

We Care for Kids Council
Meeting Minutes
08-03-2020
Meeting held virtually via Zoom.

Members Present: Ashley Kliewer, Mary Ellen Clery, Penny Dora, Robin Atwood, Jessica Higley, Cindy Hill, Katie Olson, Stephanie Barone, Beth Brundage, Haley McLean, Karen Marsman, Cheryl Thelen, Sue Kearney.

Welcome and Introductions: The meeting was called to order at 12:01pm.

Old Business

Approval of March Meeting Minutes: The meeting minutes from March 2020 were reviewed. A motion was made by Cindy Hill to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Penny Dora. The March 2020 Meeting Minutes were approved.

Family Fun Day: At our last meeting (03-02-2020), we were gearing up to host Family Fun Day. We were forced to cancel the event due to COVID. Our council tossed around the idea of providing some resources and information at Greenville's Danish Festival (table, booth, etc.), which was also cancelled due to COVID. Do we hold the event this fall in person? We usually get around 400 participants. Our current Executive Order states we cannot have more than 100 people at an event. How do we control this? Can we even control this? Our funding for Family Fun Day came from Central Montcalm Community Fund Foundation. The money should be used by February 2021. Can we do the event as a drive thru event? Instead of using the funding for inflatables, petting zoos, face painting, etc. we could use it for pack-n-plays, bike helmets, car seats, etc. We would like to have the event this fall (September or October 2020). Penny will lead a workgroup to plan a drive thru Family Fun Day event.

New Business

Financial Report: Financial Reports for March 2020, April 2020, May 2020 and June/July 2020 were presented. Copies of all reports have been provided to the council members via email as they were available throughout that time period. We currently have about \$9000 in our checkbook. Our post office box has been renewed for a year. A motion was made by Cheryl Thelen to accept the report as presented. The motion was seconded by Cindy Hill. The March 2020, April 2020, May 2020 and June/July 2020 Financial Reports was approved.

Executive Director Announcement and Transition Plan: Mary Ellen has informed the council of her retirement as the We Care For Kids Executive Director and will work until 09-17-2020. Sue Kearney was interviewed and chosen as the new Executive Director. She will begin on 08-17-2020 and work/train with Mary Ellen for a month.

Committee Vacancies: The We Care For Kids Council has four committees.

Executive Committee: Mary Ellen Clery/Sue Kearney (Executive Director), Robin Atwood (Chairperson), Ashley Kliewer (Vice Chairperson), Penny Dora (Treasurer), Cheryl Thelen (Appointed Member)

Membership: Mary Ellen Clery/Sue Kearney (Chair), 2 vacancies

Education: Mary Ellen Clery/Sue Kearney (Executive Director), 1 appointed chairperson vacancy, 2 vacancies

Legislative: Cheryl Thelen (Chair), 2 vacancies

Below you will find information/descriptions about what each committee is responsible for. We will discuss filling our vacancies at the next meeting.

Executive Committee: This committee is responsible for the oversight of executive functions, finance, and fundraising. The Executive Committee is composed of four (4) voting members: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Treasurer, and one appointed member from the Board of Directors. The Executive Director will serve on this committee in an advisory role and ex-officio capacity. This committee will be chaired by the WCFK Council Board Chairperson.

The duty and responsibility of this committee is to guide the purpose and policy of the organization and serve in a supervisory capacity over the Executive Director. This committee is responsible for the review of budget and financial statements as presented by the Treasurer and to direct and oversee all fundraising activities of the WCFK Council.

Membership Committee: This committee is Chaired by the Executive Director and will consist of at least two board members. This committee is responsible for maintaining a proper balance of membership as indicated in the bylaws. In addition, this committee is responsible to identify or provide training, projects, activities, or other opportunities for the purpose of membership development and retention. On an annual basis, this committee shall present a slate of officers at the August meeting for voting approval in September.

Education Committee: This committee shall consist of an appointed Chairperson, the Executive Director, and at least two other board members. This committee is responsible for the recommendation and review of professional development opportunities, training programs, and community events which provide awareness and education related to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. In this scope, this committee will also consider partnerships with agencies and organizations to increase the awareness of, and the access to, services and resources available in Montcalm County that support the well-being of children and families.

Legislative Committee: This committee shall consist of the chairperson and two other board members. They are responsible to represent the WCFK Council at local and state legislative functions and speak on its behalf. They serve as a legislative liaison to the WCFK Council and provide review of legislative proposals being considered at the local, state, and federal levels related to the mission and activities of the WCFK Council and the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

Faith Brophy does not work for Great Start anymore, so her spot on the council will need to be filled. Cheryl Thelen has retired from the Health Department, so her spot on the council will need to be filled.

Protect Yourself Programming: There is a district Elementary School Principal's meeting next week where Penny will update them on our new Executive Director. Greenville will be 100% virtual for the first two weeks of school and then have in-person instruction. All other districts will be in-person from the start. All schools have a virtual option. Programming for the upcoming academic year should be supported by these Principals.

Stewards of Children: The Early Childhood Conference where we were going to sponsor a breakout session of the Stewards of Children program has moved to a virtual conference and can no longer accommodate the time needed to hold our session. It was decided that we would cancel for the conference.

We received our funding for this through a United Way grant.

4 total sessions should be held (two per fiscal year)

2019-2020 fiscal year: 03-25-2020, *need one session still*

2020-2021: *need two sessions*

Ashley will email Lori (program trainer) to see if this training can be offered virtually. If so, we would like one by the end of next month. We will work around her schedule for when to offer it. We should offer the next two at opposite times in order to maximize audience reach. Penny will be able to set up a RSVP link thru the MAISD.

Executive Director Report

CTF Grant Report: Mary Ellen completed the fiscal year's 3rd quarter report. The 4th quarter report will be due mid-October 2020, which Sue will need to complete.

Mary Ellen has submitted the 2020-2021 CTF Grant Application.

Committee Reports: See "Committee Vacancies" section above for details.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be held in person on 09-14-2020. We will gather outside at Maddie's House Park in Stanton beginning at noon. We will have a regular board meeting and a small farewell for Mary Ellen. Please send Robin the requested information as soon as possible.

Around the Table – What is Happening?

Early On is still accepting referrals.

Head Start will be limiting class sizes to 10 children.

Alpha Family Services is open and ready for clients. It has been a slow start, but summer months are usually slower.

The DHHS lobby is still closed to clients. All applications are received online. CPS and Foster Care workers are back in the field. There is minimal staff allowed in the office. The FAP for free and reduced lunch families was extended. Our county will be participating in Operation Good Cheer again this year for our children in foster care.

The United Way campaign is getting ready to roll out for this year. They will also be hosting the Sponsor A Classroom campaign, however it will look a little different this year to include personal protective equipment or other supplies classrooms may need. There are food trucks still available, however the need for food has been less than usual because there are so many other funds available right now. They have been purchasing and providing personal care items, which have been requested by families in need. The United Way offices are now located in Belding.

There will be a CASA Swearing In Ceremony on 08-13-2020 at 1:30pm.

Cheryl Thelen has officially retired from the Health Department. She joins our council now as a volunteer. The lobby of the Health Department is still closed. They are providing WIC, family planning and immunization services.

Montcalm Care Network has been offering many programs virtually. Mid-August they will have more face to face options with clients. Many workers are still working from home. The Children's Team members will not be able to do appointment at school with the children on their caseload this school year. There is a Trauma Informed Parenting class starting 08-12-2020 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm that will be held virtually. Class is 8 weeks long. To register, call the main office.

Meeting adjourned at 12:56pm.

Next Meeting: 09-14-2020

Meeting Minutes compiled by Ashley Kliewer.