

**FOLIC ACID PARTNERSHIP MINUTES**  
**January 27, 2000**  
**FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY**

Members present: Dr. Steve Davis, Katrina Adams, Susan Brown, Susie Burckardt, Jamine Hamner, Rita Hayes, Joyce Robl, Audra Smith, Eugenia Smither, Diane Sprowl and Cindy Sullivan.

Dr. Davis had to speak to a group meeting upstairs prior to attending our meeting. Therefore, Susan Brown called the meeting to order. Attendance was taken and the minutes from our last meeting were approved.

Diane Sprowl gave **Community's report**. They met on January 13, 2000. Everyone who serves on this committee has a web site at their workplace that each member plans to link to the MOD's web site. Spina Bifida Association's web site that also links to the March of Dimes is:

[wwwSBAK.org](http://www.SBAK.org)

Community has accomplished the goal of providing Folic Acid Packets to the Partnership membership. (Those were distributed in the meeting-if you did not attend the meeting and Joyce Robl did not bring one back for you then let me know-I have extra ones at the Barren River District). Community plans to link with pharmacies and will develop a data- base for all of our Partnership activities. Diane will tackle this project. Community would also like to do something with Folic Acid along the same lines as the breast exam info that has been placed in State Park showers. Money is an obstacle but thought is being given to possibilities of a grant or a sponsor to aid in this project. Next meeting for Community will be April 6, 2000 in Louisville @ Ruby Tuesdays 1:00-3:00PM EST.

Dr. Davis returned to our meeting at this point and knew he would not be able to stay long- therefore we proceeded to his spot on the agenda. Dr. Davis shared information about the Governor's 10-point package for Early Childhood and his (Governor's) recommended budget to accomplish it. Dr. Davis reviewed what the Governor presented Tuesday night-January 25, 2000.

It must go to the legislature now for their approval. Dr. Davis encouraged us to, "muster up as much support for the Governor's proposal "as is" as possible. Best if not picked apart."

Dr. Davis then gave us the following highlights of the first six recommendations:

**#1 Folic Acid** -1 1/2 million dollars FY01 and FY02. Women need to be able to purchase folic acid. The number of low-income women of childbearing age in KY who attend Health Department FP clinics is 125,000. The cost for folic acid tablets for this number is 1/2 million dollars. The other million would go to education for the women when they come for their yearly visit to obtain their year's supply of folic acid. (She would be counseled on folic acid and birth defects-\$8.00 per woman per year). This would most likely be a FP visit and extra time would be provided to discuss birth defects and specifically NTD's. (A request for an extra \$30,000-for training-is not a part of the budget as yet).

**#2 Home visiting-HANDS Program**-This is a program that is already in 15 counties-not perfect-has its bumps-a commitment has been made for this program to be available to at least 25% of the state in the first year and 50% of the state by the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. Cost counting medicaid \$\$\$- for the first year-almost \$8 million dollars and the 2<sup>nd</sup> year almost \$16 million dollars. This program would enhance our outreach to provide women of childbearing age an education about folic acid.

**#3 Fayette County HD** has a program called **Healthy Start in Day Care**. It provides (funds) help with health, safety and nutrition. Would like to see this program expanded from Pike to Paducah so that each region can provide education about how to handle things like outbreaks of rashes and diarrhea.

**#4 Immunizations**-all vaccines for children will be provided (covered) in the "Vaccines for Children Program".

**#5 Universal hearing**- out of 60 birthing hospitals-maybe 10 do hearing tests on all newborns. This would aid in allowing all newborns to be tested-thus defects would be detected sooner.

**#6 Formal visual examination**-all children prior to kindergarten. Performed by an optometrist or an ophthalmologist. Key word is examination, not just an eye screening. The cost would be paid by insurance, K-CHIP, medicaid or, if no other pay source then through this program.

Dr. Davis told us that the other four points deal with the Childcare Arena involving staffing, pay and training. There is a desire to improve the educational requirements and provide more training. Katrina Adams stated that the Public Affairs Group meets on February 4, 2000 and that they plan to support the Governor's package. Dr. Davis reminded us that the budget is based on tobacco sales- so if tobacco sales drop- funding drops- if tobacco sales go up- funding goes up. Health-wise we would hope that sales would go down so it's a bit of a two-edged sword. Susie Burckardt mentioned an endowment and wondered if that had been considered. Dr. Davis said that the math would change considerably if that were done. Of course the decision is now up to the legislature. Members are urged to support the package as a whole and the Governor's plan to use 25% of the tobacco money to early Childhood Development.

Dr. Davis had to leave after his presentation.

We continued with the **sub-committee reports**. Linda Villwock gave the **Media (Communications) report**. Linda stressed the importance of all members keeping her informed of any media contacts they have via a new Media reporting form that she handed out to all in attendance. She in turn will share the info with Susan Brown. The MIOP grant announcements were made in Warren and Pike Counties. March of Dimes Folic Acid Billboards will go up on 10 billboards in Louisville in January for one month. The Department for Public Health and the Governor's Office distributed National Birth Defects Prevention Month releases and advisories. Linda Villwock appeared on WDRB-TV "Fox in the morning" news in Louisville on 1-18-00. Joyce Robl did a radio interview in Louisville on 1-20-00 and one for a Lexington radio station (over the phone) on 1-27-00. Susan Brown did a radio interview with WKYU's Jeanine Howard Cherry on 1-20-00 that aired on 1-21-00. The March of Dimes distributed a "New Year's Resolution" release to all Kentucky Daily and Weekly Newspapers. A presentation for Corporation Sponsorship of Public Service Announcements was made to Floyd Memorial Hospital of New Albany, Indiana (in the MOD's Chapter service area) on January 14, 2000. This is a potential \$5,000 advertising buy. Last she told us about Legislative Packets on the Folic Acid Initiative. The recommendation is for KFAP, MOD's and the Spina Bifida

Association to each present the packet and/or letters to Legislators supporting the Folic Acid Initiatives.

Joyce Robl gave the **Professional report**. This group reviewed the 1999 objectives and found that they had met their goals. The rest of the meeting involved preparation for the first folic acid training session named-"Spread the News-Folic Acid prevents Birth Defects!" The workshop was held January 25, 2000 and was attended by 31 people. There were 15 RN's, 4 RD's, and 12 others. The evaluations were favorable and CEU's were provided for the RN's and RD's. Fayette County reports that their RD who attended has made plans already to train another RD next week. The Professional committee will meet today after this meeting at O' Charley's. The CDC pamphlet "Before you know you're pregnant" is available through the State Pamphlet Library. There are thousands left over from the State Fair.

All members received the 1999 MOD's evaluation and the CDC Needs Assessment. The MOD's 2000 goals were given to all members in attendance (they were also handed out at the last meeting). Each of the three sub-committees are to take these guidelines as they pertain to their individual groups and add to or omit from (fine-tune) as the group sees fit. These changes are to be submitted to Susan Brown by the three Chairs no later than 5-1-2000 (and sooner is always appreciated). Susan will develop the overall KFAP goals, from that input, to submit to the KFAP by the next meeting 5-25-2000.

Susie Burckardt spoke to us about the non-contemplators. She stated that 50-70% of first-time pregnancies are unplanned. She shared a pamphlet from the KY Association for School Health promoting a conference to be held 3-28-00 and 3-29-00 at the Executive Inn West in Louisville. Joyce Robl will check to see if we could provide a booth on folic acid at their conference.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be at the State Lab Building in Frankfort on May 25, 2000 at 10:00AM EST - 12:30PM EST. (Lunch on your own).

Respectfully submitted by,  
Susan Brown RN ICCE IBCLC  
State Folic Acid Campaign Coordinator