

Ohio Parent Mentor Council Minutes

Draft Copy

Crown Plaza Columbus North

October 15, 2007

The October 15th, 2007 meeting of the Ohio Parent Mentor Council was called to order by Chairwoman Tami Vandygriff. After two minor corrections to the minutes, the minutes of the prior meeting were approved with a motion from Cathy Douglas and a second from Jackie Howley. The corrected minutes will appear on the Parent Mentor website as approved. New Council Members were welcomed and the outgoing members were thanked for their service. In attendance were Margaret Burley, Cheri McCullough, Tami Vandygriff, Jo Hannah Ward, Barb Rice, Lee Ann Derugen, as well as..

Northeast Region- Zivile Khoury, Teresa Karsnak

Northwest Region- Lauri Betscher, Cindy Herman, Jayne Young

East Central Region- Kathy Pavlik, Patty Joseph, Stacey Curry

Southeast Region- Faith Harkins, Karen Smith

Central Region- Marilyn Van Gilder, Jacqueline Howley, Lauri Kaplan

Mideast Region- Cathy Douglas, Amy Dell'Anno

Southwest Region- Christine Wright, Moira Laughlin

North Central Region- Lin Bils, Vicki Deel-Lezon, and Janine Belsterling.

Reports:

ODE- Jo Hannah Ward reported that Greg Maloney will be at our conference on the 29th. She also announced that she has been promoted to the Assistant Director of Resource Management. Her replacement has not been named. Regarding the 10 new Parent Mentor Projects, the RFP has been written and should go out this week. These grants are funded out of TANF dollars and will need to follow TANF guidelines. These grants are only a one year program. Jo Hannah informed us that the current project grants were brought back up to the original \$25,000 figure and should stay at this amount in the future. This was accomplished by moving two projects to federal dollars which freed up the state funding. Jo Hannah suggested

we look at the ODE website to read the State Performance Plan and the Annual Performance Plan. To locate this information, type in SPP in the search engine. The State Performance Plan includes 20 indicators from the Federal Government.

OCECD- We were happy to have Margaret Burley with us today. She said they did receive the Parent Training and Information Center Grant from the Federal Government. This was renewed for five years. She said Senator John Peterson was very helpful in the process for the new Parent Mentor Grants. The Special Education Scholarship Legislation was vetoed. Only the Autism program was continued at the present time. The other legislation will be reintroduced at a later date. Margaret also discussed a Supreme Court ruling which has significance regarding Juvenile Court implications. Ohio now says a juvenile must be represented by legal council, whereas they were previously able to waive right to council. The regionalization of the SERRC's was also discussed. There are now 16 State Support Teams. They are currently developing the Performance Agreement for each region. Some concern is noted as to whether the family services will still be provided as in the past. This will be based on the regional assessment of needs. The direct implications for Parent Mentors may be a reduction in available professional development hours available to meet our individual PDP Plans. The lowest performing districts will be a prime focus as we move forward. This will be a learning year and feedback is necessary.

Regional Reports:

Northeast- The region met on September 18th in East Cleveland. On the agenda was the OCALI Guidelines for Autism and a speaker from HMG. The region also questioned what happens to grants that are turned back in.

Northwest- The region met on October 3. Sandy Brickner provided the Evaluation Process training for the group. They also replaced Laurie Bestcher as the OCECD rep as she is helping with It's My Turn. Future trainings will be held by viewing a seven series DVD collection of subjects as well as a speaker from the Autism Society.

East Central- The region met on September 17. Each mentor shared what activities and changes are going on and have occurred in their respective regions. Jim Martinek will speak at the next meeting on the SERRC reorganization.

Southeast- The region met on September 19th with everyone present. They had a speaker from Ohio Legal Rights who led a Q and A session.

Central- The region met on September 17th. Planning was completed for the upcoming Transition Summit. They also finalized their calendar for the year and possible training ideas. They also had a program called the Friendship Circle Program.

Mideast- The region met on September 13th where they welcomed two new mentors to the region. The group discussed the new Parent Mentor Guidelines and had a few suggestions for changes. They heard a presentation of the “Take Me Home” program. The November training topic will be Co-Teaching /Inclusion.

Southwest- The group met on October 2, 2007. The group looked at their own meeting skills in regards to making the meetings more focused on topics. The group also discussed future meeting dates and training to be provided as well as reviewed the new PM Guidelines.

North Central- The region met on September 28th. Vicki presented training on appropriate reading programs and resources. The new OCECD Board reps will be Carol Lauferswiler and Rebecca Shaw. The next meeting will be at the fall conference after dinner.

Committee Reports:

Archive- The group met on October 1st. Discussion centered on the “Caption This” contest which will be held at the Fall Conference. The committee will try to have only two work sessions per year.

Mentor Support Committee- The group has not met since the last conference, but communicate via email. They are asking everyone to share resources at a table at the conference. The new directory is almost complete. If anyone needs a hard copy of the directory due to not being able to access, they are to call Marilyn Van Gilder.

Public Relations Committee- The committee met on October 2nd. They reviewed the results of the Public Relations Survey. They want to remind everyone to look at the Parent Friendly link button on the Parent Mentor website. They discussed distribution options for the Publicity Tips Guide. They also discussed the possibility of pursuing television exposure for the Parent Mentor Program.

Skills and Knowledge- The group met via conference call on August 29th to complete the plans for the Fall Conference. Greg Maloney has been confirmed for the Spring Conference speaking on the New Rules. The group discussed the idea of redesigning the way we presently hold our conferences. Budget constraints are hitting many mentors and training may become an issue. Many pros and cons were brought up regarding alternatives. This will be discussed further at the October meeting. A survey regarding training needs of mentors has been sent out. There will be no new parent mentor training this year due to the low number of new mentors. The group will meet daily during the conference.

Old Business:

The new Parent Friendly link has been added to the PMO website and it looks great. Invite parents to check it out. Thanks to Pat Linkhorn are extended for her continued hard work on maintaining our website.

There are two corrections to the Parent Mentor Guidelines. In Article VIII, Section A we added the word "are" after the word projects in the first sentence. In Section VII, B5, the words "this means you" was deleted. On a motion from Kathy Pavlik and a second by Theresa Karsnak, this motion was approved by vote of the Council.

New Business-

Jo Hannah Ward reported that she will be mailing our Performance Plan in November. This will be in an abbreviated checklist format for the January reporting verses the narrative format at year end.

A survey was sent to all regions to see how they work together to provide trainings etc.. If you have not completed this as a region, do so quickly and send back.

There was some discussion of whether an option may be to regionalize the conferences verses the one conference for all. This would save on accommodations and travel expense and time for everyone. Speaker expense may be increased for numerous presentations.

Teresa Karsnak will take over the Recorder position from Vicki Deel-Lezon at the next meeting.

Lee Ann Derugen reported that representatives from the State of Illinois will be present at our Conference to view our program as they have started one in their State. Cheri and Tami will be their hostesses. The state of Georgia's Parent Mentor Program is moving also nicely. They have a website and some resources which were passed around to view.

The next meeting of the Council will be via teleconference call on November 20, 2007.

Respectfully submitted by Vicki Deel-Lezon.