

DRAFT

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINNESOTA FAMILY SUPPORT & RECOVERY COUNCIL
Jimmy's Pour House in Sauk Rapids – January 21, 2010

Members present: Sandy Slocum, Melissa Rossow, Jolene Annen, Lori Hanson, Teri Nielsen, Jenny Nystrom, Nancy Menssen, Jennifer Stanfield, Lisa Kontz, Patrick Hest, Juan Martinez, Kala Kolkind, Karen Strandemo, Rich Thielman, Karey Hindi, Jami Schwartz, Ruth Sundermeyer, Sandy Thorne, Grant Forsyth, Lori Lofrano, Kathleen Tracy, Pat Krauth, Mark Ponsolle, Trygve Larsen

Excused Absences: Diane Hall, Jenna Penfield, Tracy Howe

Unexcused Absence: Tina Buscher, Brian Buhmann

1. The meeting was called to order by President Sandy Slocum at 11:01 a.m. at Jimmy's Pour House in Sauk Rapids, MN.
2. Secretary's Report: Secretary Lori Hanson had previously distributed minutes for the meeting of November 19th, 2009, by email. Motion made by Grant Forsyth, 2nd by Ruth Sundermeyer, to approve and file the minutes of Nov 19th, 2009. Motion carried.
3. Treasurer's Report: Report was distributed and summary given by Treasurer Teri Nielsen. Expenses of \$315.40 were incurred from 11/1/09-01/15/2010. Current account balance is \$32,039.07. Treasurer's report approved as distributed and placed on file.
4. Collaborative Reports:
 - A. MSSA: Need new representative due to John Stark's retirement. No report.
 - B. Child Support Advisory Board: Sandy Thorne reported on several items from their 1/6/10 meeting:
 1. Order Modification Grant Project:
 - a. Document Generation Vendors: Reviewing 4. Hope is to select by 1/22 and have working by 2/1.
 - b. Economic Relief Effort: Approximately 3000 on state list, to date 2235 had been "touched". Approximately 1400 had no action taken, 861 had some action started, and 140 had modification in process.
 - c. Information Sharing: Communication and Education tasks being looked at. 2 years left on this project.
 2. DEED: REI testing will hopefully be done by 2/1.
 3. DD/EFT: Cost-Benefit Analysis being done, checking on potential usage levels, fees involved.
 4. DCI Project: DOC/CSED interface-project is a result of an 1115 grant. Focusing on early intervention and family involvement. Hennepin and Ramsey counties will pilot the project.
 5. IRS Fees: Change to allow the \$25 tax intercept fee to be charged per hit, not yearly. Change retro to 1/1/2010. Also working to transfer the \$14.05 FMS tax offset fee back to the counties.
 6. Service Delivery Model: Closing the project once the questions from the 1/5/10 Webinar have been answered. Greg Poehling stated that it is hard for legislators to look beyond the

next 6-8 months due to the budget crisis. Greg, Wayland Campbell, and Chuck Johnson are to meet with the Governor's office on 1/7. Only thing left for Deloitte to do is testify at the legislature, if requested.

Notes: Study recommended state oversee process. North Carolina has changed from state administered back to county. PA and TX cost effective results appear skewed as every case in their state is on the system.

7. ROP/MDH Interface Project: Being worked on. The planned date to go live has been delayed from 1/1 to 2/1.
8. CSNet: 6 new transactions, 3 initiating/3 responding. Five of the six have been migrated and the last one is being worked on.
9. Passport: Transfer to Central Processing went well and is completed. Total collections for 7/21/2009-12/31/2009 were \$200,044.37. This is up from \$68,053.69 for the same period in 2008.
10. Tribal Program Dev-Leech Lake is scheduled to go live 4/1/2011. They have a director now, Dave Quincy. There is a two day meeting scheduled "face to face" with CSED on 2/4-2/5. To date, Red Lake has approximately 500 cases and White Earth has 300. The director at Mille Lacs resigned so no word on their status at this time.
11. COLA: On target for COLA to run. Lists should be out this week.
12. Legislative: Later from Mark
13. FPLS Worklist Issue: In June, 2007, the trigger was accidentally shut off. Did not find out until November, 2009! Restarted it. Eight agencies report and we got approximately 42,000 hits! This issue has been resolved.
14. Director's report: Report from Wayland is that state budget is bleak.

C. MCRA: Lori Hanson/Nancy Menssen - Next meeting 1/27/2010.

D. MACSSA: Jami Schwartz - No report, they meet next week.

E. MCAA: Mark Ponsolle reported on a few issues:

1. Jennifer Stanfield-leading a cross-county sub-committee on multiple family issues.
2. 05/2010 Conference. 1 day Seminar, but additionally will have an "experimental" day on Thursday for younger attorneys to enhance their trial skills. Mark is very excited and happy that Melissa (Rossow) thought of this!

5. Old Business:

- A. 2010 Conference - Program Committee met and discussed the options based on bids Grant had received. The committee is recommending that we return to Kelly Inn, St Cloud, again this year. Proposed dates of Sept 20-21st, 2010.

Kelly Inn is waiving the \$3000 fees for conference rooms in the Convention Center!) Melissa Rossow moved to have conference at Kelly Inn 9/20-21/2010. Second by Mark Ponsolle. Some discussion followed. Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

Themes are being discussed, send any ideas to Melissa. Also any ideas for keynote speakers. We do have some money to pay speakers this year. Mark was asked to informally chat with Vicki Turetsky about coming. Mark said he would be glad to do this. We will expand from 3 to 4 tracks due to the availability of extra space and based on last year's attendance. Appointees will monitor tracks to be sure we have enough sessions applicable to each area: ACAs, Collections, Supervisors, and General Audience in addition to Child Support. We also hope to have 2 Webinars this year from conference. We will formalize more at the 3/18 meeting. Please send any ideas to Melissa.

- B. MSSA-Please consider being the MSSA Representative. We don't have one at this time. Jolene Annen will check with her county. Lori Hanson is unable to do it at this time. Question was asked about potential for having this be a shared position (as MSSA meets monthly), and it was thought

that this would be a possibility. Also discussion on whether you need to be a Board member, or can be a non-Board committee member to be the Rep. Members felt it is better business practice to have a Board member represent MFSRC on another Board.

6. New Business:

A. MFSRC Position on ASDM

A survey was conducted by the representatives from each district. All districts oppose the Option 1 recommendation of the Deloitte Study. Assistant County Attorneys who are members of MFSRC were polled and were opposed, as were MSSA members. MCAA and MACSSA **as organizations** have not taken an official position at this time.

DISCUSSION:

Mark Ponsolle had several comments, but wanted to be sure to clarify that this is not the position of the organization that he represents on this Board (MCAA) or of the elected county attorneys, but just a recommendation based on the feedback he has received from colleagues. MCAA will hold a more formal discussion about the issue in February.

First recommendation is to take a position. Second is to oppose Option 1. Mark indicated that a good number of attorneys surveyed didn't leave it at that. Many would support another option, mostly some version of Option 3. There are many issues and costs that do need to be addressed and "we need to reduce unnecessary lack of uniformity, not just un-uniformity". MFSRC should be willing to look at and address program needs. Minnesota is toward the top in 4 of the 5 measured areas, and Option 1 is like "throwing the baby out with the bath water". There is opposition to absolute authority, and Option 1 gives absolute authority to the state. Option 3 lends itself to the counties and state working together, enhancing what works, and improving on what needs work. ACAs are part of the counties, a department within, not a separate entity. As such they are not opposed to a partnership with the state. People need to be careful not to misdiagnose the problem as "get rid of the ACAs and then we will have uniformity". Programs engage in lack of uniformity too, not at the direction of the ACAs. However, the magistrates/court ARE a separate entity. They deal with the laws and facts presented, and even though some believe that a state operated system will create uniform orders, all orders still will not be uniform! The state and the counties need to be sure to give the same message to the courts.

There are allies and opponents at all levels of legislature.

Bottom line: Opposition to Option 1, supportive of Option 3 with enhancements.

Motion made by Jolene Annen and seconded by Grant Forsyth that MFSRC take a position.

FURTHER DISCUSSION:

Pat Krauth expressed opinion that it is too soon to take a position, we only have a study and recommendation, no government position or legislative action. Nothing to oppose, and we'll have plenty of time in the future. A legislative vote w/ the governor and commissioners needs to take place before the state can decide anything.

Jennifer Stanfield commented that the legislative session starts in Feb and we don't have a meeting until March, so should decide something now.

Jolene agreed.

Patrick Hess expressed that he didn't think it was premature; we are taking a position on Deloitte's recommendation, and that has been given.

Karey Hindi stated that other organizations have taken a position, so we should get something out there, particularly since we are the most affected by this.

Mark Ponsolle indicated that although there is no bill out there, the legislators ARE talking about it. The state (via Wayland's comments) has apparently taken a position in favor of Option 1. Senators have requested that ACAs present their views.

Jenny Nystrom said that she feels we should not just take a position, but that we should also work to educate our constituents. We should set a forum for discussion, questions and answers regarding the details of the report.

Ruth Sundermeyer said just yes/no answer is short, there are lengthy concerns. We should have a qualifier in our position that states that we know change is needed. She agreed that a forum is needed.

Grant Forsyth thanked Jennifer Stanfield for details on voting. Said that we represent 87 counties. Most are not in favor of Option 1, but know that we need some changes. Also commented that we know that the counties and the state need to work together.

Sandy Thorne indicated that the state could not give answers from their Webinar. We can't sit idly by and wait, the legislators need to hear the whole story and our thoughts.

Pat Krauth commented that the state talked to legislators because MACSSA did so first.

Vote taken: 19 for, 1 opposed, 2 abstained

Motion to take a position passed.

Grant Forsyth motioned that our position be: We do not agree with the Deloitte study ASDM Option 1, but we will continue to work with the state on improving our child support system, based on the discussion. Motion seconded by Mark Ponsolle.

Discussion on the survey results followed. Mark Ponsolle commented that some will vote "my constituents", some vote "my heart" and some vote both.

Patrick Hess introduced a friendly amendment to Grant's motion. He suggested that we amend the motion to state "**We authorize the Executive Board to issue a resolution that...**" based on the above motion and discussion. Grant and Mark were ok with this.

Vote taken. 19 votes for, 2 opposed, 1 abstained

Motion passed. The Executive Board will issue a resolution.

B. Website Discussion: Tabled until next meeting as Tracy Howe is not here today.

7. Committee Reports

A. Finance-Diane Hall: No report as Diane was not here today.

B. Constitution and By-Laws-Jennifer Stanfield: No redistricting this year. We are right on track.

C. Legislation-Mark Ponsolle:

1. State: Three part bill, 2 parts we pushed for.

a. Part 1 - Administrative Redirection of Child Support. This should be in good shape this year. Represented as a non-controversial bill. Education is needed so people "get it".

b. Part 2 - Judgment Renewal - Judgment should be good until the entire amount paid in full...renewal not needed. Education is needed for this one. One Senator asked "why should child support judgments be dealt with any differently", but they are.

c. Part 3 - Data Privacy Act/Expanding Locate Statutes - As much a hurdle as a help. The proposal is to amend 256.978 to be able to get addresses, phone numbers, cell phone numbers and internet addresses from companies such as cell phone, cable and internet providers, utility companies, insurance agencies, etc.

2. Federal: Vicki Turetsky pushing for outreach to fathers and other groups. Program enhancements - Funding? Grants? Activities subject to reimbursement (66%)? There is a standalone bill that is not expected to pass. There is belief that TANF reorganization may extend the ability to use incentives but, will have to wait until TANF reorganization happens to see.

The Federal Strategic Plan draft should be out next week...it was on hold.

Question asked if Vicky plans to lead the charge on Data Privacy and Practices Reform. She seems quite positive that this is necessary.

D. Historical-Grant Forsyth: None

E. Education-Lori Lofrano: Webinar (Vicky's Speech at MFFN) went well. Melissa Rossow reported that 75 people/sites logged on statewide. Glad we did it! We are looking at more opportunities for Webinars, possibly having them quarterly. Need to consider charging now, topics, time lines, etc. Discussion on these items, then Pat Krauth motioned to authorize the Education Committee to go forward with research and planning, and start our yearly subscription when we are ready to move forward with the first event. Motion seconded by Grant Forsyth. Melissa thanked Tryg Larsen (DHS) and Jim Spannbauer (Ramsey County) for their technical support and direction on the first two webinars. Ruth Sundermeyer asked about potential for MCAA sessions to be broadcast. We will check on this. Vote taken, all in favor, motion carried.

F. Public Relations - Tina Buscher: No report. Tina was not here today.

G. Conference Registration-Carol Von Ende: No report.

H. Overall Conference-Jolene Annen: No report. Conference discussed earlier.

I. Conference Program-Melissa Rossow: Covered in Old Business.

J. Nominations and Elections-Sandy Thorne: Still working on a 6th district rep. Has sent e-mails, but has had no response.

K. Awards-Rich Thielman: No report.

L. Website-Tracy Howe: No report.

M. Conference Site-Grant Forsyth: Again, discussed in Old Business.

N. Newsletter-Tracy Howe: No report.

Misc: Grant got an e-mail from John Stark. He is "struggling"...trying to get used to his new motorcycle club and riding in 70 degree weather!! He says hi to all.

Next meeting is March 18th at Jimmy's. Committees to meet at 9, Board at 11.

Motion made by Grant Forsyth to adjourn. Seconded by Mark Ponsolle. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Hanson

Secretary-MFSRC