



Family Readiness Council Meeting Minutes

22 January 2010

Meeting Convened: 1335

In Attendance: Please see below

In attendance:

- i. MCFTB
 1. Director
 2. Admin
 3. RDST
 4. LINKS Trainer
 5. FRPT
 6. Japanese LINKS Trainer
- ii. Station SgtMaj
- iii. Station Advisor
- iv. MCCS Community Services Coordinator
- v. Station Chaplain
- vi. H&HS Sergeant Major
- vii. H&HS FRO
- viii. H&HS Advisor
- ix. VMFA(AW) FRO
- x. Dental DFRO
- xi. Medical Association
- xii. Medical Association
- xiii. Medical Ombudsman
- xiv. CLC-36 DFRO
- xv. MWSS 171 FRO
- xvi. MWSS 171 DFRO
- xvii. MWSS 171 Advisor
- xviii. MWSS 171 Advisor
- xix. MWSS 171 XO
- xx. MALS 12 FRO
- xxi. MALS 12 CO
- xxii. MALS 12 SgtMaj
- xxiii. MAG 12 FRO
- xxiv. MAG 12 CO Spouse
- xxv. EFMP, H&HS Advisor
- xxvi. M&FS Chief
- xxvii. Director MCCS
- xxviii. MCCS CFO
- xxix. ORCS Director
- xxx. MCCS Marketing Director
- xxxi. PRA, MCCS Marketing
- xxxii. CYTP Administrator
- xxxiii. CDC Director
- xxxiv. Station Equal Opportunity Advisor

I. Welcome

Thank you all for joining us for the first Council meeting of 2010. The purpose of the meeting is to provide an outlet for the users of the Family Readiness Program to address any problems they may be having, and to provide a forum for sharing ideas and a venue to disseminate family readiness related policy updates and upcoming program information. Please feel free to be open and honest about your program needs. We are all here to serve the families aboard MCAS Iwakuni.

II. Review minutes of prior Council meeting 22 Oct 09

a. On-site childcare

MCFTB has been approved for a flex-time childcare provider. The position is currently open. Once the position is filled, this will allow MCFTB to provide on-site childcare for up to five children during classes/trainings.

b. Website Improvements

MCCS Marketing, under the direction of the new Marketing officer, is working to update the entire MCCS Iwakuni website. Look for many new features and options soon. One addition will be a FRO contact tab under the Community Tab.

c. Actions for MCCS Community Services Coordinator

- (i) Organized sports for adults – Coordinator spoke with H&HS FRO separately and determined this was a request for sports for female spouses. Coordinator contacted Semper Fit Chief. Response from Ironworks is that they are ready and willing to help facilitate any activities as long as there is enough participation. There has not been a request for adult female sports in the past, but they are willing to help if the need should arise. If there is an interest, contact the Semper Fit Athletics Director.
- (ii) Increase in catering prices – The issue was that last year the FROs were charged \$10.95 per person for holiday buffets, but this year the price was increased to \$18.95. Coordinator spoke with MCCS Chief of Business and he stated the original \$10.95 was actually too low and did not cover all business expenses for the Club. Chief of Business is working to find a balance between business needs and meeting the needs of the users.
MCCS Director stated that there had been an evaluation of goods and services aboard the Air Station. The prices in the past had been too low and have since been changed to reflect the more standard Marine Corps wide prices. MCCS is still looking for ways to reward the commands and FROs for using the services of MCCS.

III. Topics of Discussion

a. Internet Connection Room

MCFTB/MCCS received funding to provide a free and easily accessible venue to the community to communicate with family members who are deployed and/or family located back in the US. The Communications Room will be located in the Station Library. It will include 5 lap top computer stations, and 52" television with a love seat and two chairs that will allow an entire family to teleconference with a deployed spouse. MCFTB is working with the Library to create a list of rules for usage. Priority will be given to spouses that have deployed spouses. Children will not be allowed to use the room without an adult. A soft opening is scheduled for 16 Feb and the Grand Opening is scheduled for 01 Mar. Currently there is not a name for the room, so if there are any ideas please submit them to MCFTB.

b. Monthly FRO meetings

MCCS Community Services Coordinator has started facilitating a monthly FRO Resolution meeting based upon guidance from Gen Stalder's Family Readiness Policy Statement. Two meetings have been conducted thus far. The next scheduled time/date TBD.

c. Life Skills position update

Interviews are scheduled for Monday 25 Jan 10.

d. MCO 1754.6B update

The Order is in the final stages of review. The most recent word is that the Order as well as the Unit Personal and Family Readiness Program Order and an updated AIRS checklist should be released at the end of March.

e. SLS Workshop

HQ MCFTB did not renew the SLS contract for 2010 therefore no SLS workshop is scheduled for this year.

f. HQ Family Readiness Committee meetings for 2010

Three meetings are scheduled for the year. The dates are 15 March, 12 July, and 18 October.

g. Future VTC access for FRC meetings

Okinawa FROs have inquired about having VTC access during Iwakuni FRC meetings so they can be more involved and informed about Iwakuni. MCFTB is looking into having this capability for future meetings.

Introduction of new MCCS members

Director

CFO

Marketing Director

CYTP Administrator

IV. Questions/Concerns/Comments/

a. Respite Child Care

H&HS SgtMaj: What are the stipulations for respite care/EFMP? Do the same stipulations that apply to EFMP apply to respite care for MCFTB?

EFMP Manager: EFMP families qualify for 40 hours per month of care. Cost covered has to be compatible with local CDC rates.

H&HS SgtMaj: We are seeing problems with the FCC providers charging family members more putting a burden on these families?

CYTP Administrator: FCC providers have a private business in their homes. MCCS CYTP provides training, completes inspections, but their business is their own private business. Therefore, they can set their own rates.

MCFTB director: There are benefits to using the FCC providers. There are times when CDC has no space for the children. Also, when using the FCC provider, parents do not pay the \$3 per hour up front. This price is billed to MCFTB.

CYTP Administrator: Some FCC providers had been charging \$5 per hour. CYTP spoke with the providers and they all decided to accept the CDC rate for deployment care.

H&HS SgtMaj: Is this is writing?

CYTP Administrator: This was verbal only. All current providers agreed verbally. When new providers come on board they can choose whether or not to accept the \$3 rate.

MCFTB Director: MCFTB will be sure to disclose more about the \$3 per hour rate so that it is more widely known. Is there a way to standardize the FCC rates?

CYTP Administrator: No

MCFTB Director: Can you elaborate as to why?

CYTP Administrator: Because they are private businesses.

H&HS SgtMaj: However, they are Station approved businesses. Can we look further into changing Station policy to standardize FCC deployment care rates?

MCFTB will inquire about standardizing FCC rates.

- b. MAG 12 Advisor:** Several IA spouses have said they are feeling left behind when the member goes on an IA billet and they attach to another unit. Therefore they do not have a FRO here, and the FRO from the gaining unit does not have any personal contact with the family members except via phone or email.

H&HS SgtMaj: Can you please elaborate?

MAG 12 Advisor: Currently MACS 4 is deployed, but their families are left here in Iwakuni. I've heard they are feeling left behind because their FRO is in Okinawa and they don't have any contact or communication about what's going on.

MCFTB Director: They have a DFRO here in Iwakuni.

MACS 4 Spouse: My husband is currently deployed. We do have a DFRO, but if it were not for the H&HS FRO I would have no information. There has been no personalized contact with the FRO in Okinawa. I don't know them so it isn't personal.

MAG 12 FRO: I feel it is the responsibility of the FRO. When you have someone deploy you should contact the gaining FRO, and if you are the gaining unit you should contact the losing unit FRO. It is a responsibility of the FRO.

MALS 12 SgtMaj: We are blessed here because we are so small and the FROs here work very well together. They help each other out in order to make sure the families are taken care of.

MCFTB Admin: MACS 4 deployment is a rarity for Iwakuni. We normally only have IAs. When we have those 1 or 2 IAs our local FROs do a very good job of taking care of them. I think that is where the confusion came for H&HS SgtMaj.

RDST: Currently there are 16 families that have a sponsor deployed.

H&HS SgtMaj: Who will take the responsibility for instances like MACS 4.

Station SgtMaj: I feel it should be a joint effort with MAG and H&HS.
All agreed.

c. FOCUS Project

MALS 12 CO: I'm a little confused about this entire Project. I don't feel it is applicable for MALS. I don't want to speak for other units, but for MALS it is not needed. Any problems or issues that our unit has are taken care of by MCFTB, Chaplains, CREDO, etc. We don't have any families to provide for this.

MCFTB Director: MCFTB is serving simply as a conduit for the information. Hopefully all answers will be given on the 29th.

Station SgtMaj: There are often warriors that bring issues from previous units that did not provide the needed resources. To shut the project down would be bad.

MCCS Director: Project FOCUS is very effective in other places. This meeting on the 29th is simply to get an understanding of this and to see if there is a need in Iwakuni.

V. Closing Remarks

- a.** Next Family Readiness Council Meeting is scheduled to take place on:
22 April 2010 at 1330 in the Yujo Hall Multipurpose Room
- b.** Minutes for this meeting will be provided on the MCFTB website.

Meeting Adjourned: 1415