

Leelanau Family Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes August 2, 2011

Kathy Dawkins called the meeting to order at 2pm.

PRESENT: Billie Hedglen, Patti Wurm, Kathy Laba, and Debbie Aldridge, Deb Haase, Gail Goldsmith, Cathy Sevensma, Nancy Elmore, Joe Povolo, Ron Crummel, Kathy Dawkins, Sandy Prause, Andy Bassardet, Andrea Smoot, Sara C, Sara Brubaker, Barb Stricker, Betsy Fisher, Katie Hafier, Rachel Sheppard, Jim Rowlett, Mary Marois, Bob MacEachron, Steve Schwaiger, Pam Cuthbert, Norvilla Bennett, Gary Aschim, Ty Wessell, Pam Soffredine, Linda Farmer-Lewis, Kathleen Garza, Andrea Smoot, John Rabideau, Sara Culbertson, Barb Stricker, Steve Telrico, Steve Schwaiger

Introductions: Council members introduced themselves. No hosting agency was available for welcome.

Announcements: Kathy shared that we have a request in for \$12,000 to the County Commissioners to support the Coordinator's position. They will have discussion on Tues., Aug. 9th, and final vote on Aug. 13th. Call Betsy Fisher for tentative time, probably in the morning. Kathy and Bob MacEachran will attend as Ty will not be able to do so.

Ron Crummel explained summary of the grant proposal for Rehabilitation Loan Program and gave update on what the program has accomplished so far.

Ty announced that he will be in Grand Rapids for medical treatment, and Bob MacEachran will be acting coordinator while he is gone.

Minutes: Approved by consensus.

Finance Report: Joe explained treasurer's report. We still have \$70,000 in Strong Families/Safe Children that we've been unable to use due to all the restrictions. If it isn't used in the next two months it will have to be returned to the state. Joe explained the restrictions on those dollars. They are currently putting together the budget for next year.

Coordinator's Report: Ty welcomed everyone. He explained the grants that have been worked on recently: Submitted application for \$175,000 Children's Trust Fund grant for Parenting Communities, 37K to GTB to support PC & Navigator program; received grant from United Way and also working on Genuine Leelanau for Laundry Project. Genuine Leelanau Fundraiser is Sept. 8th at the Grovesnor's Home in Leland.

Guys' Group: Joe announced that Steve will be leaving the coordinator's position, other than the storytelling sessions.

Special Presentation: Leelanau Co. Navigator Initiative

Jim Rowlett explained the goals of the Navigator program to provide one-on-one support for people in Leelanau Co. Shared handouts on the program, what it takes to be a navigator, the HelpLink program, and Family Partnership, a faith-based mentoring program. Told history of PRI and the different mentoring programs. Opportunity conferences with Donna Beagle started in 2006 and navigator concept was developed to help people in poverty 'navigate' the various human service systems. Education, housing, medical, legal issues are all possible areas of assistance. The idea of one-stop assistance was seen as a priority and Faith Reformed Church in TC had property available, resulting in formation of HelpLink.

Mary Marois talked about the Navigator concept and her own "Ah-ha" moment when she realized success is about relationships, rather than desire, motivation or effort. She described navigators as people who have their own network and are willing to share that network with others to help them succeed. People often begin when in crisis, so have to help them get through the crisis first, then help them make progress toward their goals. Some navigators have one-on-one relationships, some are specialized navigators who help a navigator know how to deal

with a specific issue. Super navigators are supervisors to the navigators and provide support and advise to other navigators. HelpLink is open to walk-ins on Tues. and Thurs., begin listening without a lot of preliminary paperwork, help make needed phone calls, and help prioritize steps they can help with that day. Shared that it is important to shift learning that enabling is bad and focus on what navigators can do to make things happen for people. Family Partnership is designed to be longer term true mentoring relationships, with the whole family, if needed; involves a contract signed by mentors and mentees; defining tasks/goals for each; background checks; possibility of home visits HelpLink spends more time helping them through the crisis and connecting individuals with needed resources, including the mentors of Family Partnership. Any collaborative coordinator can be the initial contact if a person can't get into HelpLink during hours of operation.

Ty requested that anyone who has any thoughts/ideas for navigating in Leelanau, please email them to Ty at LCFCC email. He'll compile them and discussion will continue in Sept. and Oct.

Maureen Voss introduced herself as new Voices and Choices coordinator. Phone number: 946-5077

Early Childhood Initiative:

Patti Wurm reminded that Maggie had sent out info in email and told about goals of Early Childhood program, and the mentoring that is done. She shared that initially they provide help for, then help with, then sit back and observe a family who they are helping. Kathy Garza, Benodjenh Center, talked about trust issues with Band members due to historical trauma experienced by ancestors. Bea Cruz shared how all the ways she helps families who often don't speak/read English.

Patti shared concern that Wraparound services are not always available to families in need because of all the hoops they have to jump through initially. Suggested we need to look at alternative ways of supporting these families. Betsy shared frustration that we have all this Strong Families/Safe Children money that is going unused when we have have families in this kind of need.

Meeting Evaluations:

- Great meeting
- Good to hear about what is going on
- Really hope we don't let the possibility of Navigators/HelpLink fall into neglect
- Look forward to how this could change our county
- Thoughts and prayers with Ty & your wife
- Time for a road trip to Lansing
- Very invigorated by this meeting
- Great example of the ripple effect
- This has been a very educational meeting for me
- Excited that HelpLink may expand to Leelanau Co.
- Need someone available who can speak Spanish
- Ready to go to Lansing to keep Strong Family/Safe Children money

Joe reminded members to take forms on table for voluntary dues.

Adjourned: 4pm

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 6th, 2:00-4:00 pm at the Connie Binsfeld Building.
Host: Third Level Crisis Intervention Center**