

**Early Childhood Committee**  
**Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007; 10:30 am to 12:00 pm**  
**Kandi Entertainment Center; Willmar, MN**

**Present:** Diane Winter, Meeker Co. Public Health Director  
Jodi Wambeke, Willmar Early Childhood Programs  
Karen Trost, Prairie 5 Head Start  
Mary Kay Sinner, Renville Co. Public Health Nurse  
Debb Sheehan, PACT 4 Director  
Becky Knudson, Heartland Child Care Resource/Referral  
Lynette Braun, PET (Pregnancy Ed for Teens) Program Coord.

MichelleThomas, Willmar/PACT 4 School Social Worker  
Rebecca Warpula, Dassel/Cokato Early Childhood  
Lee Heinecke, Prairie 5 Head Start  
Sharolyn Peterson, NL/S Early Childhood  
Chery Johnson, Kandiyohi Co. Public Health Asst. Director  
Peggy Starz, ACGC Early Childhood

1. Welcome & introductions
2. Appoint a member to take minutes – Rebecca Warpula
3. Approval of the agenda  
Motion to approve – Chery Johnson; Seconded – Mary Kay Sinner
4. Approval of the July 11th meeting minutes  
Motion to approve – Jodi Wambeke; Seconded – Debb Sheehan
5. Report from individual counties are "Incredible Years" planning  
July meeting consisted of considerable discussion on the Incredible Years classes.
  - Mary Kay reported that Renville met last month and worked out their budget structure that included salaries and benefits for teachers, child care, and aides and shared that information in written form. Max of \$5,975
  - Yellow Medicine no report
  - Meeker County:
    - ACGC- will be in January and it will be run as an ECFE class.
    - Chery Johnson- reported on costs for Kandiyohi. They were similar to Renville. The variables will be whether an interpreter is needed and the size of childcare. \$4,985 without childcare and interpreter costs. Two October classes being planned. They are also doing a Somali class with interpretation, running now, it is an eight-week class, and they are on class four. They are working on running a jail class.
    - NL/S- will be after the first of the year on Tuesday nights, run as an ECFE class.
    - Diane wonders about joint coordination for sharing incentives, etc. Some discussion followed about how that would work. Is there a way to standardize incentives? Play dough was given from Kandiyohi; United Way has shared from Imagination Library. A sub-committee will meet in October during the last half hour of the Early Committee meeting (11:30) in Granite Falls.
6. Training sub-committee report  
Will be meeting sometime today. Donna Henning, Becky Knutson, Chery Johnson.
7. Update on printing of and funding for "Joy in the Journey"  
Chery reported that they gotten bids from a couple of printing companies. Lakeside Press will do the work for us. She gave us an estimate on cost of \$7,156.89.

Kandiyohi	500/year	44% of cost	\$3,221.28
Meeker	250/year	22% of cost	\$1,610.40
Renville	250/year	22% of cost	\$1,610.40
YM	125/year	11% of Cost	\$805.32

Public health members are looking for ways to fund this product.
8. Coalition updates  
Willmar: met last week. Fire program Oct. 9 and this Friday the CDA program will start, their collaboration with ECFE, Head Start, etc. Mini-grants will be available. These \$250-\$500 grants are for ways people are preparing children for school in Willmar. Becky Knutson reports that they are not being utilized as hoped.  
Litchfield: met last week. Development of the web site is a prevalent issue at this time. Reading Everywhere events have been successful.
9. Other agenda items

Books: Diane was wondering where we are at on that. We read the April minutes and Karen Trost and Cathy Nelson-Messer agreed to write the grant for us at that time. Karen Trost will follow up on where we are at in the process.

10. Training

- ❑ A Somali training will happen on Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> in Willmar with a book sharing
- ❑ D/C Schools Carrie Fletcher is coming to do a workshop on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, on September 25<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 – 8:00 pm at the DC High School. This is a free training with free childcare. Diane reports that she is a phenomenal speaker. Worth your time and effort.
- ❑ Brain Conference: Are looking for speakers who would be will free speakers. If anyone has any ideas please let Becky know. Becky talked about Charlie Applestein, and the possibility of him coming. Peg Garding is a possibility.
- ❑ Bridges out of Poverty: it was reported that it was excellent. Anyone going to Train the Trainer? We wondered if that was happening. Deb Brandt talked about another workshop taking this material to the next level, a follow-up possibly in January.
- ❑ Renville is looking for a speaker for their expo in the spring. David Walsh, Mary Sheedy-Kirchinka?

11. Mary Kay asked about the history of the EC committee:

Diane reported that in about 1995 she and Wendy Walz were at the first PACT 4 meeting and were given the job of developing a resource book. The people who were at that first meeting developed into the EC committee. Joy in the Journey was the next project. The mini PECFAS was developed in this committee. As a member of PACT 4 there must be representation on a committee. LCTS grantees are required to a member of a sub-committee.

12. Sharolyn reported on EMPOWER, which is a group of women only who are living or working in Kandiyohi County to help get all kids ready for kindergarten. They received a Bremer Grant of \$50,000 to do their work.

13. Committee Structure report from Deb Sheehan:

Debb shared two reasons to look at committee structure and function:

1. As PACT 4 slims down on staff numbers, they will be relying on the committees.
2. Grant opportunities from outside sources are changing time frames, with shorter reporting and responding cycles needed committee support.

Rick will be the Early Childhood Committee contact as well as supervising other committee contacts. He will connect with us as grant options become available or if the EC committee has needs. He will be attending our committee meetings, bringing form from PACT 4, be a liaison to PACT 4 and provide assistance as needed. Committee Chairpersons roles are identified as; facilitate meeting, establish agenda, ensure that committee components are met.

Next meeting: Granite Falls, 10:00 am, 11:30 Incredible Years Subcommittee