

We Care for Kids Council
Meeting Minutes
10-05-2020
Meeting held virtual via Zoom

Members Present: Ashley Kliewer, Penny Dora, Robin Atwood, Beth Brundage, Sue Kearney, Abbey Blondin, Cindy Hill, Stephanie Barone, Haley McLean, Jessica Higley, Karen Marsman, MaryEllen Clery.

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

Old Business

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

CTF Auction: Sue and Robin bid on items at the Virtual CTF Auction, but they were outbid at the last minute. They were surprised at where the items that were donated came from – some very large ticket items, donations made by inmates, etc. By holding the auction online, CTF raised 15% more than when the auction was held in person. Emily encouraged local councils to put together items/baskets for the auction.

Stewards of Children: Stewards of Children training was offered virtually on 09-30-2020. It was facilitated by Lori Kirkhoff. We will hold a spring session during evening hours (maybe 6:00pm to 8:00pm) to capture a different audience. The spring session needs to be held before 04-01-2020 to comply with our grant from United Way, and after this session, our grant requirements will be fulfilled. Can we offer this training to teachers or through the ISD as part of professional development?

New Business

Financial Report: The Financial Report for September 2020 was presented by Penny Dora. At the start of the month, our balance was \$11,007.15. Expenses included salary, Family Fun Day expenses, annual website domain fee, annual LARA non profit fee. At the end of the month, our balance was \$9,186.61. A motion was made by Cindy Hill to accept the September Financial Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Ashley Kliewer. The September 2020 Financial report was approved.

The August 2020 Financial report was never voted on or approved. Penny reviewed the report for the council. A motion was made by Ashley Kliewer to accept the August 2020 Financial Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Cindy Hill. The August 2020 Financial report was approved.

Executive Director Report:

Sue met with two Elementary Principals (Lakeview and Tri County) to review the purpose and curriculum of Protect Yourself classes.

Our Protect Yourself materials are VERY old. They are out of date and some parts are missing. The people who were on the committee that created it have all moved on. Sue did find one paper copy from at CAC in Alma, so she drove there to pick it up. The Resource Book (pictures, flip book, etc.) needs to be updated. Can we get new ones made? Updated?

Sue made folders for all 1st and 3rd grade teachers, building principals and secretaries. The information in the folder gives a Protect Yourself overview, lesson objectives, a welcome letter for parents, an introduction letter about herself, her business card, bookmarks, the WCFK brochure, and the Centralized Intake business card.

Protect Yourself classes start 10-12-2020. Sue will be going to Lakeview, Tri County, Sand Lake, St. Charles, and Central Montcalm. Greenville is waiting until the second semester to schedule.

Sue attended the Great Start Early Childhood Conference (virtual), the Stewards of Children training (virtual), the United Way 21 Day Equity Challenge, and the Local Council Director's Meeting (virtual).

Sue also spent some time making copies at the ISD.

The 2021 CTF Grant was finalized.

Updates are needed for the We Care For Kids brochure and the Board of Directors list.

Safe Sleep:

October is Safe Sleep Awareness month. We need to report to CTF what we are doing for the month. In our grant, we reported we will provide 5 pack-n-plays, 100 brochures/information packets, and 25 onesies/sleep sacks. Penny

will take inventory of our safe sleep resources. Ashley will scan and email the DHHS safe sleep brochure and SIDS brochure and email it to the group. She will email it to all DHHS workers in Montcalm Co. to share with clients. Robin will print some safe sleep and SIDS brochures and put them in her lobby. Sue will order 5 pack-n-plays. If needed, we could do a billboard. Sue will check on our budget and Penny will check on the billboard space availability.

Committee Vacancies:

The We Care For Kids Council has four committees.

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

Membership: Sue Kearney (Chair), **Ashley and Cindy have volunteered to be a part of this committee.**

Education: Sue Kearney (Executive Director), **Penny was nominated as the Appointed Chairperson, Beth B. and Jessica Higley were suggested as committee members.**

Legislative: Cheryl Thelen (Chair), **Haley volunteered to be a part of this committee.** 1 *vacancy*

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.

CAP Month:

Child Abuse Prevention Month is in April. There will not be pinwheels this year. We could do a billboard. Ashley will email Sue efforts for CAP Month in past years.

Family Fun Day:

We should plan for an in-person event for 2021, and if needed we can do a virtual or other event. March 20, 2021 was offered as a date.

Around the Table – What is Happening?

DHHS hosted a Building Resiliency Training on 09-29-2020 and had 35 participants. They may offer this again in the spring. The state of Michigan was awarded COVID funding to help families involved with CPS and foster care to get essential items they need to prevent removals, support their needs, etc.

Early On Family Service Staff are still working from home. Teachers are doing some virtual programming.

Alpha Family Services is up and running. Business as usual. They have been flooded with donations and are planning to have an indoor garage sale at the end of October.

With the new COVID cases in Montcalm Co., Montcalm Behavioral Health are only meeting face to face with clients if it is a crisis. This will be reevaluated mid-October.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Check out RAVE's social media for tips, facts, and information. They are also accepting counseling referrals for adults or children who have experienced domestic violence. To be referred, call 800-720-7233 or email Abbey at abbeyb@raveim.org.

United Way will be doing a hat, mitten, and coat drive in November. All items must be new. There will also be a link to make monetary donations. If you were a part of the United Way 21 Day Equity Challenge, it is important to complete the post survey. Please check your email and take it! Residents are still able to claim their stimulus check until 10-15-2020. Please encourage everyone to complete their census.

CASA volunteers are still active on all their cases. Jamie and Stephanie have been working remotely from home.

Meeting adjourned at 1:24pm.

Next Meeting: 11-02-2020 (VIRTUAL)

Meeting Minutes compiled by Ashley Kliewer.