



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: January 11, 2006, 5:00 pm

Location: United Way Good Neighbor Center, Renton, WA

Board members present:

Non-Fiduciary	Sonia Foss	Cynthia Chandler	Clem Benton
	Kerry Annette Wade	Karin Schuyleman	Betty Nomura
	Margie Staulcup	Kim Bennett	
Fiduciary	Don Lincoln		

Board members excused: Joe Breidenbach Steven Henken C.C. Scott
Binoy Varughese (Leave) Alan Bulger (Alt.)

Guests present: Jean Hueston, Board Alumni
Leslie Anderson, Board Alumni
Clair Lane, HSPC U of W
Ashley Chaplain

Staff members present: Dianne Heide Denese Bohanna

Call to order – Chair Kerry Annette Wade called the meeting to order at 5:09

Quorum – There was a quorum.

Agenda – Approved as written.

Approval of December 14 Minutes

Motion 1 Betty moved to approve the December 14, 2005 minutes as written. Second by Karin.
The motion passed.

Clair Lane, Human Services Policy Center, University of Washington

Claire joined the SKCCN Board to give them an outline of what exactly policy is about. She reports that looking in the dictionary gave some good starting points.

- a. A definite course or method of action selected from among present and future decisions.
- b. A high-level overall plan embracing the general goals and acceptable procedures, especially of a governmental body.

According to Claire it can be more simply stated as being “about doing the right thing – choosing a course of action.” Policy comes down to being a plan or goal while procedure is about implementing the policy/plan. It is not just about legislation. Effective policy changes can be small and simple but they are not always identifiable.

Clair related a story about a school policy that mandated a child be suspended from school for two weeks if they are found to have lice. The school district also wanted to do something about improving absenteeism. In their research they found that there was no legislation that mandated the zero tolerance policy on lice. So after carefully reviewing the present policy and coming up with a plan that would mitigate any negative effects from a change in policy they requested a change and it was granted. Given that the group had a good partnership with the school Board their suggested policy change was well received. The result was an improvement in school performance since children did not have to miss two

weeks of school. It didn't take a legislative act, it didn't take a great deal of time or hearings, it was a simple act of researching possible options and requesting a change from the leadership of the school district.

Clair informed the Board that the first and most important aspect of framing policy is to research and provide data, data, data. In fact she suggested that the newly formed Partnerships, Research and Policy Committee be renamed the Research, Policy and Partnerships Committee. She felt that creating partnerships is the last step in getting policy changes put into place. In the case of the SKCCN it would look like this:

Research

- What is domestic violence? How is it defined – and by whom?
- Who does it affect? Who is involved?
- Where is it happening?
- How prevalent is it?
- What do others know about it?
- What other questions do we need to ask to meet our goals? What other data do we need to answer our questions?

Policy

- What do we want to do about domestic violence and children?
- What results do we want? What do we want it to look like?
- What is the “prudent” and “wise” plan or course of action to get results?

Partnerships

- Who can make these things happen?
- Who shares our goals?
- Who makes decisions?
- Who or what has an influence on these decision-makers?
- Who can be mobilized to make changes? What is the most effective way to mobilize them?

Her final insights to the Board were about policy implementation. In order to be successful the Board will need to focus on the compelling nature and visibility of the issue and tell a convincing story. The story must connect the issue to the big picture so that we can build the needed relationships with influential partners that can make the changes happen or provided the needed leverage.

Update on the Statement of Work and Service Reports

Denese reported that Laura Porter, Staff Director for the Family Policy Council, is on vacation and was not available to read the paperwork but in a conversation with Trudy Arnold, Community Outreach, she heard good comments about the revised plan. Dianne was informed that the Family Policy Council is committed to completing their review within a 30 day time frame. Hopefully the Board will have final feedback by the February 8 Board meeting.

Contracted Staff Contracts

Kerry reported that she has received a draft contract from the attorney and met with staff to review the draft. Dianne and Denese are now working on some proposed deliverables to submit to the Committee at their next meeting. In addition, a set of questions from the Committee and staff have been forwarded to the attorney. The questions were included in the Executive Committee minutes from December for any Board member who wanted to review. It was hoped that a draft contract would be ready to submit to the full Board at the February 8 Board meeting.

Heart Bucks

The Board collected Heart Bucks after break and raised \$18 to support the effort of building a strong SKCCN Association.

Membership

Kerry voiced concerns about the number of Board resignations in the preceding six months. She realizes that some Board members are becoming concerned about the amount of time getting the plan approved as taken but wanted everyone to understand that we are almost at the point of getting to work. She then asked Dianne to provide the Board with a Membership update.

Dianne reported that, even though recruiting was part of her job description, she needed help from the entire Board to rebuild the membership. Not only is this vital if the Family Policy Council is going to see the SKCCN as a functioning Community Network and continue our funding BUT with a full contingent of qualified and enthusiastic Board members there will be less work for everyone.

The Bad News

The most concerning membership area is Fiduciary. With the loss of Judith, Margaret, Geoff, Lela, David, Tereasa and Kristie – the SKCCN is down to two of the ten members required in this area. Steven Henken has been unreachable for several months and the January meeting marks his fourth missed meeting. Joe Breidenbach has also notified the Board of his intention to resign. This means that nine of the thirteen Non-Fiduciary spots are filled.

The Good News

Dr. Muir has promised that he intends to apply and will be at the February meeting. He extends his apology for not being at the January meeting but his brother is terminally ill. Cathy Williams (DV Advocate in the Federal Way Prosecutors Office) and Mark Davidson (Deputy Superintendent of the Federal Way School District) both have applications in hand. Three employees of Children's Home Society are also considering an application. Also, there are several applications out for Non-fiduciary positions. If all of the promised applications come in during January the Board should have four new members in February and at least two more in March.

Leslie Anderson and Sonia Foss both asked Dianne for Board packets to take to friends/family. Dianne has also listed the Board on the United Way web site and will continue to make phone calls and send emails on a daily basis. In addition, a press release will go out soon and the next newsletter will include an article about Board participation.

Committee Fiar

As part of an effort to increase participation in the SKCCN's three regular committees each was asked to make a short presentation to the Board about their work.

Partnerships, Research and Policy Committee

This is a new and exciting SKCCN Committee that will help the SKCCN Board and staff to stay on task in building involvement with collaborative partnerships. They will also take the lead in researching and preparing the Board to take a stand on policy issues. They are looking for members who come from all kinds of backgrounds, have expertise in formal and informal ways of helping families, are survivors of family violence, know or would like to know more about what is happening in the community, are not afraid to ask hard questions or take on tough issues and are passionate about changing the system.

They advertise that "Whistle Blowers are Welcome!". Since they are new they have not yet chosen a regular date, time or location for meetings. Rumor has it that the PRP Committee is currently meeting at Karin Schuyleman's house and she is providing a home cooked meal – what more could you ask?

Finance Committee

Wanting to dispel the concept that this Committee might be considered boring Treasurer, Margie Staulcup, and Committee member, Cynthia Chandler, started by telling a story. To set the scene – Margie is wearing a lovely purple wig representing someone in a cartoon show and Cynthia is wearing a magician's cap and top hat – bold items in the story were written on the blackboard.

Once upon a time, there was a happy productive South King County Community Network Board. They were charged with the wonderful mission of finding ways to bridge the gap in services for children and families. Because they were the largest in the state . . . involving 17 cities and a population of 650,000 . . . this Board was granted a two year budget of **\$358,000**, but last year, the legislature decided to throw a

curve ball, and they did THIS **XXXXXXXX** (the xx's were through the \$358,000 figure written on the blackboard) and left the Board with this **\$221,000**. BUT three years ago this fore-sighted Board, with amazing staff members Dianne Heide and Denese Bohanna, applied for and received THIS **501(c)(3)** which, for us, means THIS . . . **OPPORTUNITIES!!!** (Cynthia pulled a rabbit from her magicians hat) We can fund this Board to be independent of political whims and drastic budget cuts. Have you always wanted to learn how to write a grant? Have you secretly wished to help plan a mega-event, perhaps a silent auction? Do YOU have a dessert that is so magnificent that you would put it in front of an audience to BID on? Would you like to learn how to be a Fundraiser? Do you adore Continental Breakfast? If you have answered 'YES' to one or more of these questions, then the Finance Committee is the one for you.

The Finance Committee meets the first Saturday of the month at 10:00 am at the Good Neighbor Center. Continental Breakfast is provided. Your energy and creativity will be channeled for the happiness and safety of children and families. We need YOU!!

Communications Committee

When Dianne rose to speak on behalf of the Communications Committee she was quite subdued (for Dianne). It seems she had planned a presentation that would tell the Board that if they wanted to work with a creative team they wanted to work for the Communications Committee. After seeing what the others had done however she KNEW that was not the right angle.

Hanging on the blackboard was a banner of the bus signs from the 2005 Community Awareness Campaign. She reminded the Board about the wonderful and creative thought that went into creating the slogan and graphics for the campaign. This was not the effort of just one person or committee but weaving ideas from every Board member and using everyone's skills to best advantage. The slogan was created by the committee as a group as they sat in the Cutters Point Coffee shop in Covington with huge pieces of paper and colored pens to scribble with. The heart was the result of an idea from Margaret Garrison. The black and white theme came from a commercial idea that Jim Davis brought to the Board.

Now this committee will be taking on some very special tasks like creating a business and school education plan that will help those organizations learn how to support victims. Building a collaborative among DV Task Forces that will open lines of communication and result in a collaborative South County wide event. So bring your creative side to the table and join the Communications Committee. Plus remember that this committee is the only one to actually have a BUDGET. Yes we get to spend money on those things that are important.

The Communications Committee meets the fourth Saturday of the month at 10:00 am at the Covington Applebee's. We don't have continental breakfast or a home cooked meal BUT they do have a weight watchers menu there.

Committee Reports

All reports were provided in writing.

Executive Committee – Everything was in the EC minutes.

Partnerships, Research and Policy – Karin will work on a meeting date and invite all Board members to attend if interested.

Communications – Everything was in the Committee's minutes.

Finance Committee – The Finance Committee requested Board action on the Membership budget. There is presently \$475 in the budget (\$25 has already been spent for the 2005-06 South King Council of Human Services membership). The Committee recommended that of the remaining money the SKCCN Board spend: \$200 (\$100 for each year of the biennium) for membership in the King County Coalition Against Domestic Violence, \$50 (\$25 for each year of the biennium) for membership in the South King Council of Human Services and \$250 for membership in the Community Network Coalition. This would use all of the Membership money in the budget. Dianne was asked what would happen if another

opportunity came up and Dianne reminded the Board they still have \$10,000 in uncommitted funds.

Motion 2 Margie moved **to approve the recommendation from the Finance Committee.** Second by Betty. The motion passed.

Legislative – The Board was provided with copies of HB2395 which would set protocols for children in the CPS system who are experiencing domestic violence. They were also informed that a post card campaign was underway that would help build support for reinstating the Family Policy Council’s budget to 2003-05 levels for the second half of the 2005-07 biennium. As soon as the cards arrive Dianne will get them into the hands of Board members. All Board members were reminded that membership fees from Community Networks to the Community Network Coalition (CNC) could not be used for lobbying purposes. Board members and staffers across the state become personal members of the organization for a donation of \$10 to \$100 and that money can be used for lobbying. So if financially able everyone is asked to join the CNC. There are two days in Olympia planned for Community Network participation. The first is sponsored by the CNC and is planned for January 24th. The second is the official Family Policy Council event planned for February 15th. Any Board members interested in participating were asked to contact Dianne to make arrangements.

Meeting adjourned – 7:12

Minutes Approved:

Signed

Date