

FAMILY POLICY BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 20, 2011

Health & Human Services Building – Basement Auditorium

1:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jill Billings, Janet Chaney, Mike Schnitzius, James Falvey, Sheila Garrity, Jodi Widuch, Gaye Tylka, Maureen Freedland, Jason Witt

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Grace Jones, Judge Bjerke, Jeff Trotnic

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chris Clair

STAFF & GUESTS: Mike Desmond, Mary Meehan-Strub, Renee Weston

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jill Billings called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting attendees introduced themselves, their agency affiliation, and a short background on what brought them here today.

HISTORY OF FAMILY POLICY BOARD

Chair Billings gave a history of the Family Policy Board. At one time the Board was split into two groups: the Governing Council comprised of policy makers and the Management Council as more of a workgroup. This worked well but both councils became a little duplicative so they were merged into one large group as they are now. Historically the agencies involved with the Board work with family and children's issues. The Family Policy Board is a good platform for info sharing, opportunities for collaboration, sharing training, and also provides letters of support for agencies applying for grants.

The Family Policy Board (FPB) Executive Committee was codified by County Resolution in May 2010. Duties and powers of the FPB Executive Committee include:

- a) Act in an advisory capacity to the Health & Human Services Board on matters of policy related to family and children's issues;
- b) Recommend program priorities and policies, identify unmet service needs, and propose short-term and long-term plans relating to family and children's issues;
- c) Evaluate and bring forth recommendations from the Family Policy Board;
- d) Serve of the Family Policy Board; and
- e) Perform other general functions that may from time to time be directed by the Health & Human Services Board and/or the County Board.

Chair Billings advised that it is intended for the Family Policy Board to be community driven, which is why the Family Policy Board Chair and Vice-Chair are community agencies (Grace Jones from Couleecap and Mike Desmond from Boys & Girls Club).

Sheila Garrity suggested somehow putting a face to who is being served by the agencies on the Family Policy Board, possibly through a contact with the Tribune Editorial Board. If we can share some family stories to humanize the services our clients are receiving, we can educate the community on the good works we're doing. Chair Billings advised the Health & Human Services Board has a monthly agenda item called Policy, Practice and People which includes a presentation to the Board where clients "tell their story" and the Health & Human Services Board has a chance to talk with clients receiving county services. Chair Billings advised that we may be able to tap into some of these for the Family Policy Board.

GOAL SETTING/VISIONING

This item will be moved to next month's agenda. Chair Billings asked members to think about their vision of La Crosse County 10 years from now regarding families and children. What is their view of a healthy community for families and children, or programs that aren't here now.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Billings advised that for now the Family Policy Board Executive Committee meetings will only last ½ hour. **MOTION** by Widuch/Tylka to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Approved February 17, 2011, Renee Weston, Recorder.