

**CRP Serving Outagamie County**  
**March 6, 2019**  
**Minutes**

**Present:** Connie Raether, Pastor Larry Creamer, Rebecca Spulak, Melissa Blom, Mary Wisnet, Andrea Alpert Buss, Mary KLeiman, Wendy Gehl, Lisa Hunt, Emily Lewis, Michelle Swenson, Karen Dickrell

**Approval of minutes;** Jan and Feb. minutes approved.

**Treasurer's report (Lisa):** Account balance is \$11,010.77 minus \$2400 committed for Blue Spiral. Report approved.

**National Conference June 6-8, 2019:** Anyone interested in presenting/attending? Conference will be held in Albuquerque. **Strong and Thriving Families** is the theme. Funds are provided for people who would like to attend, usually 2 or 3. If anyone would like to attend, let Connie or Pastor Larry know. Rebecca would like to attend.

**Facebook and Website: Website:** Pastor Larry and Emily will work on this. **Facebook:** Pastor Larry is the administrator. Emily and Connie will be the other administrators.

**New members:** Melissa L. and Karen will look into finding new folks from the community to be part of the panel. Would like someone from Parent Connection as Wendy Schwalbe has left the agency.

**Update:** No update

**Period of Purple Crying (Andrea):** Met with Kristene Stacker and Patricia Sarvela with Partnership. They were positive about working with this program and about having training on sentinel injuries. Melissa B. would like the CPS staff to be invited to any training that is held.

**Social Work Support Task Group:** Looking for new facilitators for the group since there has been some staff turnover.

**Social Work Appreciation Task Group:** Fruit and donuts will be purchased for the group by the CRP. March 19<sup>th</sup>. 8:30-10:30. CRP members are invited to attend. Meeting will be held at Valley Baptist.

**GAL Task Team (Andrea);** No update at this time. They will be meeting to revise the survey.

**Child Death Review Team (Pastor Larry):** Didn't meet due to weather.

**Outreach: Promotion of activities for April from Outreach Work Group (Mary Kleiman, Amanda Chevez with Boys and Girls Club, Jennifer Sailer, Lisa Hunt):**

- Pinwheel Garden at Boys and Girls Club on **April 4<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 p.m.** The work group will invite a representative from the Boys and Girls Club, city and county officials, and CRP members are

welcome to join. Children from Boys and Girls Club will plant the pinwheels. Task group is meeting this week to finalize the details.

- There will be a Wear Blue Day on **April 5<sup>th</sup>**. This is a national effort. (CASA Wisconsin has a Wear Blue Day on April 17)
- Group will continue to meet to talk about opportunities for outreach throughout the year. Pastor Mahnie with Babes will join this group.

**Crisis in out of home care: Melissa.** From 2014 to 2018, number of kids in out of home care has doubled. A record 125 new children came into care in 2018. 4000 reports of abuse and neglect in 2018. 96 foster homes in 2014, 128 in 2018. TPR backlog is affecting these numbers. 60 kids are waiting for a TPR petition to be filed. Last year the Outagamie Co. budget required cuts of \$5 million.

What could CRP do:

- Advertise need for foster parents on website and facebook. Goal is to reduce kids in out of home care by 30%.
- Support the resolution to fully fund child protective services at \$30 million.
- Advocate for stopping repetitive reporting requirements.
- Advocate for affordable housing
- Help with hiring and retaining staff
- Suggest a statewide meeting focused on the crisis
- Support Families First federal legislation
- Ask Alicia about support for the \$30 million resolution.
- Attend and speak at May Outagamie County budget meetings
- See if United Way policy committee is interested in pursuing this issue: Mary will check.
- Send out the budget
- Contact Chris Czarnik about recruitment strategies for child protection workers.

The CRP Exec Team will meet in early April to talk about possibilities.

**New Recorder:** If anyone is interested, this position is open. If you'd like to learn more about this position, please contact Connie at [connieraether@gmail.com](mailto:connieraether@gmail.com)

**Upcoming meetings: May 1, July 10, Sept. 4, Nov. 6 (note changes in July due to holidays)**

**Case Review: Oct. 2**