

**We Care for Kids Council**  
Meeting Minutes  
12-07-2020  
Meeting held virtual via Zoom

**Members Present:** Ashley Kliewer, Penny Dora, Sue Kearney, Abbey Blondin, Haley McLean, Esther Combs, Katie Olson, Cheryl T., Karen M.

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

**Old Business**

**Approval of November Meeting Minutes:** The meeting minutes from November 2020 were reviewed. A motion was made by Esther Combs to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Karen Marsman. The November 2020 Meeting Minutes were approved.

**Financial Report:** The Financial Report for November 2020 was presented by Penny Dora. November expenses include Sue's salary, Sue's mileage, pack-n-plays for Safe Sleep Month, our liability insurance renewal. Deposits were received from CTF and from the bounce house company from FFD 2020 that was cancelled. At the end of November 2020, our balance is \$8944.48. At the end of the year, Steve K., will prepare 1099s for Mary Ellen and Sue for us. A motion was made by Cheryl Thelen to accept the November Financial Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Ashley Kliewer. The November 2020 Financial report was approved.

**Safe Sleep:**

October was Safe Sleep Awareness month. 6 community agencies received materials and resources from us. They are: Early On, Have Mercy, Welcome Baby, Alpha Family Services, Trinity Pantry and Cherry Street Health Offices. We distributed: 5 pack-n-plays, 30 Period of Purple Crying DVDs, 50 onesies, 156 Sleep Sacks, 100 printed materials/brochures, and funded a billboard. Our inventory remaining includes 40 Sleep Sacks and 15 onesies. These will be provided to agencies as needed.

**Executive Director Report:**

38 Protect Yourself classes were completed in November 2020. Protect Yourself is a 5 session series per grade. COMPLETED ALL SESSIONS (student and teacher evaluations completed as well):

Tri County 1<sup>st</sup> grade  
St. Charles 1<sup>st</sup> grade & 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

IN PROGRESS:

Lakeview 3<sup>rd</sup> grade has 2 sessions remaining  
Lakeview 1<sup>st</sup> grade has all 5 sessions remaining  
Tri County 3<sup>rd</sup> grade has 3 sessions remaining  
Central Montcalm 3<sup>rd</sup> grade has 2 sessions remaining  
Central Montcalm 1<sup>st</sup> grade has all 5 sessions remaining  
Greenville both grades have all 5 sessions remaining – they chose not to start classes until the beginning of 2021.  
Carson City, Vestaburg, Montabella both grades have all 5 sessions remaining

Some Principals have inquired about virtual lessons, if necessary. It could be a possibility if the students were in the classroom with their teacher and Sue needed to be virtual. Would Mary Ellen do contract work for us if we are struggling to get all sessions completed before the end of the school year? Sue will ask Mary Ellen.

Sue attended the monthly CTF meeting with Emily and Suzanne. The discussion this month was the CTF Board of Directors, which is appointments by the Governor, not volunteers. They also talked about the CTF committees and asked for members. An application is required and CTF is in the process of going through the applicants to appoint members from local councils. CTF is in the process of rebranding themselves. There is a new logo and a new local council logo. They also created a new pinwheel logo that is to be used statewide. They referred to a DHHS SharePoint folder that has trainings and grant opportunities in it. Sue needs access to this. Ashley will locate it and send Sue the link. CTF is also in the process of looking for common benchmarks that will be used statewide.

There is a new report that is due at the end of December. This is called a Fiscal Review Survey. There was a mini training on how to complete it.

The FY 2021 Q1 report is due 01-20-2021. The year-end United Way grant report is in progress.

Should we print totes or reusable bags to be provided to families with the materials and resources we have? Ashley has ordered something similar through ICAN and will share her order information and ideas.

### **Family Fun Day 2021:**

We should not count on MCC as an available venue at this point. We did receive the Central Montcalm Community Foundation grant for \$2500.00 for our event. We decided to table this topic and revisit it at the January 2021 meeting.

**Stewards of Children:** Our sponsored training is scheduled for 01-28-2021 from 6:00pm to 8:30pm. Lori Kirkhoff will be facilitating it on a virtual format. Please share the flyer within your networks.

### **Committee Reports:**

Executive Committee (Sue Kearney, Robin Atwood, Ashley Kliewer, Penny Dora, Cheryl Thelen): No updates.

Membership (Sue Kearney, Ashley Kliewer, Cindy Hill): We have obtained a copy of the current WCFK brochure, which is very out of date. Ashley will be designing it and Sue and Cindy will edit it. It will be shared with the group for additional suggestions before we publish.

Education (Sue Kearney, Penny Dora, Beth Brundage, Jessica Higley): No updates.

Legislative (Cheryl Thelen, Haley McLean): The Governor has asked the Legislature for another \$400 million of COVID relief funding.

### **Around the Table – What is Happening?**

Early On is virtual until at least 01-11-2021 and they are taking referrals. The week of Christmas the system will be down, so referrals can be submitted by phone. They have playgroup scheduled with Early Head Start and Great Start.

Wednesdays at 10:00am is by Zoom (parents choose the topic) and Thursdays at 10:00am is live on FaceBook. Let Chelsa E. know if you need into the group to be able to see the live event. The parent coalition meeting was held last week and will be on 12-18-2020 at 1:00pm. The Danish Kingdom Christmas Castle Candy Cane event is 12-11-2020 and 12-12-2020 and is \$5 per vehicle. It is a drive thru event. They are accepting donations for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. \$108 provides a child with one book per month from birth to age 5. Their goal is to collect \$5000.

A community Trauma Champion Training is scheduled for 12-22-2020 and another one will be held in February 2021. It will be virtual and there is a maximum number of participants. Handle With Care is a program that launched in Montcalm County. The idea is that the school of any child who has contact with law enforcement will be notified to be able to provide additional supports to that child immediately after the incident. Tammy Shaw provides weekly updates, which is then provided to the appropriate district.

United Way is wrapping up their coat, hat, and mitten drive. They distributed supplies locally last week and have another \$20,000 of supplies to purchase and distribute. They also have a goal to get shelf stable food into the community. There will be food trucks scheduled in January and February 2021.

There will be a food truck at Greenville HS on 01-11-2021 at 4:00pm.

The Alpha Family Services has a Christmas Store up and running for families to use their Alpha Bucks to get clothing and new toys for their children. They also received a mini grant from United Way to purchase baby food, formula, and toddler foods for their families. They are following the CDC guidelines as they see clients in person. This has helped them maintain relationships with their clients and families. They received a grant from the Greenville Area Community Foundation and chose to purchase Bright Courses, which is a series of online courses that clients can complete at any time.

The RAVE Crisis phone line is not in operation. Please call Ionia Co. Central Dispatch instead. Abbey has been working from home and doing sessions virtually. She can still be reached by email at [abbeyb@raveim.org](mailto:abbeyb@raveim.org).

DHHS received coats, hats and mittens from the United Way, which has been a big need for the families they work with. The federal COVID funding that was issued to assist families involved with CPS and foster care was exhausted. Over \$30,000 was used in Montcalm County. All foster children in care from Montcalm County were a part of Operation Good Cheer.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10pm.

**Next Meeting: 01-11-2021 at 12:00pm (VIRTUAL)**

Meeting Minutes compiled by Ashley Kliewer.