

WISCONSIN PREVENTION NETWORK  
SEPTEMBER 29, 2003  
MEETING MINUTES

Able to participate: Shel Gross, Karen Knudson, Stephanie Bass-Faust, Bette Wahl, Ron Biendseil, Ken Ramminger, Sue Allen, Roger Williams, Chris Wardlow.

Guest: Kris Christain, WPN Webmaster

I. INITIAL BUSINESS

1. Approval of August 2003 Minutes: Ken moved to approve. Sue Allen seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report: Sue Allen reported that there is a balance of \$10,455.68 in the WPN checking account. The balance in WPN's certificate of deposit is \$6,019.83.

II. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

4. WPN Board Insurance: Shel Gross asked whether the WPN Board has any kind of liability insurance. Sue Allen indicated that it did not and explained that such insurance is a necessity if an organization has staff which WPN does not.

5. WPN Board Recruitment: Shel Gross suggested that WPN actively recruit leaders in other statewide, prevention-focused organizations to serve on WPN's board. He also suggested that there be an odd number of board members in case of tie votes, and that the terms of officers be staggered to insure continuity.

6. Board Elections: Sue Allen made a motion to nominate Karen Knudson, Ken Ramminger, Shel Gross, Michelle Mangan, Ron Biendseil, Sue Opheim, and Chris Wardlow upon each of their acceptance. Motion seconded by Chris Wardlow. Motion carried unanimously.

a.) Karen Knudson, Ken Ramminger, and Chris Wardlow accepted their nominations.

b.) Sue Allen made a motion to elect Karen Knudson, Ken Ramminger, and Chris Wardlow to the WPN Board. Chris Wardlow seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

c.) The election of the others who were nominated is pending their acceptance of the nomination. Roger Williams agreed to follow-up with them after this meeting.

7. Election of Officers:

a.) Chair - Sue Allen made a motion to nominate Chris Wardlow to serve as Chairperson of the WPN Board. Motion seconded by Roger Williams. Chris Wardlow accepted the nomination. Motion carried unanimously.

b.) Treasurer - Sue Allen made a motion to nominate Karen Knudson to serve as Treasurer of the WPN Board. Karen's acceptance of the nomination is pending. She indicated that she needed time to consider it, and will make her decision within a week of this meeting.

III. WORKGROUP REPORTS

1. Concept Papers - Roger Williams reported that the papers have been posted on the WPN website. He has only received feedback from a couple of people. He requested that we encourage people to read them and provide feedback soon so that the project can be completed.

a.) Authors of the papers agreed to ensure that their papers used the same format for consistency. They also agreed to make any revisions that were approved by the group.

b.) Roger indicated that many of the papers were formatted the same but that when they were added to the website the formatting changed. He suggested, and the technology workgroup agreed to investigate the possibility, that the papers be published on the website as PDF documents.

2. Website/Technology - Kris Christian shared her concern that the menu buttons on the websites main page all take visitors to the same information. She was wondering how we might consolidate and cleanup this problem. Sue Allen suggested, and Kris agreed, that the technology workgroup will assist her in addressing this issue within the next couple of weeks.

3. Education/Training - The Education/Training Workgroup will stay abreast of the following, and explore ways WPN can assist and support each:

a.) Sue Allen shared that the Bureau of Substance Abuse & Mental Health is the new home for the Alliance for Wisconsin Youth. The Bureau has contracted with Gabrielle Ratte-Smith to coordinate some Alliance initiatives. The Alliance is hoping to host a statewide prevention meeting in the Spring of 2004.

b.) The Wisconsin Clearinghouse is hoping to host a statewide prevention conference later next year or in 2005. They have written a SAMHSA grant to help fund it but are going to move ahead with the planning whether or not they are awarded the funds.

c.) The Adolescent & Families Conference is scheduled for April 21 - 23, 2004. Doug Stevens is no longer the coordinator of this event being that he has taken a new position at UW Stout. Gladys Bartelt of Marshfield Clinic's Center for Community Outreach is continuing to play a leadership role in this effort as she has from the very first A & F Conference 15 years ago.

4. Membership Recruitment Taskforce - As part of Sue Allen's Membership Development Work Plan, she has proposed forming a Membership Recruitment Taskforce to develop an aggressive strategy for expanding WPN's membership.

a.) Bette Wahl suggested having representatives from each region on the taskforce.

b.) Sue Allen would also like to have a representatives from WAATODEN on the taskforce as well.

c.) Chris Wardlow made a motion to approve the work plan. The motion was seconded by Bette Wahl. Motion was carried unanimously.

#### IV. ISSUE UPDATES

1. Mental Health Awareness - Shel Gross announced that October 5 - 11 is Mental Illness Awareness Week. A statewide radio campaign is being launched to promote online screenings which are available on the Wisconsin United for Mental Health website. There will also be "Mental Health Day at the Capitol" on October 7.

2. State Incentive Grant / Statewide Prevention Plan - Ken Ramminger reported that he attended the SIG Subcommittee meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September. The committee discussed the current draft of the plan. The plan's focus seems to be very narrowly focused on ATODA. Ken expressed his concern about this in a letter to Lou Oppor. The next committee meeting is December 4<sup>th</sup>.

3. Wisconsin Counties Human Services Association - They are meeting with Secretary Nelson on their redesign proposal. Minutes of these meetings are not being published. Shel Gross will be participating in their October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting and will update WPN at next meeting.

4. Family Policy Board - Ron Biendseil reported that the main concern over the proposed legislation is that it will dilute or eliminate the efforts of the Children's Trust Fund. Ron and Jack Westman met with Representative Kestel and Senator Wirsch proposing adding language to the bill that will preserve the Fund and its work.

a.) WI State Journal has endorsed the FPB Bill. WCA will be discussing this endorsement at their next meeting.

b.) Ron shared that the bill's sponsors are looking for something permanent, not another ad hoc committee of some sort.

c.) Shel Gross and Sue Allen met with Anne Arneson to get her perspective on the FPB. She is a strong advocate for increased collaboration around prevention, early childhood development, and strengthening families, but is skeptical that a FPB will achieve this.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m..

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