

Early Childhood Committee - PACT 4 Collaborative
Wednesday, 12 March 2008
Willmar, MN

Members Present: Becky Knudson - Childcare Resource & Referral, Cindy Louwagie - Countryside Public Health YM County, Kathy Kaping – PACT 4 SW Willmar School, Jodi Wambeke - Willmar ECFE, Sharolyn Peterson - NLS ECFE, Rick Loseth – PACT 4, Diane Winter – Meeker Co. Public Health, Rebecca Warpula - Dassel Cokato Early Childhood, Wendy Walz - Litchfield ECFE, Peggy Starz - ACGC, Donna Brau – KCAF YMCA Childcare Programs, Anel Flores - Childcare Resource & Referral, Sherry Kenny - Renville County Parent, Cathy Nelson-Messer - Heartland Headstart, Lynnette Braun - PET

Welcome and Introductions: Diane Winter called the meeting to order, followed by brief introductions.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve May minutes by Rebecca Walz. Second and passed

Approval of Agenda: Sharolyn Peterson moved to approve with addition of meeting schedule discussion for April and May. Second and passed.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Incredible Years Updates: There will be an informal meeting at 2:30 today to discuss Incredible Years training. Agencies have been informed. A presentation will be made to the Full Collaborative in May, and specifics for this presentation will be discussed at the sub-committee meeting.

Finalize and Refine Goals to be put on the Website:

Refer to February minutes for specifics on the committee goals, which generally focus on training for early childhood professionals and for families. Considerable discussion centered on all trainings in which this group is currently participating and using, in particular “Incredible Years” and the continued implementation of this parenting training in effective ways despite the change in funding. The members of this committee have found “Incredible Years” to be especially helpful for families, fairly easy to administer, and a program that has created training for culturally diverse families. It has been helpful in establishing and fortifying relationships with staff, programs, and families. It was shared that among families there is a ‘stigma’ associated with the training, where some families feel that only parents who ‘need’ training (“must be a bad parent if you need the training”) go to Incredible Years. This is an historical generalization among families, and all those who do early childhood and parenting training consistently work to clarify this misunderstanding. That is one reason the relationship component of training is so important.

One of the goals of this committee is to stay connected with the Full Collaborative regarding training. At this time Rebecca Warpula will head a committee to be involved with making suggestions for the upcoming “Brain Conference”. An Early Childhood mental health issues overview would be an offering we would support at the conference, in an effort to define mental health in early childhood, especially for lay persons who attend. There is a “mental health in early childhood wheel” available and Rick offered to write Prime West for their support. Kathy Nelson Messer offered to do a presentation at the Brain Conference regarding this issue. Her presentation will be a good one for families and offers a lot of insight. A request was made that information be available at the conference regarding pre and post-natal depression. We would also like to see information available regarding detachment disorders and it was recommended that information regarding military family issues be included. Further suggestions can be sent to Rebecca Warpula and/or Rick Loseth. The “Brain Conference” will be held in November 2008.

The committee discussed the implementation of a web site calendar to promote trainings for professionals. It could be something as simple as a listing of available trainings and information. Such information is important, but in actuality the listings could not be done on a daily basis. Information can be sent ahead for publication in the Pact 4 Newsletter. It was decided today that the information about trainings will be shared at all our meetings with the expectation that we would then forward that information to Shawna for publication in the newsletter.

Subcommittee Reports

Books: Wendy, Sharolyn, and Peggy are meeting to put together a grant request for funding the “I Like Myself” books.

“Joy in the Journey”: Prime West has donated funds for Meeker and Renville Counties for this book. It is in the process of reprinting.

EC Coalition Updates:

Jodi Wambeke shared that the Willmar Coalition is in the middle of their book drive and wants to do a list of area coalitions.

Wendy Walz: Litchfield EC Coalition has gotten their web site up and running and is working with their chamber to do a training to connect businesses with the coalition. They will be doing a sandbox dig at the Watercade Event.

Next month's agenda addition: Please email items for the next newsletter to Diane Winter diane.winter@co.meeker.mn.us since there are no committee meetings in April (only the Annual banquet in the evening).

The next meeting: Wednesday, May 14 prior to the Full Collaborative in Olivia.

Meeting adjourned.
Respectfully submitted,
Donna Brau
Childcare Program Director
Kandiyohi County Area Family YMCA

Early Childhood Trainings and Events for Shawna and the Newsletter:

Week of the Young Child

- * Ridgewater (Willmar Campus) on Monday, April 14, from 5:30 to 7:00pm and Ridgewater (Hutchinson Campus) on Tuesday, April 15, from 5:30 to 7:00pm. There will be booths and presentations, a juggler, activities, food, free for families, contact Jodi Wambeke, Willmar ECFE programs for more information.
- * Dassel Cokato Vehicle Night Monday, April 14 at Peterson Park in Cokato - Silent Auction and Resource Fair in the Elementary School from 6:15 to 7:45pm - contact Diane Winter, Meeker Co. Public Health, for more information.
- * Litchfield/Meeker County Monday, April 14 - Mr. Jim 7:00 to 7:45pm Mini Resource Fair 5:30 to 7:45pm in Ripley Elementary, includes the Usborne Book Fair and other booth presentations - Contact Wendy Walz, Litchfield ECFE, for more information.

Trainings:

- * "Nature, Children and Families" - Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Education Office, Friday, April 4, 952-443-1422 or www.arboretum.umn.edu
- * "Nurturing Emotional and Mental Health in Young Children" Monday, April 7: Dr. Terrie Rose 9:30-11:30am, 3-5pm or 6-8pm in St. Cloud.
- * Thursday, April 10: "Family Resource Fair" in Hutchinson Event Center from 5:30 to 7:30pm - free but must pre-register
- * Child Abuse Prevention Council Training: April 24 and 25 More information available on the Child Abuse Prevention Council web site.
- * Early Childhood Professionals Training - looking for future leadership, April 23, 24, and 25 - MNAFEE Website for more information
- * Upcoming MACMH Conference, "Child & Adolescent Mental Health" April 27 - 29, Duluth Entertainment Convention Center. Registration and information available at 1-800-528-4511.