



BAYFIELD COUNTY
Department of Human Services

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FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
10:00am on 02/22/2005 at St. Michael's Church in Iron River

Committee Members Present: Renea Woerle, Jane Molberg, Susan Pillinger (membership pending), Mary Lou Jahr (membership pending), Rhonda Montavon, and Peggy Hipsher

Committee Members Absent: Kay Hudack, Brenda Nelson, Lee Raspotnik, Lisa Nohl, and Bill Dunham.

Staff Present: Kathryn Franta.

Introductions of New Members: Kathryn introduced Mary Lou Jahr R.N. and Sue Pillinger (Red Cliff).

2005 Family Support Program Plan Approval: Kathryn explained the plan and discussion followed. A motion to approve was made by Renea and seconded by Rhonda. Kathryn expects to have three additional families in 2005 and \$7,000 of the un-earmarked money is available for their needs.

Committee Membership: Regulations require there are more parents than professionals serving on the Family Support Program Advisory Committee and this has been achieved. It was noted that the Iron River location works well to allow parent participation.

2004 Budget: The 2004 FSP budget and family plan totals were reviewed and explained. Not all the family assigned funds go directly to the family, and may instead go to a caregiver or service for the family. It was also pointed out that unfortunately some of the family assigned funding goes unspent which was used to help those with needs on the waiting list. This year we used \$1220 for a waiting list family.

Receipts: Kathryn provided a definition of what constitutes a receipt and it was suggested that a coupon book type system might work best. The coupon would be valid if all the blanks were filled in and purchase made and signed by service provider. Parents stated that there is frustration at times with receipts, etc. Parents said they are very willing to provide the needed documentation but it can be hard at times.

Advocacy: Kathryn explained that "Legislation in Your Living Room" is a state-wide effort to provide Madison Representatives with face to face meetings with families and their children in their own homes. Parents are strongly urged to make their voices heard. FSP is a very unique program and waiting lists are very long.

ARC brochures were given out and again parents and others urged to join in support of persons with disabilities. ARC is working to get Chris Burke to return to Ashland for another appearance. Chris is a young actor with Downs Syndrome who played a part on a sitcom a few years ago. He travels with his music group and talks to school kids about accepting one another, even with a disability. Students responded very well to his visit two years ago when he toured the schools.

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Kathryn suggested that after the business section of the May meeting, Advisory Members take time to create a letters to legislators describing their child's story along with photos. The letters could be kept at home until the time comes for advocating. It was agreed to schedule this activity for May.

Membership Needs: Discussion revealed the need for a community recreation organizer on the Committee that can help develop summer activities for children. It appears the Iron River Community offers no organized summer programs for kids. Parents said there is a need for all kids.

There is also a need for an education representative on the Committee. Kathryn will contact Tracy J. at C.E.S.A. #12 regarding this.

Adjournment: Visiting and refreshments followed the meeting.

Minutes taken by Sue Pillinger.

SP/nkb