

Washtenaw County
Foster Grandparent Program Advisory Group
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Wednesday, September 21, 2005 **Time:** 9:00 am

Members Present: Ameen Benin, Fran Bredow, Margaret Crawford, Helena Dismuke, Rosie Fenderson, Leah Gunn, Trudy Hall, Gina Lewis, Jill Kind, Ray Mellberg, Janet Nowland, Annie Robinson and Hazel Watson.

Members Absent: Jessie Darko and Oliver Harmon.

Staff Present: Trenda Rusher, Susan Sweet Scott, Barbara A. Patterson and Rana Al-Igoe.

1. Call to Order

Crawford called the meeting to order at 9:06 am.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Crawford welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed happiness to see so many new faces. She asked that everyone introduce him/herself.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Gunn moved to approve the meeting agenda. Kind supported. Meeting agenda approved.

4. Community Advisory Group

A. ETCS (Employment Training and Community Services) Overview – Rusher

- An informational binder was distributed to each of the Community Advisory Group members.
- Rusher gave an overview of ETCS and explained how the Foster Grandparent Program Advisory Group (FGPAG) fits in the department. She noted that we are in a great County where we all work together and are recognized state-wide and nationally. Rusher recognized the work that the Commissioners do and the integrated services that are provided throughout the County.
- Rusher announced that there is an opening on the Community Action Board (CAB) in the consumer sector. This opening was previously filled by a Foster Grandparent (FG) and staff would like to see another FG nominated.
- Rusher gave some examples of the sort of projects that ETCS works on, including the Katrina Relief Effort.
- Rusher asked members to feel free to allow her and staff to assist with any of their needs.

B. FGP (Foster Grandparent Program) Overview – Scott

- Scott thanked everyone for coming and volunteering his or her time to the Group. She gave an overview of the FGP.
- Scott noted that Barbara A. Patterson is the full time staff to the FGP and that several other ETCS staff members help support the program.

5. Report of the Foster Grandparent Coordinator

A. Training

- Patterson gave an overview of some of the things in which the FGs are involved. There are regular in service meetings and Group members are all invited. These are very informative and occur every month (on the third Friday). Staff is always looking for speakers for these trainings.
- There is also an annual training for volunteer sites to receive information. This year's site training is scheduled for November 4 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

B. Evaluation

- FGs are required to have a yearly physical as part of the program. FGs are also evaluated annually to ensure that they meet program requirements, including income guidelines.

C. Recognition Luncheon

- There is an Annual Recognition Luncheon, usually held in the spring.
- Decorations are donated from Ypsilanti Public High School. Through a partnership, they donate their prom decorations that we use. A theme for the Luncheon is developed around those decorations.

D. Other Activities

- Patterson described some of the other activities that the FGs are involved in, including summer and fall placements.
- There are twenty-eight active sites that FGs are placed in. Currently, there are sixty-nine active FGs.

6. Report of the Foster Grandparents (FGs)

FGs Dismuke, Fenderson, Robinson, and Watson gave a summary of some of the things that they are doing in their placement sites and at others.

7. Report of a Site

Crawford spoke of volunteers at her site, again thanked staff, and noted what a wonderful job they do.

8. Other Business / Announcements

None

9. Next Meeting Dates

All regular meetings are from 9:00 am to 10:30 am at the Washtenaw County Michigan Works! Service Center, 304 Harriet Street, Ypsilanti.

- Wednesday, November 16, 2005
- Wednesday, January 18, 2006
- Wednesday, March 15, 2006
- Wednesday, May 17, 2006

The FGP Annual Recognition Luncheon is scheduled for Friday, April 28, 2006 from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm at the Kensington Court Hotel in Ann Arbor.

10. Adjourn

Kind moved to adjourn the meeting. Gunn supported. Crawford adjourned the meeting at 10:37 am.