

Early Childhood Committee Meeting
Wednesday, 09 May 2007
Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services Building, MN

Members Present: Lynette Braun - PET, Donna Henning - Heartland Head Start, Becky Knutson - Childcare Resource & Referral, Cindy Louwagie - Countryside Public Health, Cathy Nelson Messer - Heartland Headstart, Sharolyn Peterson – NL/S ECFE, Peggy Starz - ACGC, Jodi Wambeke - Willmar ECFE, 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, Rick Loseth – PACT 4

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

Approval of Agenda: Cathy Nelson Messer motion, Second and passed.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve April minutes with corrections by Donna Brau. Second and passed

Presentation - Last minute run-through: The group presentation will be introduced by Rebecca Warpula. Kathy Nelson Messer will present information to the full collaborative regarding kindergarten transition. Most of her information will come from the recent training sponsored by DHS with informational copies for those in attendance. Rebecca Warpula also produced a form on who provides, and who to contact, for screening services. Some corrections are necessary and the updated list will be posted on the Pact 4 website. Cheri Johnson will present information about Public Health with Brigance and CTC information, followed by Maria Balbo on First Signs/Screening and Follow up.

Brain Conference: Spontaneous and considerable conversation occurred regarding the lack of information being presented regarding zero to five and post-partum depression at this conference. Members of the committee expressed frustration that the brain conference seems to have moved away from information related to the importance of brain development in the first five years. In general committee members voiced the opinion that they would be more apt to send staff and families if the registration fee would help fund information regarding zero to five and post-partum depression. **This committee offers a formal recommendation that the conference include these important topics.** For 2008, this committee proposes to seek funding allocations from other sources to fund additional, timely, and relative early childhood topics and break outs. Donna Henning proposed that this committee discuss a training survey be developed at the next meeting for future use.

SHARE Grant Initiatives/Incredible Years: Rick Loseth update - asked for registrations by May 20th for the trainers training. The books have been ordered. He recommended that other sources of funding be considered for the books, so that participants can keep them. The books and videos can be ordered by individual organizations by visiting the Incredible Years web site.

Gearred for Growth: Cathy Nelson Messer asked if ‘Incredible Years’ trainers will also be attending this training. Most are not. In the past these two trainings have been more connected.

Bridges Out of Poverty - Ruby Paine: The training will be limited to 400 on August 15, 2007 in Willmar. The brochures have been dispersed. Additional brochures are available from Shawna Steffen, PACT 4 and Deb Brandt, Heartland. There is a highly informational website based on the book available for more information as well.

“When I Am” Books: Discretionary grants should have been written for the book, “When I Am”, which would be distributed during kindergarten screening. Because the guidelines for discretionary grants have recently been changed, the funding for the purchase of books for every child would not be awarded. The committee discussed options for funding the \$3000.00 purchase. We need to think “outside the box” to find funding. Several suggestions were made.

EC Coalition Updates: Donna Brau shared that the Willmar Coalition is currently implementing a plan to distribute Born Learning materials to local organizations to get information in the hands of families they serve. They just completed a legislative postcard campaign and the kindergarten transition committee is working on CDC opportunities. Diane Winter shared current focuses in the Litchfield ECC including legislative updates and summer event planning. They are still looking for a coordinator. Sharolyn Peterson shared information about a new web site sponsored by the state “MN Parents Know”.

Next month’s agenda addition: Training survey

The next meeting: Wednesday, June 13, 2007 in Litchfield Family Services Building, Room 130
Meeting adjourned.

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