

## Second Congressional District Central Committee Meeting

Burnhaven Library, Burnsville

February 8, 2005 | 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

CD2 Education Program presents...

### Children's Defense Fund Minnesota.



CD2's Education presentation was given by Jim Koppel, Director at the [Children's Defense Fund Minnesota](#).

Some information provided:

*The first two years of a child's life are the most critical for wellness visits*

As of July 1, 2003 infants born to mothers on Medical Assistance (MA) no longer qualify for two years of automatic eligibility at the time of birth. Instead, they qualify for only one year of automatic eligibility.

*GAMC now only covers adults without children up to 75% of Federal Poverty Guidelines (\$6,983 a year for a single adult).*

As of July 1, 2003, changes were enacted to Minnesota's public health care programs that cut parts of General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC) and eliminated Emergency GAMC, leaving 2,200 of Minnesota's poorest children with no health insurance or source of regular care and hundreds more people with no options for emergency care. This change alone caused 3,800 children to lose their MA health care coverage. CDF-MN estimates that 20,000 children in total are negatively impacted due to the 2003 legislative health care changes.

Due to changes made in 2003 by state legislators, nearly all children enrolled in Minnesota's public health care programs (Medical Assistance and Minnesota Care) must **reapply for coverage every six months**. Prior to this change, which became effective October 2004, Minnesota Care enrollees renewed every 12 months. Shorter renewal periods result in children falling off programs. The Department of Human Services estimates that by FY 2007 this change will reduce the average monthly enrollment in Minnesota Care by 6,000 children, as well as an estimated 4,400 parents.



Numerous studies show that stable health insurance improves access to regular preventive care, which results in fewer visits to the emergency room and in healthier outcomes for children. Even brief gaps in insurance coverage can contribute to problems for families in accessing care, obtaining prescriptions, and paying medical bills. In addition, longer coverage periods reduce administrative costs. Six-month renewals require eligibility staff to process applications and handle related paperwork twice a year for each enrollee. This increases workloads. An extended eligibility period can reduce overall administrative costs by two to 12%.

*Medical Assistance is a premium-free program for families who qualify. The income standard for children ages 2-18 is 150% FPG or \$28,296 a year for a family of four.*

An estimated 2,900 children lost health insurance when income eligibility guidelines for Medical Assistance (MA) were reduced last summer. This is one small piece of legislation that adds to the estimated **20,000 Minnesota children who have either lost or will lose public health care coverage due to 2003 legislative changes**. Effective July 1, 2004 the MA income standard for children ages two through 18 was reduced from 170% FPG to 150% FPG. This means that a family of four earning between \$2,358/month (150% FPG) and \$2,670/month (170% FPG) are now ineligible for MA.

1. 7:00 PM Meeting was Called to Order
2. Reading of Affirmative Action Statement
3. MSP Agenda
4. Officer reports:

**Chair Report ([Jeanne Thomas](#))**

- ❑ New Staff Member...CD2 **New** Field Director is **Alex Falconer**... Alex is from Red Wing and prior to this position worked at the DFL as a field department Intern. Alex will be contacting each of the SD chairs to introduce himself. His email is alexanderfalconer@gmail.com.
- ❑ The servers and preparers were recognized for doing a great job at the State Central meeting in January. A special thanks to Ken Beck for helping out.
- ❑ Congratulations to:
  - Vicki Wright as the new co-chair of state Constitution Commission!
  - Jake Nelson as the new MyDFL National Committee person.

**Associate Chair Report ([Ken Beck](#))**

- ❑ Thank you to those who helped with State Central food and donated to the food shelve. The food shelve sent a thank you to Brian Melendez for the money and food we collected.

**Treasurer Report ([Gaetano Marchese](#)) –**

- ❑ Gave Treasurer report listing expenditures and totals.
- ❑ Requests that we fill out a new receipt form when submitting bills for payment. A copy of the receipt form is posted up on the CD2 website under forms.

**Affirmative Action Officer Report ([Christine LaBounty](#))**

- ❑ There was a conference call hosted by Mandy Temple for Developmentally Disabled individual. Christine has a handout that highlights those items that should be followed when looking for acceptable locations to hold DFL event to ensure they are accessible.

**Secretary Report ([Jane Miles](#))**

- ❑ Updated info on conventions/precinct training/precinct caucuses is posted to the CD2 website under caucuses.
- ❑ Contact Jane regarding posting up to website events or information for your SD events and candidates. Also notify Jane ([janemiles@msn.com](mailto:janemiles@msn.com) or 651.681.9527) of any address, email or position changes/updates.
- ❑ Excused absences:

Lorretta Heinke	Howard Bass	Mike Romanov
Jon Felde	Sandra Masin	Skylark Miles

5. M/S/P Treasurer and Secretary's report

6. Candidate Reports

- ❑ **Christian Sande** – Secty of State Candidate
- ❑ **Eileen Weber** – Candidate for MN House (SD57)
- ❑ **Mike Germain** - Candidate for MN Senate (SD37)
- ❑ **Jim Carlson** – Candidate for MN Senate (SD38)

7. **Old Business** –

- ❑ Committee Reports
  - Education Committee is looking for additional members to help present educational, informational, and training programs. Please contact Robert Gibbons or Jane Miles if interested.

- Technology
  - We're looking at hopefully resolving some hosting issues so that we have more uniformity across sites before trying to do an RSS feed off CD2.
  - If you're in need of a website or help please contact Jake Nelson.
- Fundraising
  - They are still waiting on some bills to be paid but the food from the State Central meeting will probably net over \$1000 for CD2.
  - They are looking into putting on a wine tasting event.
  - Contact Sue Moravec or Charlie Thomas if you would like to help with any fundraising events including the upcoming Golf Tournament.

## 8. New Business

- February 18 -CD2 Winter Party, 7 PM at Skogs. Please bring a friend as a kick off to caucuses. This is a fun event open to all!
- CD2 Convention is May 6. Each Senate District is being asked to send two delegates (1 male/1 female) for each of the following committees.
  - Endorsements
  - Credentials
  - Nominations
  - Rules
  - Constitution
  - Arrangements
- Food will be provided by SD38
- MSP to NOT have a CD2 meeting on March 8.
- MS to charge state candidates for tabling at the CD2 convention but the motion was referred with objection by the Chair to the arrangement committee.
- MSP to ask individual participants at CD2 convention a \$10 free will donation to help defray convention costs.
- Those Senate Districts within Dakota County are being asked for **\$175.86** which is their share of the cost of the booth at the Fair. They are being contacted by Sandy Weber [buttercup982@hotmail.com] and Jeanne Thomas has a copy of the letter from the State DFL for anyone needing to see it.
- In an effort to better coordinate parades and fairs for CD2 candidates, we will start to post collected information up on the website. Please send in to Jane Miles any dates, locations, information, contacts about Fairs and Parades within your Senate Districts.
- **New List Policy** by the State is posted up on the CD2 website under forms. If you are interested in being on a committee to make sure CD2's list policy is compliant with the new State DFL list policy, contact Jeanne Thomas.
- If interested in helping to put on a **walking subcaucus training** contact Jeanne Thomas. She will be contacting the State DFL to see if training is schedules, if not CD2 will provide one.
- Databank training for CD2 is being set up. Look for more information to follow.
- CD2 is looking into office space for our staff person. CD2 needs to determine where, when, how, costs, location... for a local office. MSP to authorize the Chair to use their discretion in selecting person(s) to search out additional information for a location.
- MSP to have CD2 give \$100 to Jake Nelson to defray expenses on his trip to attend the Young Democrats of America meeting as the MyDFL National Representative.
- **A clarification** was presented on fundraising while on site at the library. While on site at the Burnhaven Library we aren't allowed to fundraise by actively soliciting for funds or by charging for the room or an entry fee, we can however passively fundraise by setting a collection box out on the table.

## 9. Adjournment – Next CD2 Central Committee Meeting is April 12, 2006.