

Early Childhood Committee
Wednesday, 13 June 2007
Litchfield, MN

Members Present: Lynette Braun - PET, Donna Henning - Heartland Head Start, Chery Johnson - Kandiyohi County Public Health, Becky Knudson - Childcare Resource & Referral, Cathy Nelson-Messer - Heartland Headstart, Diane Winter – Meeker Co. Public Health, **“The Retiring”** Jean Younger and Mary Kay Sinner - Renville County Public Health, Wendy Walz - Litchfield ECFE, Donna Brau – KCAF YMCA Childcare Programs, Rick Loseth – PACT 4

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

Approval of Agenda: Wendy Walz moved to approve. Second and passed.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve May minutes by Cathy Nelson Messer. Second and passed

Follow up Discussion/Debrief of Full Collaborative Presentation: No real feedback from members of the Full Collaborative, but this committee would like the updated contact list to be sent to PACT 4 to be posted if it hasn't already been done. Rebecca Warpula was in charge of that, and Diane Winter will check with Shawna.

Draft Training Survey: Donna Henning led the conversation regarding the training needs of childcare providers, educators, and service providers. Discussion also covered opinions regarding training needs of each particular group. It was agreed that the needs of each group vary greatly with regard to topics and times offered. Rick Loseth shared that the focus on training for this committee, and other PACT 4 committees, will be important for the next few years. A good portion of the discussion centered on the lack of 0-5 information at the Brain Conference. It was concluded that all organizations need to collaborate on trainings, opening them up to multiple organizations, sharing costs, and making sure that opportunities are communicated. Trainings are typically geared to individual (unique) groups with individual (unique) needs. It was also resolved that it was not necessary to conduct a formal survey at this time. Becky Knudson mentioned the need to offer classes in additional languages (Spanish and Somali). Donna Brau added the need to address people with hearing disabilities. Additional conversation centered on the upcoming Mary Sheedy Kurchinka training and the associated opportunities and challenges. Committee members renewed their commitment to sharing opportunities about a variety of trainings with PACT 4 and all community organizations. Rick encouraged this group to express their needs to the planners of the Brain Conference knowing that there are no additional funds dedicated to paying for multiple keynote speakers. He expressed that the lack of funds shouldn't stop the “quest” for an early childhood focus at the Brain Conference. Donna Brau suggested that an Ad Hoc committee be formed to research training and resources. Becky Knudson, Donna Henning, and Chery Johnson volunteered.

Funding Sources for Books:

“When I Am” Books: Donna Brau wrote a letter of intent for a grant to the Bremer Foundation requesting funding for the purchase of these books. She asked for \$2000 per year for the next four or five years.

“Joy in the Journey” Books: The committee discussed the logistics of additional print runs of this book by either professional printers or vocational schools. The annual cost is estimated at \$3.00 each in black and white. Color printing is preferred but more expensive. There are still copies available and agencies are using approximately 700 or 800 per year for Universal Contact visits. Southwest Initiative Foundation, Prime West, and county IEIC's (Interagency Early Intervention Committee) were additional funding sources mentioned.

EC Coalition Updates:

Donna Brau shared that the Willmar Coalition delivered “Born Learning” materials to local organizations recently. The business and community task team is working on family-friendly business recognitions and acquiring data concerning kindergarten readiness in Willmar to share with businesses. They are also preparing to participate in the Willmar Fests Kiddie Parade and researching the possibility of hosting an Early Childhood Expo again this fall.

Wendy Walz: Litchfield EC Coalition is now the CCAP in their area, which helps with financial sustainability. They did their long range planning at their last meeting. Events include: the *Litchfield Watercade*, *Grandparents as Parents* event in September, *Church Sabbath Day* in October, and *Week of the Young Child* event. They are also working on a website.

Donna Henning also shared information about the Redwood Area EC Coalition, which is sponsoring unique family events in their area.

SHARE Grant Initiatives/Incredible Years: Rick updated the committee on the recent training. Chery Johnson mentioned that the Willmar Women's Shelter and the Interagency Chemical Dependency organizations are interested in these trainings. The length of stay and the continuation of parental rights are factors that affect the benefit to implementing Incredible Years trainings in these settings. Chery also shared that a Willmar public health nurse was trained and will be offering Incredible Years classes in the Willmar jail. Cathy Nelson-Messer emphasized the need to maintain the training as written and copyrighted. Often modifications reduce the effectiveness of the trainings, not to mention that these materials are copyrighted. Other trainings may be more suited to unique settings. Utilizing ECFE parent educators or other parenting models and trainings should be considered

instead, if at all. The hierarchy of needs is at work here, and this committee agreed that, unless an individual requests “education”, providing un-requested parenting education will be ineffective.

Geared for Growth: Wendy Walz updated on the recent training, which was very successful.

Next month’s agenda addition: No discussion

The next meeting: Wednesday, July 11, 2007 in the Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services Building.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Brau

Childcare Program Director

Kandiyohi County Area Family YMCA