

**PACT 4 FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE
EARLY CHILDHOOD MEETING MINUTES
September, 9, 2009**

Present: Cindy Louwagie, Countryside PH; Becky Knudson, Childcare Resource & Referral; Anel Flores, Heartland Community Action; Deb Spaeth, Prairie 5 Childcare Resource & Referral; Mary Kay Sinner, Renville Co. PH; Heidi Ziehl, Meeker Co. Public Health; Sandy Peterson, Renville Co. PH; Diane Winter, Meeker Co. PH; Chery Johnson, Kandiyohi Co. PH; Joanna Struck, New London-Spicer EC Programs; Wendy Walz, Litchfield EC Programs; Peggy Starz, ACGC EC Programs; Cathy Nelson-Messer, Heartland Head Start; Rick Loseth, PACT 4; Linda Mathiasen, PACT 4

- I. Welcome and introductions
- II. Approval of August 19 meeting minutes; motion by Mary Kay Sinner, second by Wendy Walz. Motion carried.
- III. Update on Birth to Five Grant
 - a. Surveys: Rick Loseth provided an update on initial surveys sent the week of September 8 to CTSS providers and non-CTSS providers. Responses requested by Sept. 17.
 - i. Some EC members had already completed and returned.
 - b. Referral Process/Roles of ECRC & Mental Health Professionals: County Public Health staff and Woodlands (Nancy Woods) and LSS (Mary Anderson) are meeting this afternoon to review a draft of the referral process. Public Health nurses are ECRC (Early Childhood Resource Consultant). An update of this meeting will be provided at the October EC meeting.
- IV. “Lessons from the Field” update provided by Rick Loseth
 - a. Money to have two ITV sites, Olivia and Willmar, was secured. December 4th is the first of this year’s series; the second is scheduled for March 18th; a third has not yet been scheduled. Goal is to have about a dozen people to attend at each site. The series includes barriers, impact, strategies and early intervention techniques for children with social-emotional challenges.
- V. The next ITV Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation is Friday, September 25, 9:30 to 11:30 in the ITV room at the Kandiyohi County Health and Human Service Building. All are welcome. This is scheduled for the fourth Friday of every month. The meeting dates in November and December are being reviewed due to conflicts with holidays.
- VI. Partner updates
 - a. **REMINDER:** Send information on special events, workshops, updates that you would like shared with PACT 4 partners to Shawna Steffen at shawna.steffen@co.kandiyohi.mn.us. She will post on calendar and share in newsletter.
 - b. Litchfield EC is all out of “The Way I Feel” books. Are more available? Do we need to consider a discretionary grant?
 - c. United Way of West Central Minnesota:

- i. Backpacks for preschool screening are available. Contact UW if you are unsure whether your school is included in this year's distribution.
 - ii. GrowMobile has identified 20 childcare provider sites for this fall.
 - iii. Imagination Library has new boundaries. Check with United Way to see if your territory is included—an age-appropriate book is sent to children from birth to five years. Parents must sign up their child(ren).
 - d. Commitment to Collaboration: Strategies for Inclusion of Children with Special Needs and Their Families
 - i. Peggy Starz is organizing this professional development workshop offered through MNAFEE (MN Association for Family and Early Education).
 - ii. Held Friday, November 13 at Willmar Conference Center, Holiday Inn from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. CEU's given. Presenters are Jody Bordwell, Lisa Backer and Judy Swett.
 - e. Healthy Brain Conference:
 - i. Kathy Nelson-Messer presented details.
 - ii. Held Thursday, November 19 at Willmar HS from 3:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
 - iii. Presenters range from nutrition and cholesterol impact on the brain to Autism/Aspbergers, Connie Sparks on the book, "Brain Rules" by John Medina, Ridgewater psychology instructor and Prairie Woods. Keynote speaker is well-known Dr. Esther Sternberg. <http://www.esthersternberg.com/>. Look for more details and registration information in the next week or so.
 - iv. Heartland Community Action and Childcare Resource and Referral will host a booth, representing Early Children committee. Promotional items will be available at the booth. Thank you!
 - v. Wendy at Litchfield EC or Peggy at ACGC EC volunteered to assist with evening meal prep. Thank you!
 - f. Incredible Years fall courses to begin through Kandiyohi Public Health
 - i. Three to run: Somali, Spanish and English.
 - ii. Jail: hope to find funds to run another; possible discretionary grant?
 - g. Heartland Community Action/Childcare Resource & Referral is offering a Shaken Baby class for childcare providers this month in Spanish.
 - i. A quarterly goal has been set to offer training in Spanish.
- VII. ASQ-SE—a paper survey was distributed to attendees to determine how it is being used, what is working and what are improvement opportunities.
 - a. Rick collected the surveys and results will be shared at next EC meeting.
 - i. Highlights: ASQ-SE was deemed a very effective tool. Most early childhood programs and public health staff conducted it the same, where the parent fills it out and then it is reviewed one-on-one with parent.
 - ii. Concern: What happens once a child has been flagged? Most often the child and parent are referred to the school's social worker. However, many school social workers are not familiar with the DC 0-3 diagnostic criteria or resources to follow up, such as the DECA- C.
 - iii. Expansion: In addition to providing the above training to school social workers, providing training to childcare providers to use the ASQ-SE was agreed as an excellent opportunity through the Birth to 5 Mental Health

grant. Medical professionals through child and teen check-ups is another area we to pursue. A suggestion to train more early childhood school staff to aid in further identification and referral.

1. Jane Ryan, Dassel-Cokato Early Childhood is already working with childcare providers and the ASQ-SE. Linda to talk with her to identify best practice, suggestions in carrying this out in four counties.

VIII. No additional agenda items; meeting adjourned.

IX. Next meeting: Wednesday, October 14 at 10:00 a.m. in Granite Falls.

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