

MINUTES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MINNESOTA FAMILY SUPPORT & RECOVERY COUNCIL  
Jimmy's Pourhouse in Sauk Rapids – July 20, 2006

Members present: Julie Erickson, Juan Martinez, Anne Bradley, John Stark, Sandy Thorne, Rich Thielman, Grant Forsyth, Ruth Sundermeyer, Sandy Slocum, Diane Hall, Sharon VanEpps, Jenna Penfield, Linda Flykt, Melissa Rossow, Jennifer Stanfield, Nancy Schroeder, Mary Belfield, Pat Krauth, Tracy Howe, Julie Ellis, Diane Hodel, Theresa Olson, Michelle Collins.

Excused Absences: Robert Tipp, Wayland Campbell, Lisa Kontz, Mark Ponsolle, Lori Lofrano, Jolene Annen, Brian Buhmann, Yvonne Bibro.

Guests: Trygve Larson, Brandy Hauwiller.

1. The meeting was called to order by Past President, Rich Thielman at 10:55 am at Jimmy's Pourhouse in Sauk Rapids, MN.
2. Secretary's report: Secretary, Anne Bradley had previously distributed minutes for the meeting of April 20, 2006 by email. Motion by Grant Forsyth, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nancy Schroeder to approve the minutes of 04/20/2006. Motion carried.
3. Treasurer's Report: Report was distributed and summary given by Treasurer John Stark. Savings balance of \$16,916.53, checking account balance of \$1408.64, and conference account balance of \$1,000.00. Treasurer's report placed on file.
4. Collaborative Reports:
  - A. MSSA-Theresa Olson reported that Mark Ponsolle is setting up a meeting with the director of MSSA. The hope is to build a better alliance with MSSA, so we can work together on legislation issues next year. She also stated that this year's membership fee is due, and she will submit the bill to John Stark.
  - B. Child Support Advisory Board-Sandy Thorne reported that the meeting was yesterday and a presentation was given on the guidelines web calculator and it looks like it will be very user friendly. She stated that Jodi from the Supreme Court attended, and discussion was held regarding her thoughts of the 6 month review. Such as what type of cases would be held in District Court or in the Expedited Process. It was also stated that a 6 month review deals with all issues not just selected issues. Training regarding the new guidelines and legislation is being set up and offered to the Private Bar as well as the Judicial Officers, and there will also be training offered at the Judge's Conference in December.

Sandy reported on some updates that were given on the Focus & Finish Plan: The Prism changes needed for passport denial and for bankruptcy are almost complete.

The interface will be changing with DEED to get more quarterly information and DEED has agreed to continue county access availability until the complete interface is in place.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> glance training is set up for August and the training materials should be available by July 26.

Recodification for the new guidelines should be done by the end of July for review. 6 IPP's regarding the changes should also be completed by the end of July, as well a handout that can be given to clients regarding the changes.

A list of priorities for next year's legislation is being compiled.

Sandy also reported that there was a discussion held regarding concerns on MCE's performance, and how it has been declining the last couple of years. The possibility of entering into a new performance agreement was discussed. MCE had sent a letter terminating their agreement with the State, and when the State agreed, MCE backed off and stated they wanted to work with the State, but that they want to return some of the cases. Pat Krauth stated the reason this was brought up at Advisory Board, is that the State wants to get input from the counties regarding their thoughts on cutting off the ties with MCE, and then have all the cases returned. Pat stated that alternatives are being looked at, such as contracting with another private vendor.

Rich Thielman reported that a survey that had been completed by all the magistrates regarding areas of concerns on orders being prepared by the counties. He stated that a list of 5 items was compiled that the magistrates felt could have been done better. But out of all the thousands of orders (approximately 30,000 last year) that are done by the counties, this should be considered a great accomplishment.

Pat Krauth reported regarding workgroups that are being set up to focus on two issues, first being, arrears management and current charging orders. As far as arrears management the hope is that there will be a policy out by fall that will provide ideas on how to settle a case on debt compromise, and on current charging orders, the focus needs to be that we make sure we are getting correct orders. These issues are important for us to be able to meet the performance measures for collection of arrears and collection of current support. The second focus is the State is working with the other stake holders, such as: Jails, Fatherhood Organizations, Headstart, and Daycare. We need to provide training to the advocates of these organizations so they are able to provide correct information to their clients.

C. MCRA-Nancy Schroeder reported that they just met yesterday. She stated that they had training on operation of law for judgments on Maxi's debts. Discussion on MA overpayments, and discussed the guidelines for parental fees, and how it works with what they do.

D. MACSSA- No report.

E. MCAA-No report.

5. Old Business:

1. Invitation to past presidents to attend MFSRC conference—Grant Forsyth reported that he has completed an invitation to be mailed to the past presidents and that it should be sent out the middle of August. It was decided that the invitation should be signed and sent out by our current President.
2. Contributions for Training—No report.
3. Redistricting—Melissa Rossow handed out the committee proposal to the board, and then provided an overview of the rules in the constitution regarding redistricting. She stated that the committee's recommendation is to follow the constitution and complete the redistricting by Board resolution. Discussion was held on the counties that would be affected by the redistricting and how this would affect members running for board positions this fall. Decision of the board was to complete the redistricting by board resolution and that it would be in effect for the 2006 conference. Jennifer Stanfield made resolution that the redistricting proposal be accepted as submitted to the board, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Juan Martinez. Melissa Rossow requested that the resolution be stricken and a new resolution that the redistricting proposal be accepted with the correction that Brown, Cottonwood, and Jackson County be moved to the Sixth District, and leave Carver County in the 2<sup>nd</sup> district. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Grant Forsyth. Resolution unanimously accepted by the Board.

Sandy Thorne requested approval to have new signs completed based on the new districts. Approval given.

Melissa Rossow, suggested that a couple page handout should be given out a conference to provide information to the membership regarding the redistricting.

6. New Business:

- 1) MSSA representative—Theresa Olson informed the Board that she has been the representative for the past few years, so she is looking at stepping down and she is looking for a volunteer to replace her. She stated she would be willing to work with the new representative for the first year. It was decided that anyone interested should contact Robert Tipp and he will make the final decision. Ruth Sundermeyer stated that an email should be sent out to notify members who are not in attendance today.
- 2) MFRSC sweatshirts/Shirts—Rich Thielman stated that Tracy Howe and Jenna Penfield stated that they would be willing to contact a vendor regarding having sweatshirts or shirts available for sale to the membership, that would advertise our organization. It was decided that

Tracy and Jenna would check into this and shirts could be sold at the registration desk..

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Finance – Diane Hall reported that she has completed her audit and everything seems in order. She stated some changes could possibly be made. She will be writing up her final report
2. Constitution & By-Laws –Melissa Rossow stated that there have been discussions on making changes in the by-laws regarding voting, and there was a decision made not to make any changes regarding the replacement of a board member. She wants to remind the Board to review the current Constitution and By-Laws to see if there are any other recommendations, so that all issues can be dealt with at the same time at the 2007 conference.
3. Legislation – No report.
4. Historical – No report.
5. Education - No report.
6. Public Relations – Theresa Olson asked if plans have been made yet for the display board at conference. She stated that Dakota County has some matted posters that could be used and we should display information regarding the newsletter. Pat Krauth stated that the display board needs to be at Alexandria on September 20<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> for the Case Aide & Financial Workers Conference. Pat stated that the booth would be staffed by a State Representative, a Help Desk Representative, and also need to have a County Representative. Juan Martinez will work with Pat Krauth on setting up the display board and setting up staffing..
7. Conference Registration – Michelle Collins reported that there are 246 registrations so far, plus two confirmations from vendors. She has received the new name tag badges, and wants to know what needs to be printed on the name tags. It was decided that the registrants name, their county and their position would be included on the tag, and the first name of the registrant should be printed in larger print, so it is easier to read. It was also decided that new ribbons need to be ordered this year, and enough should be ordered to cover at least the next few years.
8. Overall Conference – Juan Martinez reported everything is pretty well set. We have received money from two vendors, and he has also heard from Jim Perry, and from Orchard. He stated that the 2<sup>nd</sup> letters are being sent out to vendors, so hopefully we will still get more responses.
9. Conference Program – Julie Erickson reported that everything is set up and all sessions have been filled in. She thanked everyone for all their hard work and reminded everyone to have their information to Sandy Thorne by August 1<sup>st</sup>.
10. Nominations & Elections – Sandy Thorne reported there is someone running for every position up for election this year.
11. Awards – Theresa Olson reported that we need nominations.
12. Website – Julie Erickson reported that she has been in touch with Lou Anderson and she has received a response regarding the computer software she would need and the tasks that need to be completed to keep it up to date.

Lou had stated that he would be willing to continue to maintain the website, or we could get in touch with Midwest Captions to see if they would maintain it for a fee. Decision was that Julie should get a quote from Midwest Captions on the cost to maintain our website.

13. Conference Site – Sandy Thorne reported that once most of the Speaker and Vendor information is received, a meeting will be set up to go to Madden’s to complete arrangements.
14. Membership Committee – No report.
15. Newsletter Committee—Theresa Olson informed the Board that Tracy Howe has agreed to be editor, and the first newsletter will be ready and given out at conference.

Motion by Melissa Rossow, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nancy Schroeder to adjourn. Motion carried.  
Meeting adjourned at 12:43 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Bradley  
Secretary-MFSRC