

Island County Children's Commission (ICCC)
June 4th, 2009 Meeting

MINUTES

Members Present: Peggy Dyer, Anne Murphy, Janice O'Mahony, Bess Windecker-Nelson, John Dyer, Hillary Mellish, Margie Forbes, Kate Grossman, Sandy Ziemer, Carol Stillian

Members Absent: Rod Merrell, Mark Brown, Dave White, Cynthia Shelton, Kristin Lasher, Alyssa Steele, Gail Cleveland, Elizabeth Derrig

Staff: Dan N. Bond

This meeting was opened by Chair, Carol Stillian.

Opening thought provided by Sandy Ziemer, who offered the concept that children are "not molded, but unfolded" and, from Chicken Soup for Mothers – that we should "look for what to celebrate from our tragedies".

Minutes of the May meeting were approved as corrected.

Carol facilitated a discussion of the Last Exit play on teen suicide that will be concluding next weekend, June 7th. Several of our ICCC members participated by facilitating post-performance discussions between the young actors and the audience. Thus far, members who have taken part and/or attended report that the play was well done and quite impactful. Carol will be attending the last performance and intends to take cookies to the kids in the cast from the ICCC. This has been a pleasant and strategic endeavor for the Children's Commission. It turned out to be a very important contribution to the community, and in every way appropriate for ICCC involvement.

The next item for discussion/action was finalization of our Prioritization Procedures for what projects/requests the ICCC will take on. These were reviewed and approved by majority vote for immediate use. Dan will send out the final version with meeting minutes.

Carol and Dan then presented a draft of the calendaring/work plan document. This tool is suggested for the ICCC to use to plan our work ahead and better prepare for involvements. There are actually two documents of this type – one for full Commission and sub-committee projects and involvements (blue), and one for more internal ICCC "maintenance" work (yellow). Dan will work more on these documents and have them for further consideration at the next (August 6th) ICCC meeting. They will be consulted at each meeting ongoing, so that we can all be up to date on ICCC involvements at every level.

The next item was discussion of the Resource Mapping document that Cynthia and others put together for the Summit in April. It also is in draft form because we need input from Summit participants, and from ICCC members, on what is missing from this work. It is

the beginnings of our desire to create a county-wide “resource map”. Our intention is to collaborate closely with Cathy Niiro, of United Way, on this project. Bess offered to contact Cathy regarding this collaborative effort. Meanwhile, members were asked to take this document home and look it over, and contact Cynthia or Dan with suggestions for what needs to be added.

It was announced that there will be no July meeting, due to probable vacation schedules. The next full ICCC meeting is August 6th, same time and place. Sub-committees are encouraged to meet in the interim if their work dictates.

The next order of business was a discussion of ICCC vacancies and how to fill them. We need three new members to fill open slots. Priority may be given to applicants from Camano, Coupeville, as well as to potential youth members. We also need to fill the role of Public Relations person, as this has been vacated by Paty Williams. So, we are recruiting. Dan will put something into the local papers if necessary.

Action Team Updates:

Partners for Young Children – Bess reported on some of the impacts of the Department of Early Learning Grant, such as helping to fund the Summit and coalition building. Plans for the next phase include: 1) Achieving a bigger profile in the community for a broader sampling of stakeholders, 2) Planning and putting on Children’s Day, and 3) Sending teams to the Starting Strong Conference for 2 days in August.

Secondary/School Age Group (merged): Members reported that the School Age Advocacy Sub-Committee is merged now with the Secondary Sub-Committee. The new Sub-committee is entitled School Age Advocacy and Connections (SAAC), and it covers issues of kids 8-18 years of age. Sandy reported that the June 2nd Workshop on Video Violence on the south end was good, but not well attended. The next one will occur in September in Oak Harbor, and will be on the larger topic of Screen Time, including video violence. Janice then reported that the Connections group members who conducted teen and community focus groups are planning to go back to those focus groups to report to them the results – what kids said about their community and what adults said about kids in their community. This will take the effort full circle. More to come on this.

New Business: Carol reported out about the plans for a Playground on Camano Island. She believes the ICCC might have a collaborative role to play in this effort, and Carol will come to the next meeting with more information about this.

Bess expressed her concern that we need a better connection with the Board of Health and County Commissioners. She is concerned with cuts to kids programs and that we would have more impact on decisions if we were better connected and the BICC was asking us for recommendations. Perhaps we should have a meeting with the BICC/BOH by our August meeting.

Dave White brought up the topic of whether civilian kids can use the Navy youth facilities in Oak Harbor. There was discussion of whether this can happen, is happening and under what circumstances it might be possible. More information needed on this.

Adjourned.