

Washtenaw County
Foster Grandparent Program Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Wednesday, January 18, 2006 **Time:** 9:00 am

Meeting Location: Washtenaw County Michigan Works! Service Center – 304 Harriet Street, Ypsilanti

Members Present: Helena Dismuke, Leah Gunn, Trudy Hall, Gina Lewis, Ray Mellberg and Annie Robinson

Members Absent: Ameen Benin, Fran Bredow, Margaret Crawford, Jessie Darko, Rosie Fenderson (excused), Oliver Harmon, Jill Kind, Janet Nowland, Lynn Richards and Hazel Watson (excused).

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

1. Call to Order

Mellberg called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM. Mellberg indicated that the bad weather may have contributed to the lack of attendance at today's meeting.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves. Ashley Kniceley is attending today's meeting; she is an intern from Eastern Michigan University who started yesterday with Washtenaw County ETCS (Employment Training and Community Services) and will continue to intern for the next six months.

3. Approval of the Agenda

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

4. Approval of the Minutes

Dismuke moved to approve the minutes from the 11/16/05 meeting. Robinson supported. Minutes from the 11/16/05 meeting approved.

5. Report of the Director – Rusher

- The Washtenaw County Workforce Development Board (WDB) and Community Action Board (CAB) held elections for officers in November. The WDB elected a new Chair, Keith Peters who is President of the Ypsilanti Area Chamber of Commerce. Peters' agenda for 2006 includes supporting the development of small businesses, focusing on National and Regional involvement, including the Southeast Michigan Workforce Agencies Consortium (SEMWAC) and expanding the economic development partnership.
- Currently, ETCS is working with Mary Kerr, at the Ann Arbor Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, who is a member on the WDB. ETCS is providing hospitality training for companies in the area and awarding trophies to companies that are participating. The program is called the Quarterback Sneak in honor of the upcoming Super Bowl in Detroit.

- The CAB also named a new Chair for 2006. Christina Montague has three agenda items she would like the CAB to focus on. The first is seniors and their quality of life; the second is to focus on the working poor; and employment, housing and income; and the third agenda item is working with faith based organizations.
- All FGP Advisory Council members should have received an invitation for the Joint Annual Meeting of the Washtenaw County Workforce Development Board (WDB) and Community Action Board (CAB) hosted by ETCS. On January 23, both the CAB and the WDB will be going into a mini-retreat prior to the Joint Annual Meeting. The theme of the mini-retreat is employment and poverty. The issue is that people, including those that work everyday, are still in poverty. Board members will focus on skills and education as real tools to move people into better employment. The Boards want to give people the tools they need to get better jobs. David Bradley will be at the mini-retreat and at the Joint Annual Meeting.
- Gunn asked that Bradley's report be sent to the BOC.

6. Report of the Older Adult Program Activities – (Scott)

- The FGP Annual Recognition is coming up. It is scheduled for Friday, April 28 at the Crowne Plaza in Ann Arbor.
- The FGP staff is constantly looking for volunteers. Gunn asked what was being done now to recruit new volunteers. Patterson replied that a lot of the recruitment is done by word of mouth. Patterson added that she would cover recruitment in her report later in the meeting.
- Rusher noted that one of the programs that ETCS has been asked to look at involves serving children whose parents are incarcerated. ETCS works with Julie Chafee at Washtenaw County Community Corrections, where she staffs a "Mini One Stop Center."
- SAW – Guenzel attended the Senior Advocates for Washtenaw (SAW) meeting yesterday and talked about how the County works, outlining its priorities. SAW meetings are held at the Washtenaw County Library Learning Resource Center (LLRC). The next one is scheduled for March 27 from 10 to 11:30 am. A flyer for the next meeting including contact information for those interested in attending was included in today's meeting packet.
- A flyer was also included in today's meeting packet for the Ypsilanti Community Center. They have lost funding and are looking for ways and resources to keep the Center open.
- A summary of Visions 2004 was included in the meeting packets for members to review. Visions 2006 is scheduled for May 10; an informational flyer was included for members in the meeting packets.
- ETCS is going to support the printing of a new resource directory by Catholic Social Services. The directory is focused on older adults and is widely used. ETCS has funded the printing of this resource directory for the past three years. Rusher noted that while at City Council yesterday, she spotted one of those directories posted in the lobby. Robinson added that she uses the directory almost every day.
- The upcoming Joint Annual Meeting on Monday will highlight some of the other programs offered by ETCS. Such programs include Home Rehabilitation and Weatherization. A 2006 calendar including energy saving tips was distributed to all members. Rusher added that DTE is contacting ETCS asking if they will help customers who are not income eligible for other programs, as current emergency services are only offered to those who are income eligible.

7. Report of the Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) – (Patterson)

- Thirty sites are currently involved with the FGP. ETCS staff is looking for new sites that are open year round.

- Recruitment activities include presentations. Patterson is giving a presentation at the Lexington Club on the FGP in an effort to recruit new volunteers. ETCS staff does a lot of cross marketing on their own programs and between other County departments.
- The FGP In-Service speaker for January is from the University of Michigan Multi Cultural Center. The speaker will talk to the FGs about health. In February, the In-Service discussion will be focused on senior abuse. Jill Ratajczak, of Neighborhood Senior Services (NSS), will present “Ten Tips for Keeping Your Mind Sharp” at one of the In-Services scheduled. There is an ongoing need for In-Service speakers. There is also a need for volunteers to help host the Annual Recognition Luncheon.
- FG physicals are planned for March. These are contributed by Mission Health. Physicals are required annually.

8. Report of the Foster Grandparents (FGs) – (Dismuke, Fenderson and Robinson)

- Robinson shared some of the experiences of other FGs over the holiday.
- Dismuke reported on her assigned sites, including the University of Michigan Child Development Center. Dismuke noted that she was recently permanently assigned to one of the non-English speaking students at one of her sites. This is particularly challenging because the student does not speak English.

9. Other Business / Announcements

- Michigan's First Gentleman, Dan Mulhern, visited Erickson Elementary school in December. There, Mulhern donated books and read to students.
- The Program for Multi-Cultural Health has a calendar that they are selling for \$4 plus tax. They also have a brochure published in English, Spanish and Russian. The brochures are free, but supplies are limited.

10. Upcoming Meeting Dates to Note

- Monday, January 23, 2006 at 4:30 pm – Joint Annual Meeting of the Washtenaw County Workforce Development and Community Action Boards at the Ypsilanti Marriott Eagle Crest Golf Clubhouse
- FGP Advisory Council Meeting – Wednesday, March 15, 2006 at 9:00 am at the Michigan Works! Service Center (304 Harriet Street, Ypsilanti)
- Friday, April 28, 2005 – Annual Recognition Luncheon 11:30 am – 2:00 pm at Kensington Court in Ann Arbor
- FGP Advisory Council Meeting – Wednesday, May 17, 2006 at 9:00 am at the Michigan Works! Service Center (304 Harriet Street, Ypsilanti)

11. Adjourn

Gunn moved to adjourn the meeting. Dismuke supported. Mellberg adjourned the meeting at 10:12 AM.