

Early Childhood Committee
November 4, 2009
KCHHSB; Willmar, MN

Members present: Mary Kay Sinner, Renville Co. PH; Chery Johnson, Kandiyohi Co. PH; Peggy Starz ACGE Early Childhood; Deb Spaeth, Prairie Five Childcare Resource & Referral; Becky Knudson, Childcare Resource & Referral; Jodi Wambeke, Willmar EC Programs; Linda Mathiasen, PACT 4; Heather Ziehl, Meeker Public Health Cathy Nelson-Messer, Heartland Head Start; Rick Loseth, PACT 4

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Appoint recorder and reporter for today's meeting:
 - Recorder: Chery Johnson; Reporter: Cathy Nelson-Messer
3. Approval of October 14 Minutes
 - Motion by Chery Johnson; second by Jodi Wambeke
4. Approval of the Agenda
 - Motion for item #5: Revisit 2009 committee work plan and timeline-beginning for 2010. It was decided to table this discussion until next month's meeting. Diane Winter to bring copies.
6. Incredible Years Current Offerings, How to Sustain.
 - Peggy reported on ACGC classes scheduled to start in Feb 2010. This is run as an ECFE offering with ECFE staff teaching. They are interested in partnering with public health to do classes if possible.
 - Renville County does not have any classes planned. They have not been able to partner with any ECFE programs so do not have funding for the second instructor. There was concern because, as in any other community, there are children in these communities who could benefit from these programs.
 - There was discussion about partnering with Heartland and using grant money through United Way or PACT 4 discretionary funds to help facilitate the classes in Renville County.
 - Kandiyohi County has 4 classes going on now. One is partnering with the ALC and is offered within their class time. There is also an English, Spanish, Somali and English Infant class going on at this time. NL/S is planning to do their class in January 2010 and will partner with Faith Lutheran Church as a site and for meals and childcare. Kandiyohi County

will be meeting soon to decide on the rest of the 2010 calendar. Kandiyohi County Public Health takes registration and bills insurance if there is insurance. Those who do not have insurance go through the ECFE payment schedule. Books were purchased as a grant from SHARE. In the future, families will need to pay for the book if they want to keep it. This is also how ACGC handles books.

- There was discussion about other possibilities for funding and the importance of continuing the classes in our communities. Funding possibilities included billing through LSS and Woodlands, and through the SHIP funding.
- It was requested that those who have the infant (Meeker PH) and school aged (Kandiyohi PH) curriculum bring them to the next meeting for others to see.

7. Screening Coordination & Tools

- Discussion of how Head Start and the schools could collaborate to accomplish Early Childhood Screening so that it would meet both school and Head Start requirements. This is win-win. Schools get reimbursement for doing the screening and Head Start saves the time of doing the screenings. The challenge is for both organizations to be able to have the reports for the deadlines they need to meet. Heartland has started working with Willmar and NL/S, and would like to be able to work with other schools.
- ASQ-SE survey results were shared by Linda. This is helpful information and will be used as background information by the Birth to 5 Mental Health work group. Linda will resend the document to all EC committee members for additional information as well as contact each missing PACT 4 partner. Those identified as missing include YME, MACCRAY, Dassel/Cokato, BL/H, BOLD, RCW, Cedar Mountain, GFW, Prinsburg, Community Christian Willmar, Eden Valley-Watkins, Canby, Kandiyohi County Public Health.
- There was discussion of who else in the community is or should be doing ASQ-SE's. Is there a way to access the results between agencies? (Heartland needs an ASQ-SE every 6 months). Other possibilities include the Birth to 5 Mental Health workers from LSS and Woodlands, primary clinics, childcare providers.
- Linda shared a list of the other developmental and emotional tools that are currently used for Birth to 5 in our communities. There was discussion about how could we get all the partners to use the

- recommended tools and what funding possibilities are available for getting the mental health workers trained in the Brigrance and ASQ-SE.
- There was discussion about the stimulus dollars that have come to the IEICs and if this could be funding that could be used for screening materials and/or training. Cathy Nelson-Messer sits on the IEIC committees for three of the PACT 4 counties (not Yellow Medicine—Cindy L. to explore) so she will explore these and report back.

8. Collaborative efforts-report from Early Childhood Initiative, how can we partner?

- Discussion of the SHIP funding that county public health agencies have gotten and if there are interventions in each of those plans for early childhood. Mary Kay will follow up in Renville County to see if there are early childhood plans in that county.
- Discussion of the value of partnering; the great example of this was the Willmar Early Childhood partnering with the Willmar Fire Department to have a reading event and the production of the book.
- Deb and Cathy each told of trainings and programs that they are a part of that work with childcare providers to improve the learning and emotional environment in the childcare homes. Cathy stated that in the training that she has done with childcare providers, there is a great need for training regarding the emotional and developmental needs of infants and young children.

9. Program updates from partner agencies

- Cathy reported that she was disappointed that they had not gotten an Early Head Start grant (Birth to 3) that they had applied for. Most recipients had already had an "Early" program in place. Heartland's Head Start has about 100 eligible children on the waiting list.
- Lessons from the Field workshops are starting again on December 4th from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. The topic is Race Culture and Children's Mental Health. Register at www.cmh.umn.edu.

Respectfully submitted,
Chery Johnson