

MINNESOTA COUNCIL on FAMILY RELATIONS

President's Year-End Report

12-2-2016

My second term as president of Minnesota Council of Family Relations began in January, 2016. I also served as president in 2006. I am happy to report that MNCFR members are still some of the most dedicated and articulate professionals in the family field. I have great respect and love for those I have worked beside this year. I am especially proud of the two excellent conferences held in 2016, "Improving Outcomes by Identifying Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and Modifying Approaches" in April, and "Engaging Families and Communities for Racial Equity" in December. MNCFR has boldly continued to take on topics that are timely for those who work with families.

This has been a year of transition for MNCFR. After clear direction set through an extensive strategic plan developed for 2014-2016, MNCFR completed these tasks in 2016: we

- revised the mission statement
- updated the name and logo to align with NCFR and other affiliates
- updated the website and developed a plan to add more features in 2017, thanks to the Communications Committee
- transitioned MNCFR's method of communication from **The Forum** which was published three times each year, to using **MinneNews** to publish member news, events, and information in a timelier manner
- added **Lifetrack 50** to our website as a tool for members to follow legislation pertaining to families, thanks to the Policy Committee
- voted to change the membership and fiscal year to start in January rather than September
- collaborated with two other organizations to present our Spring conference, and learned some valuable lessons for future collaborations
- began discussions with WICFR, the Wisconsin Council on Family Relations, about ways our organizations might collaborate in the future
- succeeded in printing a third version of **Ethical Thinking and Practice for Parent and Family Education**, thanks to the Ethics Committee. We are proud of the positive national and international impact of this excellent work.

MNCFR was involved at the November NCFR conference in Minneapolis as the local affiliate. A very professional focus on NCFR affiliates was spurred by suggestions from our past-presidents, Beth Gausman and Rose Allen. Watch a video about our participation on the MNCFR website: mn.ncfr.org.

There is more work to do in 2017, and two priorities stand out:

- Despite many attempts we have been unable to find an acceptable—yet affordable way to allow board members to attend meetings from a distance. We are a state affiliate and we need to find a way to accommodate family professionals unable to travel to attend meetings and conferences.
- I am disheartened that our excellent conferences are not affordable for many—especially for students and new professionals. I'm committed to finding a way to achieve consistent financial stability so that conference committees are able to choose the best programming without worry about costs.

Both of these priorities will be important for the Board of Directors in 2017 under the leadership of Val Anderson. I'm excited to report that we will welcome six highly qualified members to the Board in January. I am also confident that the Minnesota Council on Family Relations will continue to be a strong affiliate into the future.

Peg Lindlof, M.S., CFLE
2016 MNCFR President