

**Island County Children's Commission (ICCC)  
May 7, 2009 Meeting**

**Minutes**

**Members Present:** Kate Grossman, Kristin Lasher, Bess Windecker-Nelson, Alyssa Steele, Cynthia Shelton, Hillary Mellish, Rod Merrell, Anne Murphy, Gail Cleveland, Mark Brown, John Dyer, Peggy Dyer, Dave White

**Members Absent:** Janice O'Mahony, Carol Stillian, Sandy Ziemer, Margie Forbes, Beth Derrig

**Staff:** Dan N. Bond, Keith Higman

This meeting was chaired by Executive Committee member, Kate Grossman. Kate opened the meeting at approximately 4:35 and provided a topical musical Opening Thought from her old style phonograph – Father of Mine.

Minutes of the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as written. A transcript of John Dean's comments on March 5<sup>th</sup>, which were referred to in those minutes, was handed out in hard copy for those who requested them.

There was a discussion of the State of Children and Youth Summit, which several Children's Commissioners attended. The general consensus was that it went well. It was well attended, by a diverse group of approximately 85 people. Some thought the data piece was a bit long. One outcome that we wanted was for people to make connections with others with whom they do not often interact. This did occur, by all accounts. Evaluations were positive for the most part. It may be necessary, in future years, to be clear up front, at invitation, that this is a Summit to transmit a tremendous amount of information in a short day's gathering. It is not a conference where we divide up into task groups to "solve" the issues. Our goal was, and most likely will be in future years, to make sure that as many people as possible who provide resources/services and make decisions for children and youth – do so with the best information that we have. At this, we were successful.

The next order of business was a discussion, led by Kate, regarding the movement of our sub-committees from assessment to action on specific issues – our work plan.

Cynthia reported that the Secondary Youth Action Team met this same day, and plans to return to the Service Clubs where they previously conducted surveys and report back about their findings from all surveys conducted. They also will be conducting a "Caught in the Act" type of project to catch youth in the act of doing positive things in their communities and to make sure they receive recognition for their acts – publicly and privately. This is not unlike a Snohomish County program which Dan is familiar with. There is a template to follow. This will include a concerted effort to affect the way the news media portrays youth – more towards the positive. Cynthia will be taking over

leadership of this sub-committee from Rod, who has done an admirable job of leadership for the past year. Rod will remain on the sub-committee.

The School Age Advocacy and Awareness sub-committee has experienced a dwindling of membership. They suggested a merger with the Secondary group, which was seen as prudent. These two groups will become one and will meet together for the first time next month, prior to our full Commission meeting. They continue to work on the Video Violence/Screen Time education project and have the longer-term goal of improving/increasing school-age child care resources in this county.

The next order of business was review of and discussion on a draft Prioritization Procedures document. This document is designed to serve as our decision making template regarding what work we will take on and what our role will be relative to requests for our involvement on a given issue. Dan passed out the draft. Brief discussion transpired and Dan will finalize the procedures document and present it at the June meeting for final approval.

Kate then led a discussion regarding our membership. Recently we lost Kristina Saunsaucie and Paty Williams from the full Commission due to workload and family issues respectively. This means that we are seeking to fill those slots on the Commission, with emphasis upon Camano and upon youth membership. Rod stated that we also need members from the Coupeville area. Members are asked to give thought to recruitment of appropriate members from these areas.

Kate also asked us to review our scheduled meeting dates through the summer to see if there are dates when many members will be gone on vacation. After so doing, members voted to cancel the July 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. We will not replace it with another meeting date – no meeting in July.

There was no public comment.

The last order of business was a look at our calendar of ICCC events and community involvements – what is already scheduled and what do we need to add to the calendar. Following discussion, it was agreed that Dan will begin development of a work plan calendar, so we can readily see what is upcoming, and to allow us to prepare adequately and not be in reactive mode. Dan will bring drafts to the June meeting.

Meeting Adjourned.