

Minutes of the RCRV Board of Directors Meeting 4/19/2006

Board Vice Chairman Keith Sutherland called the meeting to order at 1:34 P.M.

Board members and guests introduced themselves by name and organizational affiliation. Eighteen members signed the attendance list.

The Vice Chairman determined that a quorum was present.

Minutes

John McDonough moved approval of the minutes from the February Board Meeting. Tom Brennom seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Opening Remarks

Chairman Chuck Wehage was ill and unable to conduct the meeting. Keith Sutherland welcomed all board members and visitors, but had no further opening remarks.

Sixth Judicial District Presentation

Rod Courtney, parole officer with sixth judicial district, joined Heidi Soethout in describing some of the programs through which convicted offenders are offered support in rebuilding constructive lives in the community. Probation agreements require employment, but a felony history disqualifies job applicants from many opportunities. Often the only alternatives are minimum wage jobs. The parolee often has no drivers license, and has fines and victim restitution to face. Rod and Heidi emphasized throughout the presentation that support and participation of family members, volunteers, and community members is vital to the success of their Restorative Justice programs.

Circles of Support and Accountability: A large number of offenders have been involved with drugs and with money crimes such as forgery to support drug use. Having completed a court-imposed sentence, they are released to return to their old communities. They often feel unworthy, and make appropriate new contacts only with great difficulty. Recognizing the obstacles and others an offender faces in housing, employment, and child care, the program seeks a covenant relationship in a small group including members and their family along with representatives from the community and from social service agencies. These circles help the offender to conceptualize, plan and execute actions to mitigate problems. They strive to hold the offender accountable for his or her performance and progress. Sharing some of the problems and adversities can help establish constructive relationships and attitudes that promote respect and integration into the community.

Circles of Support and Accountability have been operating for about five years. There are about 20 active, with from four to ten offenders per circle. Success is hard to measure. Experience has shown that some offenders can be substantially helped by this program, but they cannot do it alone. Collaboration with agencies and volunteers is very important. The Linn County area has a very low rate of recidivism.

Children of Promise Mentoring Program: This program is a collaborative project in cooperation with the Community Corrections Improvement Association. It seeks to break the generational propagation of an offender lifestyle by improving school attendance and academic achievement and discouraging self destructive behavior.

Volunteer opportunities: Faith based community initiatives and many other opportunities exist for volunteers to assist with rehabilitation programs. Mentoring one-on-one with offenders can be rewarding for the volunteer and may divert clients from old friends and habits, providing renewed opportunities for success. Other volunteers may help crime victims and survivors. Some opportunities exist for helping with maintenance of facilities. RCRV members are encouraged to contact Rod Courtney or Heidi Soethout to learn more about these opportunities.

Community Service (John McDonough)

Plans are to again support the Assistive Technology Expo at the KTOS Center on Oct. 11, 2006.

Several of our group traveled to the Capital in Des Moines to show our members of the legislature what RCRV means to our community and what we do to provide assistance to the folks in need as well. They took several of the devices that we have designed with them for demonstration purposes.

Jack Rector was the Star Witness at a mock trial held at the 4 Oaks Bridge Center April fifth.

Jack was honored by the 4 Oaks Bridge folks at their Annual Awards Banquet. Jack was honored for 5 years of service which included his activities as mentor, teacher, leader, board member and intergenerational role model.

SHIIP activities have been ongoing. If you have family members who are not RC retirees, they have until May 15 to sign up a Part D Medicare Program. If not, then a 1 percent per month penalty will be invoked. This is a forever type penalty.

Grimm and Jurgens spent several hours making supports to stabilize the bleachers that are used by the performers at the Paramount Theatre. The supports provided a very stable surface for the singers to stand on during their performance.

The "Traits of Life" documentation program that RCRV performed for the Science Station has been completed. A wine and cheese party which included an IMAX movie was held last night for RCRV membership and their spouses.

The Space Shuttle mockup will again be constructed at Pierce Elementary in their Gym. Several mentors will again support the activity.

Several Ramp and Lift design meetings were held in our offices recently. A report is being written on the lift effort and new ramp ideas will begin construction shortly.

Another ramp design has been requested for a teacher at GWAEA who needs a ramp for his home. Keith Sutherland will investigate and design.

Several High School Dress Rehearsals will be held in the near future. Seniors have been invited to attend free of charge. They do need to register with the applicable school system.

1. On 4/26/06 at Kennedy High School at 1:30 PM, CATS Musical will be held.
2. On 4/26/06 at Linn-Mar High School at 4 PM, FAME, the Musical will be held.
3. On 5/10/06 at Jefferson High School at 12:30 PM, the Wizard of Oz will be held.

Communications (Rod Thorpe)

The RCRV Newsletter is now available on the web site, and will be mailed this week.

Data Base (Jim Klein)

No report.

Recruiting and Retention (Pete Jurgens)

Pete reported there are 135 active members now, and we are enrolling about two a week last during the past couple months. Substantially more members are now reporting hours from a widening range of volunteer activities.

In response to a question from the floor, we do not believe the company is providing RCRV contact information as part of the retirement paperwork, even though the Human Resources was asked to do so. Pete will check the status of this request and report.

Responding to a second question, it is believed that meeting notices through the group's Email group mailing could be used to notify members and clients of board meetings. However, there is believed to be a high percentage of obsolescence in the Email addresses. It is suggested that the board chairman designate an individual to review and update these addresses.

Heart of Iowa (Myrna Loehrlein)

Heart of Iowa is "full to the gills." All child care classes are oversubscribed.

The second round of Child Care Quality Initiative assessments has begun. We expect confirmation of significant improvements made since the last assessment.

Our new infant outdoor play space should be completed within four to six weeks. This project will also increase exercise and activity space for our older children.

A major initiative in staff development has begun. All of the Lead Teacher staff have committed to continuous education until achieving an Associate of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education or in a related field. They will begin with the fall semester at Kirkwood Community College.

St Lukes (Denise Walker)

St. Lukes Inpatient Rehabilitation has received a national three-year *Certification Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities*. St. Lukes is one of four facilities to receive *Stroke Specialty Recognition*.

St. Lukes Rehabilitation will participate in the *Rockwell/Tanager Family Fest Event*. We will conduct a bike rodeo, during which we will fit and distribute 1000 bike helmets to children. Many volunteers will be needed, and RCRV members are encouraged to assist with this event.

United Way (Mary Klinger)

No report

Heritage Agency on Aging (Linda Dearing)

No report.

Aging Services (Carol Luth)

Aging Services, Inc., will conduct their tenth annual *Golf Invitational* Monday, June 26, at the Elmcrest Country Club in Cedar Rapids. The "two person scramble" starts at 1:00 p.m. The \$125 entry fee includes green fees, cart rental, professional services, driving range, golf shirt, and a buffet meal following the event. All proceeds benefit chore, volunteer, and vision center programs of Aging Services, Inc., to support older adults who wish to live in their own homes for as long as possible. Anyone interested in participating in playing in the *Invitational* or in providing sponsorship may call 319-398-3644.

Jane Boyd (Karl Kassel)

No report.

RSVP (Sara Case)

No report

Options of Linn County (Wayne Clayton)

Our most recent RCRV/Options activity centers on repair work done by RCRV members on switches and CD-ROMs and tours given at Options for Kirkwood College students. The tours have featured our use of assistive technology and highlight items created by RCRV.

Red Cross (Missy Hall)

American Red Cross emergency workers have been on the scene following last week's severe weather in Eastern Iowa. We provide food, shelter, clothing, and peace of mind to students and other individuals in need. The Red Cross has opened more than 70 cases, made over 100 mental health contacts, and served more than 7000 meals and snacks to tornado victims.

The Iowa City sheltering operation wrapped up over the weekend as expected. Snacks for cleanup workers will continue until Thursday, April 20th. Many cases were still coming into the Iowa City office as of April 19th. Most assistance is in the form of food and clothing, but about 75 applications for rental assistance have been received and more applications are expected.

Estimated total cost at completion of operations in Iowa City is now \$25,000.

The American Red Cross Iowa City office will be open Thursday and Friday from 8:30 until noon. Caseworkers will be available to meet with tornado victims seeking assistance. The office is located at 373 E. College Street in Iowa City. Visitors must enter through the Gilbert Street entrance. Assistance may also be requested by calling the Red Cross at 319-337-2119 from anywhere in Johnson County.

REACT (Barb Klaweiter)

No report.

Bridge, Four Oaks (Carol Kalous)

No report.

Sixth Judicial District (Heidi Soethout)

Next meeting of WRAP is May 1.

Grant Wood AEA (Ann Griffin)

No report.

Rockwell Collins (Jenny Becker)

No report.

Other Reports:

None.

Old Business:

None.

New Business

Mike Wilson announced that St. Lukes will decide on May 1 whether to continue the Festival of Trees this year.

Adjournment

Vice Chairman Sutherland adjourned the Meeting at 2:29 pm.

The next Board meeting is May 17th at the Red Cross building.

Submitted by Donald Grimm, Secretary.