

We Care for Kids Council

September Meeting Minutes
09-09-2019

Members Present: Naomi Miller, Claire Hopkins, Cheryl Thelen, Karen Marsman, Haley McLean, Ashley Kliewer, Jennifer Heeres, Jessica Higley, Penny Dora, Damon Davis, Cindy Hill, Mary Ellen Clery, Stephanie Barone, and Robin Atwood.

Welcome and Introductions: The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm.

Approval of June Meeting Minutes: Meeting Minutes from June 2019 were reviewed. A motion was made by Penny Dora to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Cindy Hill. The May Meeting Minutes were approved.

Approval of July & August Financial Report: A copy of the financial report was provided. A motion was made by Ashley Kliewer to accept the financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Cindy Hill. The Financial Report was approved.

Website: In February 2019, our council voted and approved to upgrade our website to be mobile-friendly and to comply with ADA standards. These upgrades were made. Our council agreed that we should keep a website up and running. Our council agreed to put "under construction" on our website until updates can be made. It was suggested that each agency take a month in a year to be featured where the website can highlight that agency and how it contributes to the prevention of abuse and neglect in our county. Jessica Higley made a motion to table further discussion about our website until next meeting. The motion was seconded by Claire Hopkins. The motion was approved.

Mattresses available! Pastor Phil Vandop of Sleep In Heavenly Peace has an abundance of mattresses available right now. Please contact him if you have a client in need. 616-894-7643.

United Way Kickoff: The UW annual kickoff is Thursday 09-12-2019 from 9:00am to 10:00am. It will be held at the United Way office. Please RSVP to Terri Legg. Immediately following the kickoff is Day of Caring events at the same location.

Stewards of Children: We will be sponsoring a trainer to facilitate the Stewards of Children training in a breakout session at the Early Childhood Conference at Greenville High School. The conference is on 09-21-2019. Mary Ellen will be at the conference with a WCFK vendor table.

CTF Update: Mary Ellen attended the regional meeting in July 2019 and found the session to be very informative. Our CTF grant report for the next year is complete.

Protect Yourself Classes: Protect Yourself classes start this week! There are 5 schools and 15 classrooms in this first 5 week session. All classes through May 2020 have been scheduled.

CAN Conference: The annual CTF CAN Conference will be in Plymouth, MI October 21-22, 2019. Mary Ellen will be going.

Central Montcalm Community Foundation: The final report has been completed.

Safe Sleep: Safe Sleep resources are still available. To request any of the items, please contact:
Ashley Kliewer kliewera@michigan.gov 616-902-8086
Naomi Miller millern12@michigan.gov 616-522-7217

Friend of the Court Training: Trauma training for FOC staff (FOC investigators) who are making parenting time decisions on behalf of children should be offered. Mary Ellen is going to gather a packet of ACEs information and try to get a meeting with FOC staff. Penny Dora will talk to Dan to try and get FOC at the table for the Trauma Champions meetings that are held at MCC.

Middle School Sexual Abuse Curriculum: The curriculum was purchased and given to all district curriculum directors at a staff meeting in June 2019. The content should start to be implemented this school year.

Committee Reports

Legislative: The State Legislators are in from recess. The House passed mandatory dental screening before kindergarten. (The Health Department started implementing this last school year in 6 elementary buildings. Of the 434 kids that were seen, 217 were referred for further treatment). The Governor declared vaping a public health

emergency. Businesses have 30 days to remove all products from their shelves and the ban will last six months. The USDA put a limit on SNAP benefits. This impacts 12% of Michigan households (the working poor).

Membership: No updates.

Education: No updates.

Executive: No updates.

Roundtable:

8Cap is still registering and taking applications for this school year. Stanton numbers are very low. Greenville has a waiting list.

The Alpha Family Center still has free one-on-one parenting class for families in need.

The Alpha Family Center is participating in the Art Van Charity Challenge. This goes through 09-27-2019. Karen will send out information on how to donate and the Alpha Family Center may receive additional money/prizes from Art Van (last year they received \$10,000.00).

At any given time, Montcalm County has 3x more foster children in care than foster parents. If you are interested, or have a friend who is interested, please connect with Jennifer Heeres at DHHS.

Bud Longnecker passed away. He was a teacher, coach and active MAISD board member.

RAVE is hiring a full time sexual assault therapist. Domestic Violence Awareness month is in October.

The Health Department is participating in the Wear One campaign to reduce the stigma about using condoms. Agencies who partner will provide condoms in their bathrooms from the health department for our clients and community.

Meeting adjourned at 1:17 pm.

Next Meeting: 10-07-2019

Meeting Minutes compiled by Ashley Kliewer and Naomi Miller.