

**WAYNE COUNTY FAMILY & CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
MINUTES
January 8, 2007**

- Present:** Rob Johnston, YMCA and City of Wooster
Cameron Maneese, Council Coordinator
Randy Muth, Wayne Co. Children Services
John Tooley, Wayne Co. Board of MR/DD
William Mateer, Wayne Co. MH&R Board
Mary Mertic, Parent Representative
Jeff Anderson, Dept. of Youth Services
Dan Good, Wooster City Schools
Carla Unkefer, Community Action/Head Start
Ann Obrecht, Wayne Co. Commissioner
Sue Steingass, Wayne Co. Dept. of Job & Family Services
Cherie Graham, Parent Representative
Suzanne Huse, Help Me Grow
Polly Baker, Parent Representative
Susan Buchwalter, The Counseling Center
Brenda Linnick, United Way of Wayne & Homes Cos.
Robert Zeh, Your Human Resource Center
Helen Meyers, Orrville Area United Way/Orrville Turning Point Coalition
Mary West, The Salvation Army
Raymond Leisy, Wayne County Juvenile Court
Gary Porter, Christian Children's Home
Bonnie Sander, MOMS/Even Start
Bob Hurdle, Catholic Charities of Wayne County
Melinda Hill, OSU Extension
Karen Galloway, CFHS/21st Century
Wayne Girbach, Tri County ESC
Melody Snure, Gault Family Learning Center
Robert Smedley, MH&R Board
Lyn Moomaw, Wayne Co. Career Center
Sylvia Upp, PFS
- Guests:** Honorable Ron Amstutz, Ohio Senate
Janice Houchins, NE Coordinator for Ohio FCF
Sue Hogan, COAD/ECE
Chris Kick, Wooster Daily Record
Mark Stefanik, Wooster City Schools
Rodd Welker, CCHO
Tammy Cruise, STEPS and Every Woman's House

The meeting was held at the Kinney Building located at 2534 Burbank Rd., Wooster, OH.
The Chairperson, Rob Johnston, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Introductions were made.

A plaque was given to John Tooley in recognition and appreciation for his service as Chairperson of the Council, a position he has held four times to date.

MINUTES

West made the motion seconded by Obrecht that the Minutes of December 4, 2006 meeting are approved as submitted. Motion approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee – Tooley reviewed the Minutes from the December 19, 2006 meeting of the committee that had been distributed to all members of the Council. Tooley highlighted that the committee:

- Passed a motion to accept the modified HMG flow chart.
- Approved Children Trust Fund existing programs are extended for another year.
- Reviewed changes in the Council's agenda for FCFC meeting. The three priorities from the Council's retreat are at the top of the new agenda.

Resource & Grants Management Committee – Meyers reported on the meeting of January 8, 2006 that met prior to Council:

- Maneese reviewed the current grant programs and budgets
- Anne Goon from the Safe Communities grant will be asked to come to a FCFC meeting to provide an update
- Discussion took place regarding Help Me Grow (HMG) and the draft RFP
- Current CTF programs will be funded for a one year grant cycle. Outcomes of current programs will be reviewed. Huse reported HMG funds cannot be used for the Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) program. She will contact local Rotary Clubs and other organizations to find match funds. 2100 children in Wayne County were served last year in the RIF book distribution program.

Planning Committee – Linnick reviewed the December 14, 2006 Minutes of the committee that had been distributed to all the members of the Council.

Communications Committee – Hill and Meyers reviewed the Minutes of the December 6, 2006 meeting that had been distributed to all Council Members highlighting that Ric Snyder will be updating and maintaining the FCFC website free of charge. Also, Keith Hughes of WayneEvents.com will be meeting with the committee on January 31, 2007 to answer questions regarding the Council using his email events service.

Maneese handed out a proposed FCFC brochure that the committee has been reviewing. Discussion and suggestions were given by many regarding the slogan and making the brochure more user-friendly. Snure noted a correction that the Growing Together

Newsletter should be to age 6. There was further discussion about the purpose of the brochure. Meyers suggested having two different brochures (one for agencies and one for parents) to reflect the different purposes/uses. The Communications Committee will address the various concerns and suggestions at their next meeting.

Financial Reports – Mateer reviewed the Summary Sheet that had been distributed to all Council Members. Mateer noted a correction that 35% of the Division Funds had been used. Mateer made the motion seconded by Good that the Financial Report be approved with the correction. Motion carried.

Senator Amstutz was given the floor to share issues with the Council for the upcoming year. Amstutz stated that Work Force Development is a top priority for the new administration and for Congress. He added that we are all stakeholders in the work that needs to be done. He also mentioned that education in 2007 will require more action. The Ohio Core bill that passed made policy changes, but does not fund those changes. He also stated that the bill has high academic standards for our children, but it does not address the needs of at risk students.

Coordinator's Report – Maneese reported:

- WCFCFC's plan for HB 289 will be sent to the state showing that we are aligning towards our goals. Outcomes will be monitored and reported to Council.
- Council By-Laws had been given to all Council members for review. Council will vote on them at February's Council meeting.
- Maneese handed out copies of Ohio FCF's Executive Summary for reference.

Houchins added that First Lady Taft has encouraged First Lady Strickland's involvement in the Ohio FCF. Maneese states that she will send a copy of the summary by email also for Council members to reference.

Houchins commended Wayne County for being ahead of the game on many issues concerning FCF.

Maneese mentioned that she has some Children Trust Fund calendars, if anyone would like one. West commented that she would rather see CTF use money for programs instead of printing calendars. Houchins stated that accountability on how funds are used is being addressed at the state level. Linnick added that we need to also look at our own county in regards to accountability on how funds are spent, referencing the new brochures.

Help Me Grow – Huse reported:

- Change in format on reporting numbers
- RIF grant has given verbal approval that Wayne County will receive funds for the 5th year. RIF serves children 0-11 years old and HMG serves children 0-3, so some match funds will need to come from a source other than HMG.

Steingass stated that she will look into the possibility of Childcare Administration money being used for that.

- A new full-time HMG staff person will be starting soon and 1 part-time staff will be going to full-time.
- Huse will be attending a training that will enable her to become the clinical supervisor for the HMG staff.

School and Community Partnership – Good reported:

- The bill that would change the school days from 178 days to hours was vetoed.
- Ohio Core Curriculum requires all current 5th graders to complete Algebra II before graduation. In addition although not mandated, every 7th grader will be given the opportunity to complete Algebra I. Also, credit earning opportunities will now be available at the middle school for high school credits.
- Intensive individual interventions need to support all learners.

Good also expressed appreciation to all the agencies providing help during the school district's time of grieving the recent loss of two staff members.

Steingass reported that in preparation for a state audit of WCDJFS contracts, a consultant has been obtained to review existing contracts and to offer suggestions. The consultant, Jack Hogan will begin with Tri-County ESC.

Sue Steingass will be retiring from the Department of Job and Family Services, a position she has held for 18 years. In recognition of this event she was presented with a plaque in appreciation for her years of service to Wayne County and her support of the Wayne County Family and Children First Council

Child and Family Health Services/21st Century Program – Galloway reported:

- CFHS is a grant from ODH with 4 key components: Community Health Assessment Planning, which produced the “What’s Up With Our Kids” document; Lead Poisoning and Immunization Education Awareness through a contract with WCHD; Community Health Worker, who targets the southern Wooster area to assist families in gaining access to Medicaid and other health services through a contract with Salvation Army; and Reducing Childhood Obesity using the OSU Extension program, “Eat Well, Play Hard” which teaches students at Northwestern, Rittman and Shreve after school programs how to make healthy snacks, eat healthy and stay active.
- 21st Century Community Learning Center is a grant from ODE that provides funding for Before and After School and Summer programs at Rittman, Northwestern, Shreve and Wooster Opportunity Schools. Galloway passed around documents showing the goals of the program, numbers of students using the program at each site, a newspaper article about the Wooster Opportunity School’s Christmas family event, and a data collection checklist showing all the

different types of data collected used in evaluating each site. Galloway stated that as part of the grant requirement the federal government requires certain data be collected and reported. Wayne County also contracts with Dr. Kristofco from Wayne College to evaluate added data and surveys collected. Galloway added that programs and data collection have been “works in progress” with the intent of modifying each to better evaluate and reach the program’s goals.

Maneese reminded Council Members to please complete the Cultural Competency Survey that was emailed to them and submit to Galloway by January 26.

Old Business

There was no old business discussed.

New Business – Open Forum

Snure shared that the parenting newsletter, Growing Together started 7 years ago. The Gault Family Learning Center has helped develop the newsletter and taken care of getting the newsletters printed and mailed. The newsletter contains research based information for parents. The wrapper that is around the newsletter when mailed contains local agency information. If agencies have information they would like to share, it can be given to Snure. Snure also shared there is a need for funding to pay continued distribution of the newsletters after June. Approximately 1841 Wayne County residents are on the mailing list.

Hill announced that March 11 begins the Week of the Young Child. Also, on January 25 at the College of Wooster, William Crane will be lecturing on Reclaiming Childhood.

Cruise reminded Council that STEPS is offering the Bridges Out of Poverty training on January 23 and 24.

Linnick announced that she has VITA posters for distribution. The United Way will be helping families apply for Earned Income Tax Credit and Long Distance Tax Refunds. Also, January 11 from 4:00 p.m. until closing, local people will be serving at Longhorn restaurant for a fundraiser for the United Way.

Obrecht announced there will be a retirement open house for Sue Steingass on January 26, 2007 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., with a presentation at 3:00 p.m. Also, there will be a Transportation meeting on January 30, 2007 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. to form a county plan for public transportation. This plan must be in place in order to try for federal funds. Obrecht encouraged all agencies that provide transportation to be at the meeting.

Houchins announced that the next Family Representative meeting at the state level will be on April 2, 2007.

Meyers shared that Orrville Turning Point Coalition is using the Logic Model for encouraging children to delay consumption of “bad stuff” for as long as possible. She also shared that the Orrville Area United Way had exceeded in reaching its goal of \$450,000.

Steingass expressed gratitude for being a part of a county collaborative that maximizes resources that have been scarce by working together.

Obrecht made the motion seconded by Graham that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Johnston, Chairperson