

Island County Children's Commission
February 7, 2008 Meeting
Minutes

Members Present: Hillary Mellish, Paty Williams, Tomi Whalen, Don Cook, Sandy Ziemer, Carol M. Stillian, Kate Grossman, Patty Page, Peggy Dyer, Cynthia Shelton, Janice O'Mahony, Rod Merrell, Kristin Lasher, Margie Forbes, Mark Brown, Dave White, Fran McCarthy, Bess Windecker-Nelson (on conference line)

Members Absent: Colleen Bowls, Kristina Saunsaucie

Guest: John Dean

Staff : Dan N. Bond

This meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM by Chair Don Cook, who welcomed all in attendance.

The Opening Thought was offered by Tomi Whalen, who read to us from an adaptation of the original "Prayer for Children", by Ina J. Hughes (Edelman, p. 108). Kristin Lasher offered to contribute the Opening Thought for the March meeting.

Minutes from the November and December meetings were approved as written. The January Retreat write-up was unofficially accepted as written.

The Commission Ground Rules were accepted as written, and will be displayed at all meetings. It was agreed that this should be a "living document" that can be changed at any time that the Commission sees a need to do so.

The Commission By-Laws were reviewed, corrections/improvements were suggested, and the document was accepted with those corrections. Staff will make the changes and supply all Commission members with the finished document at, or before, the March meeting.

The Mission/Vision/Values Document was reviewed and received several suggested improvements. Staff will make the changes and make the document available to Commission members at, or before, the March meeting. The Mission and Vision portion of this document are acceptable as changed, but the Values portion is still in DRAFT form.

The next order of business was volunteer assignments to the Standing Committees outlined in the By Laws. Assignments, at this time, are as follows:

1. Nominations and Development Committee – Carol Stillian and Cynthia Shelton. Carol will Chair this Committee.
2. P.R. Committee – Sandy Ziemer, Dave White and Carol Stillian. Sandy will Chair this Committee.

3. Data Analysis Committee - Fran McCarthy, Patty Page, Kate Grossman, Bess Windecker-Nelson and Paty Williams. Paty agreed to Chair.
4. Legislative Committee – Don Cook and Kristin Lasher. Don will Chair.

These Committees are encouraged to meet, as needed, separate from the Full Commission meetings. There will be time for Committee Reports on the Agenda for all monthly Full Commission meetings. It is understood that Dan will be staff support to these Committees as his available time allows.

Discussion then turned to the topic of what priority issues this Children's Commission may want to address first. It was suggested that it might be advisable to identify short term issues to address, start small and establish a pattern of success. Commissioners had supplied staff with a number of issues that are either indicated in the data, or are known to individual Commissioners from their own professional expertise. Dan offered this preliminary list to Commissioners to seed the discussion.

There appeared to be at least two predominant thoughts about how to proceed. One suggests that we have enough data, and that we need to get started on obvious needs that the data indicates. Another favors a more deliberative approach, looking further at the data, perhaps using the Data Analysis Committee, and developing a process, or protocols, for how to choose priority issues. These approaches are not mutually exclusive, but can both occur in parallel fashion.

There was discussion about focusing upon age groups – early childhood, youth, teens, etc., dividing up along those delineations, and looking further into issues specific to each age grouping. No decision was made relative to this. More discussion to follow.

As time ran out on this discussion, it was decided that we would pick up this work at the March 6th meeting. In the meantime, the Executive Committee will give this discussion more thought and come into the next meeting with a process in mind to help us along with these deliberations.

Dan handed out County Volunteer Forms, which the County needs from all Children's Commissioners. Also distributed was a meeting evaluation/feedback form. We will use this process for all meetings, so we can be sure we are meeting members' needs as best we can each month.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30 PM