

**PACT 4 FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE
EARLY CHILDHOOD MEETING MINUTES
September 8, 2010**

Present: Mary Kay Sinner, Renville Co. PH; Sandy Peterson, Renville Co. PH; Diane Winter, Meeker Co. PH; Joanna Struck, New London-Spicer EC Programs; Wendy Walz, Litchfield EC Programs; Jodi Wambeke, Willmar EC Programs; Kathryn West-Intern, Willmar EC Programs; Deb Spaeth, Prairie Five Childcare Resource & Referral; Cathy Nelson-Messer, Heartland Head Start; Rick Loseth, PACT 4; Linda Mathiasen, PACT 4

- I. Welcome and introductions
- II. Approval of July 14 meeting minutes; motion by Wendy Walz, second by Mary Kay Sinner. Motion carried.
- III. Agenda approved with two additions (Douglas County Mental Health Care Coordinator-Cathy; Mary Kay on EC to Kindergarten transition in Renville County); motion by Linda Mathiasen, second by Diane Winter.
- IV. Meeting facilitator-Cathy Nelson-Messer
- V. Meeting recorder appointed-Linda Mathiasen; Reporter appointed-Wendy Walz.
- VI. Early Childhood member on Collaborative Recognition Team-Wendy Walz.
- VII. 2010 Goals
 - a. Purchasing a children's book, such as *The Way I Feel* for broad distribution.
 1. 1,230 books would be needed for all EC programs in PACT 4 school districts.
 2. Cost is approximately \$4 per book plus shipping and handling.
 3. All members to watch for it be included in Scholastic Catalog on sale.
 - ii. Full collaborative presentation—November was proposed; however, more discussion time is needed to plan for the presentation. Rick to contact Debb that EC Committee will not be presenting at the November Collaborative meeting.
 - b. Transition between Early Childhood programming and elementary school. Mary Kay Sinner shared her experience of meeting with kindergarten teachers last year and again this year. First and second grade teachers, social worker and academic dean joined the group this year. Parent releases were obtained and the school staff found it to be very eye-opening and appreciated the information on at-risk children. However, overwhelmingly the concern was what to do with the children now that the information is available. (An opportunity for Alexandria's Teacher-Child Interaction Therapy was mentioned).
- VIII. Early Childhood Mental Health Grant Update
 - a. ACMC and Kandiyohi Public Health have referral process in place and referrals are being made. ACMC plans to extend the ASQ:SE screening process to 18-month olds at New London clinic.
 - i. Their goal is to also extend it to Meeker and Yellow Medicine counties. Their request was to utilize the same process as in Kandiyohi—MD faxes referral form to county.
 1. Diane Winter to supply phone numbers for referral form.
 2. Cindy Louwagie to be contacted to discuss request by Linda Mathiasen.
 - b. Results from the first year of the grant were shared---majority of the children referred are 4 years. The grant is encouraging more referrals to happen in the birth to two years. Discussion among the group was concern for a child to score fine at the younger ages. This may be due to the process, which relies on the parent report. Refer to PACT 4's September newsletter online for more statistics regarding the grant. A question was also posed how to partner better with child protection/foster care families for ensuring children removed from their home are receiving social-emotional support.
 - c. Opportunity to bridge the knowledge of EC program staff, Public Health Nurses and Mental Health Professionals was discussed. Rick is exploring options to bring these groups together to share insights including data needed for the DC 0-3. December date is being explored.
 - d. Training for child care providers is being offered this fall through Child Care Resource & Referral. The survey postcard includes the training options. Training (three-hour overview developed by the grant) is available in Willmar (Oct. 5), Litchfield (Nov. 16), Granite Falls (Nov.

9) and Olivia (Nov. 30). The first three keys of “Six Keys” will be offered in Willmar (first three Thursdays in November). All courses offered at reduced rate through the grant.

- IX. Partner Updates
 - a. Heartland Community Action continues to explore opportunities for Early Head Start. Many of the findings of the Birth to Five Grant support the demand for such services and intervention.
- X. Update on Alexandria Schools: They are offering a four-day training in August for interested “coaches” of teacher-child interaction therapy (based on parent-child interaction therapy) through DePaul University in Chicago.
 - a. They currently have all teachers, paras and support staff for ages two to seven years trained. The suggestion of bringing them to a Full Collaborative has been shared.
 - i. If interested in learning more about the training, contact Linda Mathiasen.
- XI. Brain Conference is set for November 16. If you have any suggestions, forward them to Cathy Nelson-Messer. Dr. Nancy Minshew from University of Pittsburgh will be the keynote and speak about Autism.
- XII. No additional agenda items; meeting adjourned.
- XIII. **Next EC meeting: Wednesday, October 13 at 10:00 a.m. in Granite Falls at Project Turnabout.**

Submitted by Linda Mathiasen, PACT 4
Birth to 5 Mental Health Grant Coordinator