

PACT 4 Early Childhood Committee

January 10, 2007: 10:00-12:00

Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services Bldg; Room 2055
Willmar, MN

Members present: Diane Winter - Meeker County Public Health, Suzanne Crain – Parent, Peggy Starz- ACGC, Rebecca Warpula-Dassel/Cokato Schools, Wendy Walz – Litchfield Early Childhood Programs, Karen Trost – Prairie Five Head Start, Lee Heinecke- Prairie Five Head Start, Cindy Louwagie – Countryside Public Health, Donna Henning- Heartland Head Start, Chery Johnson –Kandiyohi County Public Health, Becky Knudson – Heartland Child Care Resource & Referral, Jean Younger – Renville Co. Public Health, Brenda TeVogt- GFW Schools, Michelle Thomas- PACT 4/Willmar Schools, Lynette Braun- PET program, Danette Hendrickson- PACT 4, Rick Loseth- PACT 4

Diane Winter called the meeting to order, followed by brief introductions.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve December minutes by Wendy Walz; second by Chery Johnson. Motion carried.

Approval of agenda: Motion to approve agenda: Peggy Starz; Second by Suzanne Crain. Motion carried.

Summary of 9:30 meeting with Rick and Danette: Discussion of the “*Bridges out of Poverty*” training. Heartland is planning this for a possible late August 2007 date. Cindy researched Jodi Pfarr as presenter, who is open July – September 2007. It would be 8:30 – 3:30. Her fee is \$1500 + lodging + meals. The next planning meeting is Thursday, Feb. 8 at Northern Grounds in Willmar at 9:30. Chery will attend.

A three-phase process is planned: 1) Jodi Pfarr presentation, 2) Train the Trainer session, 3) Community presentations by new trainers.

There was discussion about Geared for Growth training from St. David’s, at a cost of \$2300. Possible source of funding for this: PACT 4 Discretionary grant, as well as a fee for participants. The question was raised: would there be 30 participants? Cindy talked about Upper Sioux participating. There will be another meeting at 9:30 on February 14, 2007, (before the next early childhood meeting) to write a discretionary grant. Wendy, Rebecca, someone from Prairie Five, and possibly Diane Winter will work on this.

The Early Childhood meeting will start at 10:30 to allow time for the Discretionary Grant-writing.

It was requested that there be an “early childhood track” at the 2007 Brain Conference.

There was discussion about Incredible Years, and how to re-organize it. We discussed possible need for a coordinator, as well as the need for another Train the Trainer. The cost is high, so there was discussion about other ways to fund it, possibly a SHARE grant. Rick will ask Janice Madden. Danette will call the Incredible Years organization to inquire about cost and availability. There was discussion about the need for recruitment of new trainers for this project, and to have this item on the February 14 agenda.

Dental Update: Discussion of “Lift the Lip” campaign, and a reminder of “Give Kids a Smile Day” in February 2007.

Week of the Young Child: It is April 23-28, 2007. Dassel-Cokato is planning a fundraiser and celebration for Friday night, with a petting zoo. Litchfield will partner with the Day Care Association to present “Penny and Pals”. Willmar will partner with Ridgewater College for its annual Family Fun Night.

“The Way I Feel” books: Discussion about this book as an early childhood screening incentive gift for families. The supply is very low, so it’s time to write another discretionary grant to purchase more. It was suggested that it may be time to look at other books. Peggy will email titles of other book possibilities for the group to review. It was suggested that all districts be entitled to a supply of books, even if unable to attend PACT 4 meetings. For some districts, time and mileage are factors in not being able to send staff to the early childhood committee meetings.

Coalition Updates: Willmar is entering the final grant year, and is looking at other partnerships for sustainability. Litchfield is looking at becoming a CAPC host, and sponsoring a Chamber of Commerce breakfast. In addition, Willmar Kindergarten Transition Team will visit in February to share ideas about linking the K-12 system with the early childhood systems in the Litchfield community.

LCTS Funding: Discussion about the process. The management team will be reading the requests for funding, and may ask for revisions. There are more requests than funds available. Also discussion about Universal Contact funding.

Other Items: Peggy Starz developed a project called “ABC Read”, a twice-monthly Toddler Story Hour, in partnership with three libraries in her area. Rebecca shared a new articulation screening tool which they are using in Dassel-Cokato. She stated that it has cut down on “false referrals” to Speech, and the referral team likes it very much.

Reminder about the Attachment series at various outstate locations. Registration is through University of Minnesota CEED.

Meeting adjourned: Motion by Rebecca, second by Wendy. Motion carried.

Next meeting: Wed. February 14, 2007 at 10:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Becky Knudson
Heartland Child Care Resource & Referral