the Child Welfare Quality Review and states that we are now in the post Quality Review action planning process.

The Children with Special Needs Unit Supervisor Keith Keller retired on January 4, 2013.

Nancy reports that she has hired Wade Welper as the new Children with Special Needs Unit Supervisor and he will be starting with us on Monday, February 4, 2013.

WORK GROUP REPORTS

Mental Health & Substance Abuse: The Chair, Pat Ruda, reports that they met today at 11:00 a.m. and discussed the following:

- They want to go over their action plan.
- They want to make sure appropriate agencies are at the table.
- They feel they are pretty well represented as far as mental health and AODA is concerned.
- They want to make sure efforts of the subcommittee are coordinated with the Barriers to Learning initiative.
- They will be providing feedback to the County.
- Jason Witt reports that a resource map of local mental health and substance abuse services is being developed to better understand the current local resource mix.
- Jason Witt reports that they have a new Service Guide and will distribute this at our next meeting next month.
- Jason Witt reports that next month we will be having a presentation from Great Rivers 2-1-1 and SOAT (Service Options Assessment Team) and 2-1-1 will talk about the database for Youth Services.
- Pat Ruda reports that this group is moving along.

Economic Security: Janet Chaney reports that they are focusing on Job Preparedness in Youth; in conjunction with the Rebuilding for Learning plan. They are looking at what we can do as a board (The Family Policy Board).

Safe & Healthy Environment: Nancy Pohlman reports they have two action plans, they are as follows:

- 1) The key to Safe and Healthy Environments is to help parents obtain information on resources.
- 2) Identify barriers to parents accessing services and accepting services.

- Nancy Pohlman reports that this group is working hard.

REMINDER: Mike Desmond

Next Month, February 4, 2013 meeting, the agency presentation will be the Family & Children's Center presentation and the March 4, 2013 meeting; the agency presentation will be the Parenting Place presentation.

AGENCY UPDATES:

- Maureen Freedland announced that AMOS a Church base group is starting Hmong citizenship assistance.

ADJOURN:

Mike Desmond asked for a motion to adjourn:

MOTION by Jodi Widuch/Janet Chaney to adjourn at 12:55 p.m.; **Motion carried unanimously.**

NEXT MEETING: Monday, February 4, 2013

Approved: February 4, 2013, Tammy Hoskins, Recorder