

# Minnesota Council on Family Relations

## 2009 President's Report

### December 4, 2009

*In 2009, MCFR has focused on all parts of its mission – connecting research, policy and practice through education with family professionals in Minnesota.*

## Conferences

We held two conferences in 2009:

**Families, Health and Mental Health** – April 3, 2009 at the Wilder Center in St. Paul, MN  
Our keynote speaker was *Anne Kelly, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, University of Minnesota.* Her presentation was **Talking, Typing, Texting, Tracking and Training: Efficient Communication for Teamwork**

In addition, 9 breakout sessions were offered on a variety of related topics and there were 5 student posters.

The conference was attended by 68 participants. The conference co-chairs were **Sara Lassig and Kristin Dillon.**

**Reality Check: Work and Family in a 24/7 World** – December 4, 2009 at Neighborhood House in St. Paul, MN

The keynote speaker was **Dr. Brenda L. Bass, Ph.D., CFLE,** a Professor of Family Studies at the University of Northern Iowa with respondents **Dr. Susan Walker,** an associate professor of Family and Parent Education in the Department and **Rachel Hastings,** vice president of WFC Resources, a local firm specializing in work-life information and training.

In addition, there were 8 breakout sessions, a silent auction raising funds for student scholarships and student poster sessions. The conference co-chairs were **Marcie Brooke and Peg Lindlof.**

## Supporting students

The MCFR student section under the leadership of **Heather Cline** has had an active year – hosting several social events where students could network and discuss issues related to their profession. The student section also promoted student posters at the two MCFR conferences – providing students with the opportunity to share their academic work. The MCFR student section includes students from several higher education institutions. In addition, work is continuing on developing mentor/mentee partners between MCFR professionals and students.

## Awards and Recognition

The Ruth Hathaway Jewson Award was presented to **Minnell Tralle,** Extension Educator with the University of Minnesota Extension.

The Friend of the Family Award was presented to the **Sameerah Bilal** for her work as Executive Director of the **Early Childhood Resource & Training Center**

MCFR also solicited student paper awards and submitted one from a strong field of entries to the National Council on Family Relations Affiliate Council. **Kristin Dillon's** paper: "Attachment

to Adoptive Parents in Adolescents and Young Adults: Influences on Young Adult Romantic Relationship Attachment.” was selected for the national award and she was able to receive support from NCFR to travel and present at the annual conference in San Francisco, CA.

### **Communication Committee**

In 2009 we published three issues of the Family Forum which were all distributed electronically. In addition, the web site was re-designed using the new logos and the content is organized to better reflect the work of MCFR, Our web site is now hosted on a server at the NCFR headquarters saving us approximately \$120.00 annually and making use of the technical expertise of NCFR IT specialist Jason Samuels. The MCFR list serv has been active. From December 2008 through November 2009, 88 messages have been sent to 212 members. This committee is chaired by **Peg Lindlof**.

### **Membership Committee**

Current MCFR membership – as of December 1, 2009 members, MCFR has 249 members. The breakdown by membership category is:

- 70 state members – pay dues to MCFR only
- 29 national members – pay dues to MCFR and NCFR
- 150 affiliate members. – pay dues to NCFR only with a rebate to MCFR

This committee was chaired by Tammy Dunrud and Nancy Melquist. Under Tammy, work was begun to create a member directory as a benefit. This project is continuing and we anticipate having the directory available in 2010. We are also planning on working closely with NCFR to define our benefits as an affiliate and communicate with Minnesota NCFR members about the value of supporting the local affiliate.

### **Nominations Committee**

**Rose Allen**, working with **Betty Cooke** and **Mary Jo Czaplewski** recruited a strong field of candidates for the 2010 MCFR Board.

### **Policy Committee**

MCFR took an active role in policy in 2009. Under the leadership of **Carolyn Latady**, the MCFR Policy committee published a number of policy briefs related to the conference themes. In addition, we worked with the policy staff at the U of Minnesota Children, Youth and Family Consortium to co-host a half day session of using the Family Impact Checklist at the MN State Capitol. There were 54 attendees.

### **Connections with the National Council on Family Relations**

Several conversations have been held with NCFR staff and MCFR board members regarding forging closer ties between the two organizations and collaborating on the NCFR Annual Conference being held in Minneapolis in 2010. We anticipate these conversations will result in more support and coordination. **Minnell Tralle**, an MCFR board member is the president elect of the NCFR Affiliate Board and sits on the NCFR Board of Directors.

### **Ethical Thinking and Practice for Parent and Family Life Educators**

Over the past two years, this booklet has been updated and published both by the NCFR – Certified Family Life Educator program and MCFR. We currently have copies available for sale and the booklet is downloadable at no charge from the [www.mcfr.net](http://www.mcfr.net). In 2010, MCFR will offer a number of regional workshops on this topic.

### **Our financial status**

We have maintained a stable financial status. Our treasure, **Kristin Dillon** has kept the board informed about income and expenditures. As of October 31, 2009, MCFR had a balance of \$11,008.55.

### **The Minnesota Council on Family Relations 2009 Board**

President	Rose Allen
Past President	Betty Cooke
President Elect	Beth Yokom
Secretary	Mary Maher
Treasurer	Kristin Dillon
Communications Chair	Peg Lindlof
Membership Chair	Nancy Melquist
Nominations Chair	Rose Allen
Policy Chair	Carolyn Latady
Student Section Chair	Heather Cline
Forum Editor	Ron Pitzer
Spring Conference Chairs	Sara Lassig and Kristin Dillon
Fall Conference Chairs	Marcie Brooke and Peg Lindlof
NCFR Liaison	Marcie Brooke
Past Presidents	Minnell Tralle, Ada Alden, Ron Pitzer
Members at Large	Bill Allen, Michael Brown, Pat Crumley, Sara Lassig, Monica Potter, Leanne Sponsel, Pa Nhia Yang
Glue	Sue Meyers
Administrator	Linda Vukelich

#### *Mission:*

*The Minnesota Council on Family Relations strengthens all families by educating and supporting family professionals and promoting connections among those involved in research, policy and practice.*