

1700
MRQ
14 DEC 06

From: Chairman, Family Readiness Committee
To: Chairman, Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS), Board
of Directors (BOD)

Subj: FAMILY READINESS COMMITTEE MINUTES OF 23 MARCH 2006

Ref: (a) Proposed FRC Charter

1. Per the reference, the Family Readiness Committee (FRC) convened at 0845 on 23 March 2006 at the Clubs of Quantico, MCB Quantico, VA.

2. Members Present:

LtGen J. F. Amos, II MEF, Chair
LtCol J. Melton, KVN Subcommittee Rep
Maj S. Speegle, MARFORRES Rep
Capt. D. Kloak, Chaplain of the Marine Corps Rep
Ms. C. Erickson, FAP Subcommittee Chair
Ms. K. Faison, MARFORCOM Rep
Ms. S. Hagee, Spouse, CMC
Ms. R. Magnus, Spouse, APMC
Ms. E. Shoars, MCRC Rep
Ms. M. Regner, L.I.N.K.S. Subcommittee Chair
Mr. P. Quinn, EFMP Subcommittee Chair
Mr. M. P. Downs, Ex Officio, MR
Mr. M. Swords, Ex Officio, MR
Ms. L. Cole, Recorder

Members Excused:

MARFORPAC Rep
Medical Officer, USMC
Senior Enlisted Rep, II MEF
Spouse, SGTMAJMARCOR

Others present:

SgtMaj R. Edwards, MR Division
Maj. M. Porter, MR Division
Ms. B. Amos, Spouse FRC Chair
Mr. R. Milano, MCB Camp Butler
Ms. R. Bugg, MR Division
Mr. M. Berger, MR Division
Ms. M. Campisi, MR Division
Mr. J. Clarke, MR Division
Ms. K. Gates, MR Division
Mr. G. Gordon, MR Division
Ms. T. Hayden, MR Division
Ms. B. Sims, MR Division
Mr. M. Tharrington, MR Division
Mr. D. Turner, MR Division

2. FRC Record of Proceedings, 21 July 2005. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

3. KVN Subcommittee. LtCol Jacqueline Melton briefed the ongoing actions and areas of interest of the Subcommittee. Significant items noted: (1) Ms. Cynthia Fox will replace Ms. Laura Osman as chair of the KVN Subcommittee. (2) Marine Corps Family Team Building (MCFTB) developed an orientation packet for all new members to better welcome and prepare new KVN Subcommittee members for their important duties. (3) In an effort to improve communications and feedback, the KVN Subcommittee instituted a practice of asking standardized questions of the program representatives and posting them on the Marine Corps Family Team Building (MCFTB) website to solicit input from program volunteers. The resulting feedback will be discussed at Subcommittee meetings. (4) The Headquarters MCFTB worked in conjunction with the MARFORRES MCFTB staff to develop a synopsis of the differences in the MARFORRES KVN and installation KVN programs.

Discussion: The Chairman requested an update on the MARFORRES KVN program at the next meeting.

4. L.I.N.K.S. Subcommittee. Ms. Mary Regner briefed current committee membership and action efforts. Significant items noted: (1) The Subcommittee provided input in the updates of the L.I.N.K.S. On-Installation Trainer (OIT) and Team Leader Training (TL) materials. This training was combined to allow joint training for related functions and to ensure each group would hear a single HQMC voice for team training and management issues. (2) The L.I.N.K.S. Subcommittee also instituted a practice of asking standardized questions of the program representatives. Questions will be posted on the MCFTB website to solicit input from program volunteers and the resulting feedback will be discussed at Subcommittee meetings. (4) The Subcommittee released the L.I.N.K.S. Script Guide in February 06 and is developing a L.I.N.K.S. Participants Guide to enhance training by replacing existing training handouts and adding in-depth resource information that can be referenced at a later date.

Discussion: The Subcommittee expressed concerns about the minimal local MCFTB support to volunteers attending the OIT/TL training conference including: volunteers having to make their own travel arrangements, coordinate their own orders, and pay expenses out of pocket and await reimbursement. Mr. Swords indicated the issue was attributed to administrative problems regarding invitational travel orders. Mr. Downs said the Subcommittee needs to continuously educate volunteers on the general financial process especially related to receiving orders and reimbursements.

5. EFMP Subcommittee. Ms. Belinda Sims briefed the ongoing actions and areas of interest of the Subcommittee. Significant items noted: (1) The 3270 EFMP database will be phased out in FY06. M&RA (MI) is working on the establishment of a new database. (2) Results of the Naval Audit Service review of the Department of the Navy Military and Civilian Overseas Screening Procedures are still pending. (3) The mandated Government Accountability Office (GAO) review of the EFMP DOD-wide has been put on hold due to their workload from Hurricane Katrina investigations. (4) Inclusion training for 42 Children, Youth, and Teen personnel and 10 EFMP personnel is scheduled for 3rd quarter 2006.

Discussion: Discussion ensued regarding the screening process for reservists. Ms. Sims said the EFMP screening process is done locally and the Subcommittee is working to standardize the screening forms amongst all Armed

Services. The Chairman inquired about the results of a survey signifying there was still a stigma relating to a Marine's career if they had an exceptional family member enrolled in the program and asked if the Subcommittee had updated information on the perception. Ms. Sims responded a small number of survey participants perceived negative consequences are associated with having someone enrolled in the EFMP. The Chairman suggested creating a commercial that will portray the truth about the EFMP.

6. FAP Subcommittee. Ms. Cheryl Erickson briefed the FAP Subcommittee Report summary. Significant items noted: (1) MR and MCCDC Operations Analysis Division staff conducted a review of the central registry of data on domestic abuse. A snapshot data set for in-depth analysis was created. Ms. Erickson reported that the analysis revealed incidents of reported domestic abuse continue to decline. There were 995 substantiated incidents of spouse abuse and 448 substantiated incidents of child abuse as of 15 December 2005; down from 1018 and 674, respectively. (2) OSD issued a Directive Type Memorandum (DTM) containing policy which allows a restricted reporting option for victims of domestic abuse. Under this policy, victims will be allowed to report their abuse confidentially to victim advocates, counselors, and/or medical care personnel without notification to command or law enforcement of identifying specifics. The intent of the DTM is to eliminate the reporting barriers cited by some victims (perceived adverse impact to sponsor's career and victim's financial support, intrusion by investigators, wide-spread airing of private issues), while ensuring access to medical care, support counseling, and safety planning. Full implementation is expected by 22 April 06.

Discussion: Discussion ensued regarding the number of deployment-related abuse cases. Ms. Erickson indicated that the domestic abuse statistics did not reveal an increased representation of deployment-related incidents. Mr. Downs added that although the level of severity has not increased, it is difficult to assess at this time because of a lack of specific data and that MCCDC is developing a more refined data search on this issue. The Chairman asked about comparing Marine and civilian domestic abuse rates and was told that it was difficult to compare the two because the reporting, definitions, and tracking mechanisms are different.

7. MCFTB Program Update. Ms. Kim Gates briefed ongoing MCFTB activities. Significant items noted: (1) The new L.I.N.K.S. commercial was released and installations received a version that will enable them to stream the commercial on websites and at various distribution points. (2) The MCFTB order, MCO 1754.6A, and NAVMC 1754.6 were signed 30 January 06 and forwarded to MCFTB Directors. (3) The new Spouses' Learning Series (SLS) training was well received. The first tier of training, "Follow Your Dreams While You Follow the Military," was presented at 13 installations. Of the 424 attendees, 98 percent said they would recommend it to a friend and 85 percent rated it "fantastic" or "great." The second tier of training included 82 personal and professional growth courses available online via MarineNet. The third tier of training was renamed to the Leadership Skills Workshop to better reflect the focus of the training. (4) MCFTB contracted with Human Technologies to develop a more comprehensive KVN Trainers Guide that was released in March 06. (5) The installation trainers have trained 699 Key Volunteers, 174 Key Volunteer Coordinators, and 203 Family Readiness Officers through January 06. L.I.N.K.S. teams throughout the Marine Corps provided 42 sessions to 466 participants. (6) MCCS/Military One Source has been

available to the Total Force since 1 February 2003. The FY05 usage reflects 40,481 uses and highlights a rise in telephone contacts. To date, the programs' usage reflects 19,468 contacts and 814 referrals for face-to-face counseling. "Couples Emotional Well Being" accounts for 36 percent of the usage.

Discussion: Ms. Hagee suggested putting a chaser at the bottom of the L.I.N.K.S. commercial to include a local point of contact.

8. Children, Youth, and Teen Program Report. Mr. Mike Berger briefed ongoing child care space need requirements and activities to address them. Significant items noted: (1) The Marine Corps is currently meeting 70 percent of the aggregate potential need for child care. A substantial need still exists at some installations. An additional 1,800 aggregate spaces are needed to meet the OSD 80 percent of potential need standard by FY07. The long-term strategy for reaching the goal requires a multi-faceted approach to expanding child care spaces to include family child care homes, making optimal use of existing space, buying down space in community based programs, constructing two, 100-child capacity modular facilities at MCB's Camp Lejeune and Camp Pendleton (total four), and meeting the MILCON goal to fund one CDC per year from FY08 to FY10.

Discussion: Mr. Berger expressed the importance of having O&MMC funds to ensure new facilities have sufficient funding for labor, supplies, and equipment once constructed. Mr. Downs stated the funds are not in the FY08 Program Objective Memorandum (POM) and this issue will be discussed at the 25 May 06 MCCS Board of Directors meeting.

9. Closing remarks. The Chairman closed the meeting by thanking the volunteer members of the Committee for their time and effort. With no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 1120.

/s/
K. J. STALDER
Chairman
Family Readiness Committee

L. B. COLE
Recorder