

**PACT 4 FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE
EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
October 13, 2010**

Present: Cindy Louwagie, Countryside Public Health; Wendy Walz, Litchfield Early Childhood Programs; Jane Ryan, Dassel-Cokato Early Childhood Programs; Chery Johnson, Kandiyohi Public Health; Diane Winter, Meeker County Public Health; Cathy Nelson-Messer, Heartland Head Start; Rick Loseth, PACT 4; Linda Mathiasen, PACT 4

- I. Approval of the minutes—motion for approval by Cindy; second by Wendy.
- II. Approval of agenda
 - a. Two additions: Linda added public health referral form for physicians; Rick added DC:0-3 connection.
- III. Old Business—Goals
 - a. Offer ASQ-SE training in fall 2011
 - b. DECA-C: This tool is a parent report tool and provides insight into options for working with a child. Head Start uses it as part of their process for elevated ASQ:SE scores. We will keep this on our radar but no training is planned.
 - c. Enhance partnerships, share expertise and equipment
 - d. Community café: parent and community talks on early childhood topics
- IV. Birth to Five Grant
 - a. Previous discussion on purchasing books for early childhood distribution: due to changes in the budget there is not enough money to support the number needed.
 - i. **Assignment:** Linda to inquire with ACMC to see whether they are still distributing books at well-child visits. A possible connection is to give a social-emotional book at the 18-month ASQ:SE screening.
 - b. Referral form for physicians—Linda passed around the Kandiyohi referral form to share with the three additional counties. Each public health present (need Renville's) provided their contact information. A suggestion made for using this form for Head Start and Early Childhood referrals.
 - i. **Assignment:** Linda will customize the form for the counties and share with each public health contact prior to distributing to ACMC.
 - c. Referral process has expanded to include Countryside Public Health in Swift County. A child with an elevated ASQ-SE score lives in Swift. The physician contacted Kandiyohi Public Health who worked with Linda to identify contact in Swift County.
 - d. Importance of obtaining release signatures for families and children participating in the referral process. Physicians want follow-up with Public Health to know what the status is of their patient.
 - i. Early Childhood programs also want to receive follow-up to know what is happening to children they have referred. Public Health said they are fine with providing the information; however, the early childhood programs need to initiate the request as it is a new process and must obtain a release from the family.
 1. Two types of release: HIPPA and Release to schools/MDs/childcare.
 - e. Chery Johnson shared insights from a presentation by Beltrami county. It is similar to Douglas county's.
 - f. Rick is hosting a mental health/early childhood professionals conversation/bridge building session during the December early childhood committee meeting. It will be

held at 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 at the WEAC building in downtown Willmar (611 5th St SW).

- V. Partner update
 - a. Help Me Grow in Kandiyohi is pursuing the purchase of e-tablets: two for ACMC, one for ACMC-New London and one floater for sharing among early childhood school programs/Help Me Grow/Public Health.
 - i. **Assignment:** Linda to check on ASQ:3 audio availability.
 - b. Child Care Resource & Referral
 - i. Intensive visiting sharing new environmental rating has started with child care providers. A common concern is talking with parents about children's behavior. Many of the providers have attended training; still feel a gap in communicating with families. Hesitant to say much in fear they may lose a family.
 - 1. The three-hour curriculum developed through the Birth to Five grant does include a section on talking with parents and a role-play activity. The Six Keys cohort being sponsored by Litchfield and Willmar Early Childhood Initiatives will include a 90-minute reflection. These are running through CCR&R beginning in February.
 - ii. Metro area and Mankato are piloting a program called Parent Aware.
 - c. Countryside Public Health is hosting its Incredible Years classes this month. They received interest from individuals around the state—all PACT 4 members requesting were accepted into the training. Yea!
 - d. Peggy Starz of ACGC Early Childhood submitted information on its Cosmos program working with children. This program is working very well and includes older elementary to children transitioning into adulthood.
 - e. The Brain Conference is Tuesday, November 16 in Willmar at the high school. RSVPs are due.
 - f. MNAFEE is hosting a workshop on challenging behavior on November 19 in St. Cloud.

VI. Next meeting: Wednesday, November 10 at 10:00 a.m. in Renville.

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