

Island County Children's Commission
February 5, 2009 Meeting
Minutes

Members Present: Margie Forbes, Cynthia Shelton, Anne Murphy, Kate Grossman, Rod Merrell, Bess Windecker-Nelson, John Dyer, Mark Brown, Sandy Ziemer, Carol Stillian, Dave White, Kristina Saunsaucie,

Staff Present: Dan N. Bond

Members Absent: Janice O'Mahony, Paty Williams, Alyssa Steele, Hillary Mellish, Beth Derrig, Kristin Lasher, Peggy Dyer, Gail Cleveland

This meeting was opened by Carol Stillian at 4:30 PM. No opening thought was provided.

Carol explained that this full Commission meeting would be brief and that we would divide into issue-specific Action Teams, for at least the second half of our time, to work on Action Team Work Plans.

Chair Report: Carol suggested that we use the Retreat Write-ups regarding the "River Exercise", the Infra-Structure Exercise, and the "Visioning" Document in lieu of minutes for the January meeting. This was affirmed by vote of the members present.

Carol then asked for comments regarding the January Retreat. Consensus is that we got some work done, made some decisions about our future/ongoing operation and created some rich documents to use as we create and finalize our work plans. The Retreat documents speak for themselves and each Action Team has been asked to review these documents as they proceed with their plans.

Pursuant to the decisions made at the Retreat, the Data, P.R. and Legislative Standing Committees have been dissolved, and Lead persons are taking responsibility for these functions. These Lead persons are Sandy Ziemer – Legislative, Paty Williams – P.R., and Kate Grossman – Data/Evaluation. It was also decided that these functional Leads will be resources to the full Commission, especially the Action Teams, and they will sit on the Executive Committee.

The By-Laws have been revised to reflect the changes to the Standing Committees. Following brief discussion, members were asked to approve the By-Laws as revised. The changes were voted on and approved.

Carol reported that the Executive Committee recommends that the current slate of Children's Commission Officers be retained for another year (until February of 2010), as we are just getting started and to assure continuity and momentum. The By-Laws allow this. It was moved, seconded and approved by unanimous vote to retain leadership. The current and continuing ICCO Officers are:

- Carol Stillian – Chair and Recruitment and Development Lead
- Janice O'Mahony – Vice-Chair and Liaison to the Board of Health
- Sandy Ziemer – Member At-Large and Legislative Lead

- Paty Williams – Member At-Large and P.R. Lead
- Kate Grossman – Member At-Large and Data/Evaluation lead

It was clarified that the By-Laws have been revised, also, to allow 3 members At-Large on the Executive Committee.

The next order of business was a discussion of two items that need ICCC action: 1) Born Learning Trails, and 2) The State of Island County's Children Summit.

Bess reported that the Born Learning Signs are ready to be planted. She discussed briefly the opportunities to be involved as Commissioners, and sent around a sign-up sheet for the duties involved. Commissioners signed up as they were so inclined.

Bess then spoke of the need to implement the State of Island County's Children Summit. It is scheduled for Friday, April 24th. This Summit is a responsibility outlined for the ICCC early in our creation. It is a time to let this county know the needs, resources, gaps in services, services that are new and those that have gone away, etc. It is suggested that the day be divided into two portions, the first half being the Early Childhood discussion, and the second half being about youth issues/data. As far as this Children's Commission goes, the Early Childhood portion is being covered by Bess, Karin Watson and a cadre of people who have done this project in years past. The youth portion will need to be a project for Commissioners who have that as their area of interest, with Dan and Carrie MacLachlan providing staff support and certain kinds of expertise. There was discussion as to whether the ICCC can get it together to do this project in that short a time. Bess, Dan and others assured those present that it had been accomplished in past years in less time and that it can be done. Dan will be contacting members to assist with this project.

The next order of business/discussion was the recommendation that this Children's Commission participate in the CHAB Health Hero Award Event, which is fast approaching. The process is one of nominating an individual who goes above and beyond their job requirements to support and nurture children and youth. This is a public recognition of such a person's contribution. The CHAB has been doing a Health Hero Award for several years, and this is our opportunity to recognize a Children/Youth Hero. There are currently two names that have been offered up for consideration. As time is short, Dan will put together our "process" modeled after the CHAB process, and move forward one of the suggested individuals for approval at our next meeting on March 5th.

Sandy Ziemer offered a legislative packet to the members present that contains valuable "how to" information re: using the legislative process, including contact information for our own Legislators. It was suggested that members begin to use the process – contact our legislators asking them to prioritize children's issues whenever they can in the legislative process. This is a generic message, and as this Commission decides to weigh in on specific issues, this practice will be beneficial.

The remainder of this meeting was a break-out session for the three issue-specific sub-committees – Partners for Young Children (Formerly 0-8), Video Violence/Screen Time and School-age Child Care (formerly 8-12), and Youth Connection (formerly 12-18). Every Children's Commission member is asked to be on one of these groups going forward. The break-out groups will be reporting in on their progress regularly.

Following the break-out sessions, members re-convened as a full Children's Commission. It was reported that we will seek to have the Board of Island County Commissioners with us for the March 5th meeting for a brief discussion of the "Visioning Document" from our Retreat. We will also inform them of our Action Plans for specific issues we will be addressing into the next year of ICCC operation. Dan will be contacting group leaders regarding the progress of Work Plans, such that we can be clear at the March meeting.

This coming March meeting it is **very important that all Children's Commission members be in attendance to interact with the County Commissioners. March 5th, 4:30 PM, at the usual place.**

Adjourned