



**Minutes for Inaugural Meeting of the Minnesota Commission on Out-of-School Time**  
**9:00 – 2:00 on January 27, 2004**  
*McNamara Alumni Center on the University of Minnesota campus*

**Commissioners Present:** Maya Babu, Joanne Benson, Peter Benson, McKinley Boston Jr., Delroy Calhoun, Andrea Platt Dwyer, Blair Gagne, Jennifer Godinez, Bridget Gothberg, Julie Green, Lester Heitke, Susan Hoff, Daniel Knutson, Scott Lyons, Harold Mezil Jr., SandyCi Moua, Greg Owen, Valerie Halverson Pace, Michael Rodriguez, Don Shelby, Carol Truesdell, Christopher Wilson

**Commissioners Absent:** Emmett Carson, Anne Ganey, Joe LaGarde, Mary Ann Nelson, Neal Thao, Kathleen Vellenga, David Walsh

**Staff Present:** Dale Blyth, Ann Lochner, Mary McEathron, Joyce Walker

**1. Welcome on behalf of President Robert Bruininks**

Co-chairs Don Shelby and Carol Truesdell welcomed the Commission. Carol noted that the issue before the Commission, to ensure Minnesota youth have engaging opportunities to learn and develop, is a unifying or capstone issue. Don shared his belief that all adults must behave as though they are parents to all children. The Minnesota Commission on Out-of-School Time is an action item on the three-year agenda of the Presidential Initiative on Children, Youth and Families.

<http://www1.umn.edu/pres/cyf.html>

**2. Overview of Commission**

The Commission was formally charged with its mission: To craft the vision and strategies to ensure Minnesota's young people have engaging opportunities to learn and develop in their non-school hours. Don reviewed general responsibilities of the Commissioners: to be a regular attendee of the meeting and an informed, prepared participant, to be an ambassador for the Commission and to listen and learn from others.

Don and Carol stressed the importance and support for studying this issue. Data show most voters support having some type of organized activity or place where young people can go after school. Minnesota ranks as one of highest states in terms of percentage of youth ages 10 to 12 left alone after school. Additionally, juvenile crime accounts for 50 percent of all crime committed and it happens between 3 and 8 pm. However, children most at risk are the highest percentage to self-select supportive afterschool programs. Participation in out-of-school programs leads to healthy successful adults. Don set the stage for people to be excited about the work of the Commission and to feel that it was possible to be successful in the charge.

Dale Blyth, Associate Dean for Youth Development and Chief of Staff for the Commission, introduced the remaining Commission Staff: Joyce Walker, professor and youth development educator; Ann Lochner, Commission Coordinator; and Mary McEathron, Communications Coordinator.

The meeting dates and themes for the Commission are:

January 27, 2004: Making the Case  
March 30: Understanding the Current Situation  
May 25: Exploring Options  
July 27: Defining What Minnesota Wants  
September 29: Crafting Recommendations

Commissioners will receive briefing papers that provide succinct information on research and case studies from other states and countries before each meeting. Dale introduced suggestions for including an authentic youth voice in the Commission process, such as Commissioner representation (Maya Babu, SandyCi Moua, and Chris Wilson), focus groups conducted around the state, and a retreat for youth to obtain in-depth feedback.

Commissioners were surveyed as to their interest in taking part in site visits. Commission staff will compile results and create a plan to present at the next Commission meeting. Carol then clarified goals for the day's meeting and reviewed how they would be addressed through agenda topics.

- 3. Who we are and how out of school issues affect us**  
Commissioners introduced themselves and shared why the issue of out-of-school time was important to them. Following introductions, guiding principles for Commission work were reviewed.
- 4. Framing the Issue of Out-of-School Time – Dr. Mary Marczak, Associate Professor, U of M**  
Mary's specialty is research and evaluation on youth and family development issues. She came to the University four years ago after providing co-leadership at the University of Arizona on the evaluation of the National Children, Youth and Families at Risk Initiative. Mary discussed the research that has been done on how youth spend their time. A summary of her presentation, "What are Young People Doing with Their Time" is being prepared as **Attachment A** for inclusion in January meeting minutes and will be distributed at the March meeting.
- 5. Discussion: The Meaning & Importance of Out-of-School Time**  
Commissioners met in small groups to discuss their reaction to Mary's research presentation. Please see **Attachment B** (<http://www.mncost.org/JanuaryAttachments.pdf>) for a compilation of responses. After sharing responses with the full group, Commissioners returned to their small groups to identify key issues that are involved in out-of-school time. Key issues are combined by theme in **Attachment C** (<http://www.mncost.org/JanuaryAttachments.pdf>).
- 6. The Commission's Web Site, <http://www.mncost.org>**  
The web site will be used to provide up-to-date information on the Minnesota Commission on Out-of-School Time. The briefing papers, additional research materials, and meeting summaries will be posted, and available for download, after each meeting
- 7. Discussion: Focusing Ideas and Planning Next Steps**  
Carol noted the depth and breadth of key Out-of-School Time issues identified in discussion groups. She encouraged further thought and dialogue about priority areas for consideration by the Commission. Commissioners were then asked to identify needs for additional information in priority areas. They are grouped by topic in **Attachment D** (<http://www.mncost.org/JanuaryAttachments.pdf>).
- 8. Meeting wrap-up:** Carol recognized the value of moving from a broad understanding of Out-of-School Time to a more narrow focus on critical issues as the day progressed. She validated the richness of discussions throughout the day, thanked everyone for their contributions, and adjourned the meeting.