

Leelanau Family Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes December 5, 2011

First we ate and the potluck was delicious!!!

Kathy Dawkins called the meeting to order at 1pm.

PRESENT: Sherie Bailey, Sara Culbertson, Cathy Sevensma, Nicole Ball, Pam Soffredini, John Rabideau, Andres Bossardet, Nancy Elmore, Terri Kelty, Bob MacEachron, Kathy Dawkins, Steve Holl, Tricia Denton, Sue Chapman, Carla Hammersley, Patty Deyong, Kathy Wessell, Jenifer Murray, Kristi Gawne, Betsy Fisher, Tom Mayhew, Joe Povolo, Susan Cocciarelli, Norvilla Bennett

Introductions: Collaborative members introduced themselves and gave agency announcements.

Finance Report: Joe explained proposed 2011-2012 budget. Of primary concern are the cuts in Strong Families/Safe Children dollars. They're still working on securing grants another funding sources so programs will not have to be cut. We're looking for approximately \$45,000 more to be able to maintain programs. Approved by consensus.

Announcements:

Kathy requested members sign up as hosts for 2012 meetings and passed around the sign up sheet. [So far – Health Dept. (February), Northern Lks CMH (March), WRC (April), Michael's Place (October), PA Office (November) & DHS (December). Still available – May, June, July, August & September.

Special Presentations:

DHS: Tony Ryan explained how gifts are being distributed for holiday program m, and shared that applications for DHS services can now all be accessed online, although you can also still come in person to apply.

Sherie Bailey gave updates for Child Protective Services. Explained the Education Planner services. Job navigators are being offered to people whose cases for cash assistance are being closed due to four-year limit.

COC: Cheryl Naparella reported from GT Area Continuum of Care to address homelessness in our area. Current focus is on prevention services & rapid rehousing efforts, rather than shelters. NWMCAA has received grant for this work. 7people from Leelanau Co. received financial assistance.

Great Start: Mary Manner gave update on Great Start, and changes that will be coming in early childhood education. She requested input as to what needs members see that need to be addressed. She needs to receive those before the March 20th GS Collaborative meeting. The Strategic Plan & component areas can be viewed at www.greatstart.org.

HelpLink Update: Andrew Bossardet, Glen Lake Community Reformed Church gave update on HelpLink and told story that prompted his vision of the navigator concept through HelpLink and the call he received from Glen Lake Schools about the need for HelpLink services in Leelanau Co. He is encouraging people to "look in the margins" for those in need in our communities. The biggest roadblock is they're trying to do the work without yet knowing how to do so. Jan. 14 Mary Marois is coming to their church to provide training. Hopes to be operational by Feb. 1st. He shared that one thing he needs from all of us is getting to know us, the people we work with, and their needs. They're also looking at expanding the Laundry Project into Empire. Right now they have one washer & dryer in a business that's also a hardware & consignment shop. H will send Ty the details about the training to be distributed. L

PRI: Jim Rowlett, PRI, shared three points:

- 1) Donna Beagle will be here this Thurs, 8:30-noon, 1-5, at Garfield Bldg. In TC, giving one presentation in the morning and one in the afternoon. She will be joined by people who have been in poverty and worked through a program to emerge.
- 2) Leelanau Co. is the first 'outlying county' to develop the HelpLink program.
- 3) PRI has been around for 8 years and is now moving forward in new directions with planning that began last April.

PROGRAM: Ty and Maggie shared about the Five Protective Factors. Ty read a paragraph from an article about 'jumpers' off the Golden Gate bridge and the difficulties getting barriers built to prevent people from doing so, to emphasize the importance of contacts and connections with people. Maggie encouraged us to consider a paradigm shift from being rescuers who "fix" people, to "meeting them in their best selves"- being listeners and supporters.

Reviewed 5 Protective Factors:

- ✓ Parental resiliency

- ✓ Social connections
- ✓ Knowledge of parenting and child development
- ✓ Concrete supports in times of need
- ✓ Social and emotional competence of children

Carla Hammersly told her story of parenting her son Christopher. She shared the advice Christopher wanted to give us and encouraged us to alerts paradigm shift that Maggie had talked about.

Meeting Evaluations:

Thank god we have advocates for families in our midst.

It's so much more about relationships and prevention, than about fixing, and ending up with a product.

Going forward is about owning our own story.

Thanks to Carla for having the courage to share her story.

Common theme: focusing on the relationships

Adjourned: 4:00 PM

There will be NO MEETING in January. Happy New Year!!!!!!