

Minutes from Beverly Farm Cottages Parent Group Meeting – Smith, Chappee, Stahl, Herring and Beverly, April 27, 2008.

In attendance (per attendance sheets): Pradeep Sood, Denise and Mark Thibault, Alvina Bishop, *Dilissa Jones, Sara Anderson*, Edith and Alyn Lyn, Angela Lyn, Bonnie and Dale Kreidner, *Sasha Morris, Kara Buttry*, Billie and Jack Sachs, Katy Buerger, Barry and Ellie Allswang, Jason Burnett, Samantha Allswang, Keith and Deborah Riddell, Mr. and Mrs. David Swain, George Walker, *Mella Taylor, Joel Curry, Angela Giberson*, George and Patricia Mayes, Frank and Barb Fitzgerald, Ted Szywala, Helen Szywala, Keith Wright, *Nancy Giffin*, Grace Taylor, *Lecia Hearn*, James and Suzanne Hurwitz, and Jennie Ragland. (staff in italics)

Introduction/opening comments by Pradeep Sood filling in for Parent Group President Brian Birnbaum. Those family members in attendance introduced themselves as well as the employee representatives from the cottages. Joel Curry briefly explained what a QMRP and what a CPC means. QMRP stands for Qualified Mental Retardation Professional. This person is the lead person in the building. CPC stands for Client Program Coordinator.

There was a reminder that the Beverly Cottages Parent Group dues are \$50.00/year payable to Beverly Farm Foundation with the memo description “Beverly Cottage Parent Group”. The dues are generally paid at the Fall meeting but are welcome anytime and amounts over \$50.00 are always welcome!

The next item of business was a brief explanation of the Parent Group Raffle by me, Katy Buerger. The Raffle is our Group’s only fundraiser. Last year we sold \$4,800.00! The items are donated by the parents/siblings/friends of the group and the proceeds go toward items for the residents that are not otherwise covered. The cottages give us their wish lists twice a year and we cover these requests from our treasury. The requests vary, from comforters, to entertainment centers, sensory items, etc. The raffle letters and books are mailed in late July-August. Anybody that would like to donate an item, please contact me at 513) 753-4635 or email [katydid2@fuse.net](mailto:katydid2@fuse.net) If you would like to donate a prize, please let me know by mid-June as I will need to get the tickets printed.

Our featured speaker was Vickie Vogt, Beverly Farm’s Assistant Executive Director. The topic was Safety. The Farm notifies the parent/guardian re any injury to a resident. In 2007 there were 1300 phone calls made to the parent/guardian. There have been 314 phone calls as of March 31, 2008. The majority of these calls are reporting small injuries, usually trips, slips or falls. The Farm has a Safety Risk Specialist, Sandy Ferris, who has been with the Farm four years now. Part of her job is to review the injuries to identify patterns and then focus on addressing problem areas, for example bathroom slips and installing anti-skid flooring. Every Tuesday there is a meeting to review the injuries from the preceding week. They review each injury and discuss “did we do everything we could do to prevent this injury?”. The Nursing Department is responsible for contacting the parent /guardian re a resident’s injuries. Unknown injuries are investigated to try to determine what happened. All unknown injuries are also reported to Martha Warford and Vicki Vogt. The resident injuries are all computerized and categorized in such a way that they can be reviewed for patterns as to an individual resident or a specific injury. Vicki Vogt reiterated that the residents at the Farm are very active and it is natural that some injuries will occur.

The next item of business was a request for a parent volunteer from Herring Cottage for the Grass Roots Fundraiser. Billie and Jack Sachs volunteered. The volunteers for the other cottages are as follows: Michelle Sood for Beverly, George Walker for Chappee, Kent Schuette for Smith, and Joan Brown for Stahl. Mr. Sood noted that the census is 380 families yet only 10-15% of the families are actively involved. The Grass Roots Fundraiser is an attempt to not only raise money but to raise awareness and encourage involvement.

The floor was then opened to comments. Mrs. Edith Lyn suggested that an article re the Grass Roots Fundraiser be put in The Reporter. Mrs. Joan Brown, Foundation Board Member, encouraged people to come to the committee meetings. Everything is open—there are no closed meetings. The committee meetings meet on the Friday of Family Weekend. The Residence Services Committee deals with the daily life of residents. There is also a Buildings and Grounds Committee and a Finance Committee. The Board Meeting is held on the Saturday morning of Family Weekend. George Walker noted that the Resident Services Committee meets at 1:00 p.m. on Friday and one of the things they are working on is getting wireless computers set up for residents. Denise Thibault, one of our new parent members, suggested that the Cottage Volunteer Coordinator also contact the new families and let them know information regarding volunteer opportunities. Another suggestion was to provide minutes of the meetings so those who cannot attend can be apprised of happenings. Keith Wright, Foundation Board Member, advised that he will be writing to all new admissions and apprising them of volunteer opportunities. He will also be calling for a follow up discussion six months later. Another suggestion was for all of us to explore the website ([Beverlyfarm.org](http://Beverlyfarm.org)). Pradeep Sood, Foundation Board Member, noted that The Farm has a yearly budget of 22 million dollars with 2.5 million a year in donations. The donations also go to help fund the special programs, such as the aquatics program and the riding center. The Beverly Farm website has a place to donate money. Mr. Sood suggested that if we talked to ten people about Beverly Farm we could attempt to increase donations. Angela Lyn relayed the success of a friend of hers who held an Art Auction and suggested that perhaps the Foundation could sponsor one of these. She advised that she would be willing to help organize it and if we knew of any artists that would donate their work to the cause. The last open floor comment was from a Beverly Farm Variety Show fan who recommended to all to “Come to the Variety Show in the Fall”!!

Minutes respectfully submitted May 1, 2008, Katy Buerger.