

**Island County Children's Commission**  
**August 6, 2009 Meeting**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Dave White, Margie Forbes, Janice O'Mahony, Carol Stillian, Rod Merrell, Alyssa Steele, Beth Derrig, Hillary Mellish, John Dyer, Mark Brown, Bess Windecker-Nelson, Sandy Ziemer, Gail Cleveland, Anne Murphy, Cynthia Shelton

**Members Absent:** Peggy Dyer, Kristin Lasher, Kate Grossman

**Guests:** Tim Quinn (prospective new youth member), Shawn Brown (prospective new member)

**Staff:** Dan N. Bond, Carrie MacLachlan

This meeting was opened by Chair, Carol Stillian, at 4:35 PM. Carol facilitated welcomes and introductions of members and guests. Prospective new members, Shawn Brown and Tim Quinn, were in attendance. Shawn is retired from her position as Supervisor of Juvenile Probation Services with King County. She is also a private therapist. Tim is a Freshman at Coupeville High School, active in sports and interested in public service. Both have submitted applications for ICCC membership, and staff will forward those applications through the county process, seeking appointment of Shawn and Tim by the Board of Health/County Commissioners as soon as possible.

Opening thought was offered by Dan Bond. Dan shared the music video We Are The World, and spoke of the value of volunteerism, that there is much to be done. He asked the time honored question, "if not us – who, if not now – when?" Dan reminded us that extraordinary things occur when ordinary people come together for a common purpose, and that our Mission states our purpose. The very selfless act of coming together for kids in Island County makes us all extra-ordinary. We each turned to the extra-ordinary people around us and said, "thank you".

Minutes of the June 2009 minutes were approved as written. There was no July meeting.

The next order of business was a celebration of Hillary Mellish, our youth member who, after serving on the ICCC since its inception, is now leaving us to attend college. Much warmth and appreciation was shared around the table, and Hillary was given a framed Children's Commission poster, signed by ICCC members. We all hope Hillary will put it on the wall of her dorm room. This exceptional young woman will be missed – but there is email and we do hope Hillary will stay in touch with us.

Carol and Dan led us through the calendaring document (blue) depicting current and upcoming ICCC work and collaborations. The most immediate event is Children's Day in September. Bess spoke of overall planning for this event, and Dan related that we have an application in for a Children's Commission table/booth, and that we need member involvement to plan and implement/person the table on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

There was also discussion of the Video Violence/Screen Time workshop, which will occur in the fall. There was intention to broaden the focus from video violence to screen time, but the fall event may be, again, centered around video violence. Carrie MacLachlan mentioned the ACHIEVE initiative which has similar focus. Whitney Webber, with the Health Department, is the contact person for that.

Other items on the calendar are the 2010 State of Island County Children and Youth Summit, the 2010 Children's Hero Award, and ongoing collaborations.

The group also consulted the ICCC Maintenance Document (yellow) which depicts ongoing activities of standing committees for ICCC maintenance. It was noted that the Recruitment/Nominations/Development Committee has three current applicants for membership on the ICCC. Shawn Brown and Tim Quinn are in attendance at this meeting, and Peter Sodt will attend the September meeting. Applications will be forwarded to the Board of Health at the earliest opportunity seeking appointment.

It was announced that the ICCC, having lost Paty Williams as a member, now needs to fill the Public Relations Lead position that Paty filled for us. The person who fills this function is also expected to attend the Executive Committee meetings. John Dyer raised his hand to volunteer to fill this vacant position. Thanks to John for this.

The next item of discussion was whether we are still expecting to collaborate with United Way on the Resource Directory. That document is already completed. What United Way has a comprehensive directory of services and what we want is more of a planning document to help us and others know what is missing, and therefore what is needed, in Island County for kids and families. There was discussion of how we might create this document. More to come on this.

### **Sub-Committee Updates:**

SAAC – The School Age Advocacy and Connections group met recently and the detailed Work Plan was handed out. This document will be available at future meetings for those who were not in attendance to receive it. This group is focusing upon 1) Raising awareness about video game violence, 2) Raising awareness about the need for quality before and after school child care, 3) Reporting back to Focus Groups and School Boards re: results of the earlier focus group activities, 4) Encouraging media to cover youth positively, 5) Recognizing youth and adult contributions, 6) Hosting Town Halls on Youth Issues, and 7) perhaps eventual work on a North End Youth/Community Center. Currently, the group is doing update visits to report back on Focus Group results.

Their next meeting is at 3:30 PM, in Room 116 of the County Courthouse in Coupeville, just before the full ICCC meeting. Dan will contact Matt Bench, from Snohomish County, to see if the two of them can attend this meeting to discuss the “nuts and bolts” of putting together a Caught In The Act (CITA) initiative to recognize Island County youth for doing positive things for their community.

Partners for Young Children: This group met just prior to this full ICCC meeting. Bess reported out about activities, current and planned, of this group. The Partners group is

doing the overall planning for Children's Day. They are also sending two teams from Island County to the Starting Strong Conference – an Oak Harbor Team and a South Whidbey Team.

Upcoming events and involvements include:

- An Early Learning Community Fair on August 8<sup>th</sup>,
- The FEL Grant will be submitted for Phase 3 by August 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Work under the R&R Grant in Island County is scheduled to begin in September.
- The Born Learning Grant has been submitted to support early learning activities
- Mother Mentors is off and running. The first mentor training is August 10<sup>th</sup>, in Langley.

Contact Bess for further specifics regarding the activities of the Partners for Young Children group.

### **New Business:**

Carol reported that she is the ICCC representative relative to the planning of a children's playground on Camano Island. She will keep us updated as to potential ICCC involvement.

Sandy Ziemer announced Children's Advocacy Camp, put on by the Children's Alliance, October 26-28 – applications being accepted now. Dan has been to this camp and reports that it is a great opportunity to learn how to access the legislative process and to communicate your message(s) to legislators. It is a 3-day interactive training. Contact Dan or Sandy if interested.

Sandy also spoke of the Northwest Children's Environmental Health Forum, scheduled for October 1-2 in Tukwila. Sandy is going to this. Contact Sandy if interested.

Hillary announced that the Whidbey Children's Theater (WCT) is putting on a musical benefit - all done by kids. This event is August 13-16, evening and afternoon times. She is also at the Fair in a booth for the WCT. Hillary told us of a Satellite (of the WCT) Drama School in Greenbank. Contact Hillary for further details on all these items.

Carrie spoke to us briefly about budget issues which may affect the ICCC. We are short of \$ in the ICCC budget, and Dan and others will be working on grants and strategies to help out. Carrie will keep us updated as issues affecting budget arise.

Adjourned.