

**Early Childhood Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007**  
**Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services Building**

Members Present: Diane Winter-Meeker Co. Public Health, Cindy Louwagie-Countryside Public Health, Jean Younger-Renville Co. Public Health, Rebecca Warpula-Dassel/Cokato Early Childhood Programs, Michelle Thomes-PACT 4 Social Worker Willmar Public Schools, Wendy Walz-Litchfield Early Childhood Programs, Peggy Starz-ACGC Early Childhood Programs, Sharolyn Peterson-New London/Spicer Early Childhood Programs, Nancy Hafner-Loving Arms Child Care, Chery Johnson-Kandiyohi Co. Public Health

**I) Introductions**

**II) Approval of 4/18/07 agenda:** Motion: Rebecca Warpula; Second: Jean Younger; Motion carried.

**III) Approval of 3/14/07 Minutes:** Motion: Peggy Starz; Second: Chery Johnson

**IV) Presentation Plan for Full Collaborative meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007:** It was decided at the March meeting that the presentation would focus around the screening process involved in early intervention. Screening processes from the service agencies represented on the Early Childhood Committee will be presented in a panel format. Each portion of the panel presentation will be given five minutes to present. The following individuals volunteered to present or to ask another to present:

- **ECSE:** Wendy Walz will ask Cathy Nelson-Messer to present this piece
- **First Signs:** Rebecca Warpula will ask Maria Balbo to present
- **ESI-R/ASQ-SE:** Wendy Walz and Sharolyn Peterson will present
- **Public Health with Brigrance and CTC information:** Chery Johnson will present.

Rebecca Warpula will do a hand-out with information on each item and contact information. Each presenter is asked to get the info to Rebecca by April 30.

**V) Status on Incredible Years Training, May 23-25**

Rick reported on the list of 22 candidates. He reported that we were able to offer the training to 27 candidates and that the Early Childhood coalitions had taken 5 spots. Each candidate is to submit a \$50 registration fee that is to be returned upon completion of the three day training. The following items regarding Incredible Years were discussed:

- The training is geared for those who are obligated and able to teach an Incredible Years class in the near future.
- A waiting list for training will be generated from those who did not get a spot this time.
- Training will increase the capacity to offer classes in the future, making them more available to families.
- The current process of referral is reflective of service organizations that are offering them to a targeted audience. In the future, with the availability of more teachers, the process might be more coordinated.
- In the future there will be a list of those trained along with their contact information.

**VI) Continued discussion of replacement to “The Way I Feel” books**

After some discussion of options it was decided to go with the “When I Am” book from ME MI books. They will give us a 50% discount bringing the cost to \$3.50 a book. There was discussion about how this will be paid for. We had covered it with a Discretionary grant last time. Rick and Wendy reminded us that the focus for Discretionary Grants has changed. They are less universal in nature and more targeted for at-risk groups. Wendy said we need to emphasize that we are targeting 3 year olds and only those who complete the ASQ-SE screening. We will ask Donna Brau to allow us to use her copy of the book to send with the grant. Two agencies will write grants, Karen Trost of Prairie 5 Head Start and Cathy Nelson-Messer of Heartland Head Start.

**VII) Training Opportunities:**

Respectfully Submitted by Rebecca Warpula

-Geared for Growth Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 8:30-3:30 at the Kandiyohi Family Services Building. The cost is \$40 and there are just 25 spots. They are open to the Early Childhood Committee partners first and then will be offered to others after that.

-Bridges Out of Poverty, August 15 in Willmar and August 30 in Lac Qui Parle.

**VIII) Local Updates:**

-Week of the Young Child

- Litchfield will have their celebration on Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> with Penny & the Pals and a service fair.
- DC will have theirs on Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> with a Down on the Farm Celebration

Coalition updates

- Meeker had Steve Dille and Dean Urdahl in to speak about legislative education issues
- Kandiyohi had Al Junkie to speak of legislation as well

**IX) Joy in the Journey Update**

The Journal is being revised to include color and updated graphics. It will be completed next month. There was considerable discussion about how to pay for the printing. Rick has been working on a grant to help cover the cost. He spoke of the early childhood collaborative partners finding companies to sponsor it. There was some discussion about using it as an item to market. Families seem very happy with the item and the public health partners reported at least a 90% approval rating from families. Questions rose such as copyrights on material used in the production of the journal. There was also the question of reading level that will need to be checked. The last time we printed the journal in 2004 we did 3,000 at a cost of \$3 each.

**X) Other agenda items**

We discussed the LCTS grant review process and the differences within each county.