

**GREENE CO. FAMILY & CHILDREN FIRST COUCIL
SPECIAL MEETING FULL COUNCIL
FIRST LADY'S VISIT
MINUTES
OCTOBER 17, 2007**

The meeting was called to order by Mark McDonnell @ 2:30 p.m. Everyone introduced themselves.

OVERVIEW OF THE COUNTY (RICK PERALES)

Rick Perales welcomed Mrs. Strickland to Greene County and thanked her for visiting. Mr. Perales gave a brief overview of Greene County – and advised her our motto is: A Great Place to Work, Live & Play. He mentioned the surrounding areas of Jamestown, Cedarville, Yellow Springs, and Fairborn and the good collaborative work of the Full Council. Mrs. Strickland thanked the Commission for their support of Family & Children First Council. She is visiting all counties and is looking for recurring themes, problems that come up in all counties that she and the Governor can focus on.

OVERVIEW OF THE FCF COUNCILS/FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO FCF COUNCIL STRENGTHS (JOHN LAROCK)

John LaRock gave a brief overview of how the Full Council formed in 1995 out of three already existing groups to form one collaborative group. There are 16 mandated members and 20 non-mandated members and there is great participation in Greene County with all agencies and everyone is willing to work together. The Commission is kept informed of all the Council's work. Mr. LaRock also mentioned the willingness of members to step up to be Council Chair and Co-Chair and that the Council is a great success because of the efforts and leadership of Ms. Giga and because the Council listens to what the community wants.

FCF COUNCIL PRIORITIES AND SUCCESSES (SUE TO INTRODUCE)

Pam Hamer gave a brief overview of the Parents as Teachers Program. Funds from the Access to Better Care Blueprint plan paid for training. The program is used by GRADS, Early Headstart, MRDD, and GCCHD. Mrs. Strickland asked if fathers were involved and Pam advised that PAT was for all members of the family. Pam talked about the "Daddy and Me" carnival which takes place every year.

Tracey Woodson from Greene County Diversion Program described her program to Mrs. Strickland. The program helps juveniles deal with charges without a formal court record.

They also encourage teens to participate in teen court. Statistics show they have an 80% success rate and very low repeat offenders after participation in their program.

Susan Newman from Greene County Juvenile Court's Strengthening Families Program described their program which is designed to reach children in the 5-14 age range. They encourage families to enroll in the program to help families identify their "strengths." Susan showed Mrs. Strickland several posters as examples of how the families work together. Strengthening Families has several sources for referrals.

Terry Thomas gave a brief overview of the School Based Mental Health program (schools and mental health therapists joining forces) which has been a great success at the ESC. Mr. Thomas stressed the importance of good directors. The ESC is now a fully accredited mental health agency. Anya Senetra described the PAX Good Behavior Game created by Dr. Dennis Embry, which is working very well in many schools, is a relatively inexpensive program, and is a great success with children's behavior to insure a peaceful and safe environment for children in school.

FCF COUNCIL CHALLENGES (RHONDA REAGH)

Rhonda Reagh reiterated to Mrs. Strickland that Greene County is a very high functioning county, is concerned with child well-being, and supports family and kids. However, there are difficult barriers with people at the State level. They do not understand or experience what local directors experience every day and are insulated. There needs to be better communication with the State. It is important that all state agencies coordinate and that State funds are received in a timely manner.

Pam Hamer advised Help Me Grow, in collaboration with MRDD, has many problems as far as rules on the Federal and State levels. The State is very slow in releasing money. Ms. Giga advised that she has had to move money to assist Help Me Grow because GRF money has still not been received and there are invoices from July that have not been paid because of the lack of funds received.

Rich Schultze of Greene Cats advised that there needs to be more funds directed toward transportation in Greene County.

On a positive note, Kathy Gorby praised the ELI and "Step Up to Quality" programs implemented in July.

There was an open discussion with Mrs. Strickland regarding the challenges Greene County face.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned approximately 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Linda L. Warehime
Administrative Support Technician
Family & Children First**

Date