

Dane County People Can't Wait Coalition

MEETING MINUTES May 9, 2002

Co-Facilitators Theresa Fishler and Ken Hobbs called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. An agenda was shared and all present introduced themselves. The draft agenda included a time to discuss the purposes of a coalition, discuss a mission and set follow-up meetings and provide for minutes. The agenda also included time to discuss specific tasks and timelines.

Those present included: Liz Hecht, Barbara Katz, Dan Rossiter, Tim Schmessler, Jean Robertson, Nancy Anderson, Theresa Fishler, Dennis Harkins, Ben Topp, Tanya Larson, Fran Bicknell, Duncan McNelly, Dan Remick, Jeff Johnson, Kitty Bonde, Craig Rosamondo, Sue Helgesen, and Ken Hobbs.

Discussion on Mission and why we are here – what follows is an attempt to include everyone's contribution to the discussion:

I need grants to help me speak at conferences. Should support statewide issues and People Can't Wait Campaign, coordinate the efforts of Dane County people and educate our legislators. I like teams of 3 to 4 people to go to the capital and visit legislators. This helps me because I need help getting around the capital – it's easy to get lost. We need a cross system advocacy of human service providers to help educate our county board and come together on common issues like workforce problems, closing the institutions and ending waiting lists. Legislators need to hear from people at the grass roots level. Create opportunities for people to tell their stories to legislators. Get a large number of people out for a high count at the ballot box. Build a network of people to share info and look at long and short-range issues. Create opportunity for people to speak and be heard, create a forum first before a specific position is taken. Need fundamental coordination and communication with agencies and organizations doing political advocacy-find out who is doing what in this arena and set up regular communication among them. People Can't Wait is an umbrella, not a new group – we do want to enhance efforts of other groups, not threaten groups. We also don't need more meetings. Need input from local to state; is there a way that we can ask for discussions of positions that may be different? There may be natural ways our differing messages can work together; for example, closing the centers will free up dollars to deal with workforce problems and waiting lists. What is the best way to get across a very complex message? Have to back it up with votes to make them pay attention, especially at primaries. We don't need just one position; we need several specifics to each subgroup of concerned persons. They listen best when they are candidates. Workshops on how to speak to legislators would be helpful. Everybody is related to somebody, must concentrate on the Republicans. We have a lot of work to do to get people engaged; we have only 250 out of an estimated 4000 possible interested people on mailing lists now. To educate our people, DAWN is a start. We should

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encourage people to sign up on DAWN. We should be visible at polling places. Can we use the Survival position statements as a starting place? How can we get the message across – How get info to our people – every legislator should be invited to a meeting with our people. We do need to tap all organizations with a message about what we are, how to educate people coordination for all of us. Have to look at Dane County budget in November. We should have a specific task such as a candidate's forum or other activity.

NEXT STEPS:

We came to consensus that:

- Mission Statement – several volunteered to work on a mission statement, considering the elements of the discussion. Kitty Bonde, Dan Remick, Dennis Harkins and Barb Katz agreed to serve. They will report back at the next meeting. Anyone wishing to contribute should contact any of them by email.
- Grassroots Network – several agreed to begin to assemble a list of newsletters and web pages currently active in our area. We will also add possible contacts to others not yet active in the Dane County People Can't Wait Coalition. Send info to Ken Hobbs at arc dane@chorus.net . Jeff Johnson, Kitty Bonde , Barb Katz and Ken Hobbs will report back at the next meeting
- NEXT MEETING – June 6, 2002 at 6:30 pm till 8:00 pm at the Waisman Center Offices, 122 Olin Ave. in Madison
- AGENDA ITEMS for June include minutes review, mission statement discussion, review of network list and discussion of specific tasks.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Hobbs