

**Early Childhood Committee - Pact 4 Collaborative**  
**Wednesday, 14 February 2007, Max's Grill, Olivia, MN**

Members Present: Donna Henning - Heartland Head Start, Cheryl Johnson - Kandiyohi County Public Health, Lee Heinecke - Prairie Five CAC Head Start, Becky Knutson - Childcare Resource & Referral, Rick Loseth - PACT 4, Cindy Louwagie - Countryside Public Health, Karen Trost - Prairie Five CAC Head Start, Wendy Walz - Litchfield Early Childhood Programs, Rebecca Warpula - Dassel/Cokato Early Childhood Programs, Diane Winter - Meeker Co. Public Health, Jean Younger - Renville County Public Health, Donna Brau - KCAF YMCA Childcare Programs

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

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve January minutes with corrections by Wendy Walz and second by Jean Younger. Passed

Addition to the Agenda: Rick Loseth - Request from PACT 4 to fill out the 2007 Committee Structure Review and Discussion form regarding the EC Committee activities and progress, and presentation of Early Childhood Facts from MACMH and Bright Futures information. Rick also wanted to know about the possible reordering needs and the funding for additional "Joy in the Journey" books. The cost is about \$2.00 each. (This item was brought up again later in the meeting. An existing subcommittee will discuss this prior to the March meeting at 9am and bring the results of their discussion to the EC Committee meeting at 10:30am.)

SHARE Grant Initiatives/Incredible Years: Incredible Year Classes that are being offered this winter/spring for 2007 follow: New London Spicer - Thursdays January 25th to April 26th, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m., ECFE class in English (no class April 5th) at Prairie Meadows School. Atwater/Grove City: Fridays January 19th - March 16th, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m., Location TBD, in English. Willmar Spanish Class: Monday nights January 15th - April 23rd, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Paz Y Esperanza Church. Willmar English Class: Tuesday nights March 27th - May 15th, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Washington School. There may be a Somali class this spring depending on the interest. Rick shared that some research is being done by the SHARE group into funding of training for trainers, possibly in May or June 2007. There would be room for 30 people to do this three day training. The training will only be offered to individuals who are willing to commit to teaching futures sessions. Jean Younger shared a brochure that Renville is using to promote their Incredible Years classes and will email to interested committee members. Becky Knutson shared the success of the current Spanish intergenerational session that in Willmar. Donna Henning shared that Willmar is also looking at running a session that draws in Harmony Visitation and other families in crisis or at risk. The committee acknowledges that there are needs for trainers in specific areas of the region and that there is a shortage of bi-lingual trainers. Committee members are asked to bring a list of potential training participants to the March meeting.

**The committee is requesting that Dannette Hendrickson, PACT 4 prepare a contact list of available Incredible Years trainers and areas of need in all four counties to be shared with the members of this committee.**

2007 Committee Structure Review and Discussion Form: A fair amount of time was spent by the committee completing this form for Pact4. It was a time to reflect of past success and challenges.

"How I Feel" Books: Discussion tabled to the March meeting regarding the need to order books and what that book should be. The committee is interested in finding a different, appropriate, bilingual alternative to "How I Feel". Donna Brau passed along a request from Dona Haines asking for the books - Willmar is in need of 200-250 books for the upcoming Preschool Screening.

Week of the Young Child: Litchfield ECFE, Public Health, and Childcare are partnering for their event. Several counties have moved the date slightly to accommodate community needs and Lac qui Parle County is celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup> year of sponsoring the event.

"Bridges Out of Poverty": Cheryl Johnson shared an update for this event to be held Wednesday, August 29 in Willmar and Thursday, August 30 in Lac qui Parle Valley. This is an excellent, recommended conference that

focuses on community awareness, community education, and developing community action plans in a response to issues surrounding poverty.

Adult Learners Training: Mixed responses - According to Diane Winter, the nurses felt it was very helpful, but from Wendy Walz, her staff was not as pleased.

EC Coalition Updates: Donna Brau (Willmar ECC) shared that this group has spent the last couple months refocusing their mission as it relates to increasing the level of Kindergarten readiness. Four task groups have been formed with an overall emphasis on advocacy, parent education, kindergarten readiness, and community involvement. They are currently involved in a "Letter to the Editor" campaign, monthly news releases featuring "Born Learning" materials, and planning for a large travel contingency to the "Day at the Capital". Litchfield Coalition is going along well but has had to make a few 'date' changes because of a chamber leadership change and have become the Child Abuse Prevention Agency for their area.

Geared for Growth: The subcommittee wrote a grant this morning requesting Pact4 funds for a late spring training.

Next month's agenda focus: Incredible Years Video training recruitment, and discussion of a future EC presentation to the full collaborative - Bring catalogs for book selection for Preschool Screening.

The next meeting: Wednesday, March 13, 2007 in Kandiyohi County.  
Meeting adjourned.

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