

FAMILY RESOURCE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES—June 2, 2008

Present were: Sue Sleezer, DHHS Children & Family Services Unit Manager; Elden Dallman, County Board/Health & Human Services Board; Dawn Pamenter, CCS Consumer; Gail Olson, Consumer; Jeri Higgins, Faith Representative; Gretchen Malkowsky, CCS/CST Care Manager; Vanessa Schultz, DHHS DD/LTS Coordinator; Jody Grams, Parent; Renee Peters, DHHS Birth-Three Coordinator; Molly Spaulding, Green Lake County U.W. Extension; Jason Kauffeld, UW Extension; Marian Sommerfeldt, Child Care Community Rep.; Mike Maslowski, CCS Consumer; Marge Bostelmann, Green Lake County Clerk; Orrin Helmer, Green Lake County Board Chair; Connie Anderson, Parent; Barbara Fitzpatrick, CCS consumer; Tammy R. Smith, Parent; Julia Smith, Parent; Linda Van Ness, DHHS Director; Fern Engel, Community Representative; Bridget Cullen, Child Care Resource & Referral

Certification of Open Meeting Law: The requirements of the Open Meeting Law have been met.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:50 a.m. by Sommerfeldt.

Approval of Agenda: After discussion, Anderson made a motion to approve the agenda. Maslowski-second. All ayes. Motion carried.

Action on Minutes: After discussion, Dallman made a motion to approve the minutes of the 2/4/08 meeting. Engel-second. All ayes. Motion carried.

Appearances/Introductions: Introductions of members were made.

DISCUSSION ON PROGRAMS/POLICIES:

Family Support: Schultz distributed the Wait List Policy for Committee review. Schultz explained the Family Support to Committee members. The average served each year through this program has been 6-9 families. Schultz reported that the funding has been reviewed and the requirement for a Wait List Policy. (See attached.) Discussion followed. After Committee review, Maslowski made a motion to approve the Family Support Wait List Policy. Olson-second. All ayes. Motion carried.

Birth-Three: Peters explained to Committee members what the Birth-Three program consists of and what type of services are provided to families. Peters reported that there have been 16 referrals in 2008. Nine children with active service plans in the Birth-Three program at present.

Peters reported that the self-assessment will be performed for two years and then an on-site assessment the third year. Peters distributed the self-assessment results for Committee review. Reports were distributed supplying the County's Birth-Three data for Green Lake County also. Discussion followed.

Coordinated Services Team (CST)/Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) Update:

Sleezer explained the Coordinated Services Team (CST) to Committee members. Discussion followed. Sleezer reported that state funding ended but the program has been able to continue with other funds. Sleezer reported that in April 2008 program update and 8 key components/goals were completed and sent to the State as required. Sleezer reported that there were 1 formal/6 informal in 2008. It was the consensus that overall the program helps to prevent out-of-home care and quicker return home through the help of the CST program.

Malkowsky explained to Committee members the Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) program to Committee members. Malkowsky reported that there are 5 active participants with 11 additional individuals in the process of enrollment/assessment. Malkowsky explained the assessment requirements and requirements to be a service provider. Discussion followed.

Resource Sharing:

Bridget Cullen, Child Care Resource and Referral, reported that summer trainings and workshops are going on for providers. Cullen reported that "Reading is Fundamental" is a workshop focusing on literacy.

Cullen reported that she attended a licensing meeting in April in Menasha. DWD rules have been updated and are being distributed upon request.

Peters reported regarding the Headstart 3-year old program which is bringing the 3-year olds into the center once a week to have them interact with other children for greater socialization. Discussion followed.

U.W. Extension: Molly Spaulding reported that she is working with partners from across the state (including Child Care Resource and Referral) to develop an initiative to prevent child obesity among pre-school age children.

Spaulding has been working with ADVOCAP and the Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services, Inc., to present the Rent Smart program to individuals who are participating in the transitional housing program..

Spaulding and other U.W. - Extension educators in Green Lake County are developing a series of educational sessions for small business owners including farm families that will start in the fall.

Spaulding reported that the County Fair will be July 31-August 3, 2008. Green Lake County will be celebrating their 150th birthday with the inclusion of County Board activities for the fair.

Spaulding requested that any Committee member that has any materials they want displayed at the fair should be submitted to the UW. Extension prior to the fair.

It was reported that the Green Lake County Health & Wellness Coalition is working on developing smoke-free air policies in the County. There will be presentation in August.

Spaulding distributed a pamphlet that was recently updated by the Wellness Coalition which highlights opportunities for physical activity throughout Green Lake County and the Ripon area.

Spaulding distributed the nutrition newsletter around for Committee review. Spaulding would like anyone interested to put their name/address down and they will receive them each time there is a new one.

Sleezer questioned regarding the parenting classes that were held in Berlin. Spaulding reported that the 7-week session held at Berlin Middle School has done well in this program. It is anticipated to do this program in the Green Lake School District next year. Two of the families were able to go to Family Camp in Upham Woods for a session that focused on family, communication, etc. Discussion followed.

Anderson reported that Headstart is done for the summer and the fall orientation will be August 18, 2008.

Anderson reported that ADVOCAP's biggest concern is transportation problems. They are looking for ways to help/improve transportation to help provide ADVOCAP services.

Anderson updated Committee members regarding the Fresh Start program.

Higgins reported that the Helping Hearts program has been expanded to "Lend a Hand" which is a Lifeskills class at Green Lake Schools. These students offer help to members in the community with services and practice life skills in the real world setting. Discussion followed.

Sleezer reported regarding Calvary Lutheran School Princeton that has had a parenting program this spring.

Sleezer reported that there is a camp for children who have experienced some type of grief/loss in their life. Discussion followed.

Schultz reported that there is a Mom's group forming "G.L.A.M. (Green Lake Area Moms), which is geared towards area Moms getting together for a night out for dinner once in awhile without the kids. For more information, please contact Schultz and she will provide more information.

Discussion followed regarding educating individuals regarding services available.

Current Issues:

Sleezer reported that in the next couple of months the IV-E funds (for children in foster care funding) is being cut. (over 28% of funds). These contracted services to families are being reduced by approximately \$50-60,000. Discussion followed.

Sleezer reported regarding the Safe & Stable Families funds which amount to approximately \$25-30,000. Sleezer reported that in the past, request for proposals for mini grants have been done to utilize these funds. Sleezer anticipates that these mini grants will no longer be available as the funds will be needed in-house to cover the programs that have to meet the criteria of services, i.e. KISS pregnancy program provided through the Health Unit within the agency.

Discussion followed regarding the Family Care program which is being initiated in Green Lake County and concerns regarding care and coverage of those costs. Van Ness reported that Green Lake County will start the Family Care Program on August 1, 2008. Van Ness explained the Family Care Program to Committee members.

Future Meeting Date: The next meeting is scheduled for August 4, 2008.

Future Agenda Items for Action/Discussion: Coordinated Services Team Update, CCS update

Adjournment: Motion made by Maslowski to adjourn, seconded by Fitzpatrick. All ayes. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.