

TERM OF COMMISSION: April Session of the February Adjourned Term

PLACE OF MEETING: Boone County Government Center Commission Chambers

PRESENT WERE: Presiding Commissioner Don Stamper  
District I Commissioner Karen M. Miller  
District II Commissioner Linda Vogt  
Deputy County Clerk Ashley Williams

The regular meeting of the County Commission was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

**SUBJECT: Funding Request for University Extension Resource Mother Project**

Commissioner Stamper welcomed Lynn Pike, director for the University Extension Resource Mother Project and Guri Whittstruck, with the Mid-Missouri Coalition of Adolescent Concerns.

Ms. Pike reported that Boone County was about to lose the Resource Mother Project, a project that had successfully addressed the needs of locally pregnant teens. She cited statistics that showed teen pregnancies were declining statewide, while they were increasing at an alarming rate in Boone County. One way of addressing the problem, she said, is a program called Resource Mothers, currently funded through the University of Missouri-Columbia, the Children's Trust Fund and the Department of Health. Their funding will end July 1, 1997.

The program works by pairing parent volunteers with pregnant adolescents. Those mentors work with the teen until their child is one year old. Ms. Pike said that a comparison group of teens showed that teens in the Resource Mother Project had no repeat pregnancies, were more likely to stay in school and showed decreased levels of parenting stress and child abuse. Ms. Pike went on to say that she felt the program deserved to continue in the community and that a local organization was willing to assume responsibility for Resource Mothers.

Ms. Whittstruck addressed the Commissioners and said that the Mid-Missouri Coalition is a not-for-profit organization in a position to become a fiscal agent for grants and funding for the Resource Mothers Project. The Mid-Missouri Coalition began as an advisory board almost four years ago and expanded, with the help of volunteers, to become a viable and active organization. She said that the Coalition was interested in hiring a staff and to expand beyond the Resource Mothers Project.

During the last three years, she said, the Coalition has provided the opportunity for 12 to 18 organizations to work together on problems that affect adolescents. They have conducted focus groups and sponsored a school board candidate forum to talk to candidates about teen pregnancy. The organization has received grants and found funding through the United Way as well as from Altrusa and city funds. The organization has no religious overtones and espouses no pregnancy prevention strategy.

Commissioner Stamper asked how much funding the Resource Mother Project needed and how those funds would be used.

Ms. Whittstruck replied that they had met with Commissioner Vogt and asked for \$15,000, enough money to support the program until other funding sources took affect in January. The money would be used to hire a coordinator and to provide supplies and resources as needed.

Ms. Pike said that the University has agreed to provide space and clerical support until January 1. After that date, they would need to find permanent space and funding to support staffing.

Commissioner Miller arrived at 9:40 a.m., was updated, and said she was familiar with the program from articles she'd read in the newspaper.

Commissioner Vogt said she was very impressed with the information she'd received on Resource Mothers and first learned of the organization when she served on the Drop-Out Committee. She learned that their original funding was for 25 mothers, but the organization used the money to

serve 83 pregnant teenagers. Commissioner Vogt felt that the organization needed more public recognition so that people would know this service was available in the community.

Ms. Pike said that she had recently received a phone call from state legislators asking if the program was going to become available statewide. She said that there were success stories and data to show that the program is working. Ideally, she said, we like to think the extended family provides support when the reality is, the teens need surrogate parents to help with parenting, finances and shelter. The fathers, she said, in this community, also need support.

Commissioner Miller asked where the Resource Mothers Project found their mentors.

Ms. Pike said that when the program began, they did a lot of marketing with radio spots, put brochures in churches, and after that initial marketing, they've had great success. There is currently a waiting list for mentors. Ms. Pike said she was very proud of the community and said that with more staff they could easily double the number of pregnant teens served by the program.

Commissioner Miller asked how many pregnant teens in the area were not served.

Ms. Pike said there were 250 mothers, not in the program, who delivered babies last year. Babies delivered, she said, is not the same as teens pregnant. Her concern was also for African American teens because their rate of teen pregnancy was escalating. She said they were adapting the program and taking a culturally sensitive approach because the issue was becoming critical among African Americans.

Ms. Pike said that her role is to test, evaluate and disseminate a program statewide. It was her feeling that the University should turn over their responsibility so the program could become a community project.

Commissioner Vogt said that the program had caught her attention and when she learned about their success rate wanted to help them through this gap in funding. She said that there were funds available from the profit sharing program at Boone Hospital Center.

Commissioner Stamper replied that because the issue regarded mid-year funding that Commissioner Vogt should meet with the Auditor to discuss the allocation.

**SUBJECT: Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect Proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month.**

Det. Andy Anderson, Boone County Sheriff's Department; Lynn Cole, local Division of Family Service and Liz Magee with juvenile offices approached the Commissioners.

Det. Anderson said that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and asked for the Presiding Commissioner to read the proclamation on behalf of the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect. The group was starting in 1987 by a group of agencies and individuals concerned with child abuse in Boone County. ICAN has been responsible for the establishment of the Rainbow House and Safe House for Children; Boone County is the first county in Missouri to have a written protocol for the process of investigating child abuse. The organization is currently working on a child advocacy center.

Commissioner Stamper read the proclamation to be adopted by the County Commission:

**CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, child abuse prevention is a community problem and finding the solution depends on involvement among people throughout the community;

**WHEREAS**, statistics of children who are abused and neglected escalate each year;

**WHEREAS**, the effects of child abuse are felt by whole communities, and need to be addressed by the entire community;

**WHEREAS**, effective child abuse prevention programs often succeed because of partnerships created among social service agencies, schools, religious organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community;

**WHEREAS**, youth-serving prevention programs offer positive alternatives for young people and encourage youth to develop strong ties to their community;

**WHEREAS**, all citizens should become more aware of child abuse and its prevention within the community, and to become involved in supporting parents to raise their children in a safe, nurturing environment;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Boone County Commission does hereby proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Boone County and calls upon all citizens, community agencies, religious organizations, medical facilities, and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to prevent child abuse, thereby strengthening the communities in which we live.

Done this 8th Day of April 1997.

Commissioner Vogt seconded.

Commissioner Stamper thanked the various organizations for their work in child abuse prevention.

Ms. Cole reported that during the month of March they received 100 hotline reports of child neglect. She said that in 12 to 15% of those there is reason to suspect. She said that most of the calls came from mandated reporters like teachers, school personnel and law enforcement personnel.

Children are interviewed in conjunction with law enforcement officials, especially if there is the potential for criminal allegations. Parents and school officials are sometimes interviewed and a medical exam is conducted, depending on the nature of the allegations. Ms. Cole said that calls ranged from reports of a lack of supervision to head lice to allegations of sexual abuse. It takes the department thirty days to investigate a call and if the child is deemed in imminent risk, they are removed from the home immediately

Commissioner Vogt thanked everyone for their work in child abuse prevention.

Motion passed unanimously.

**SUBJECT: Voluntary Annexation of Nifong Park**

Commissioner Stamper reported on a memo, dated March 21, 1997, he received from the City of Columbia for the voluntary annexation of city-owned property, part of Nifong Park. Approximately 57.58 acres were purchased in 1970 by the city and the tract had been severed by the Columbia corporate limits which were established as a result of the 1969 annexation; therefore, approximately one-third of the site lies outside the present city limits. This annexation will bring the entire park property within the city limits.

**SUBJECT: Boone County Health Report Card Agreement**

Commissioner Stamper discussed the agreement between the County, the Columbia Area United Way and the Columbia/Boone County Community Partnership service that provided the Boone County Health Report Card study. It involves four allocations of \$2,929.

Commissioner Stamper moved that the County Commission of the County of Boone approve and authorize the Presiding Commissioner to sign an agreement between the County, the Columbia Area United Way and the Columbia/Boone County Community Partnership for the Boone County Health Report Card.

Commissioner Miller seconded. Motion passed unanimously. **Order 137-97.**

**SUBJECT: Cooperative Agreement for Construction of the Health Care Clinic in Centralia**

The agreement was tabled until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

**SUBJECT: Appointments to Boone County Group Homes Board**

The appointments were also tabled until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

**SUBJECT: Reports from Commissioners**

There were no reports.

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Attest:

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Don Stamper  
Presiding Commissioner

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Wendy S. Noren  
Clerk of the County Commission

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Karen M. Miller  
District I Commissioner

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Linda Vogt  
District II Commissioner