

PACT 4 Early Childhood Meeting

November 14th, 2007

Max's Restaurant; Olivia, MN

Present: Debbie Gerrety, parent; Jaleenah Toren, parent;
Stephanie Markgraf, parent; Pam Miller, Meeker Co Public Health;
Mary Kay Sinner, Renville Co. Public Health; Donna Henning, Heartland Head Start;
Cindy Louwagie, Countryside Public Health; Lynette Braun, PET Program Coord .

1. Welcome and introductions: Two new parents were present: Stephanie Markgraf and Jaleenah Toren. We welcome them and are very happy to have them join us!
2. Approval of Oct. 14 minutes: Pam motioned and Cindy seconded.
3. Approval of the agenda: Cindy and Donna. One addition to agenda: work on Mission statement.
4. Continued discussion on possible funding for books: Public Health in each county will be responsible for covering the cost of the *Joy in the Journey* book that is given out at postnatal contacts. Unsure of funding for books used for Early Childhood Screening that could be given out at that time. The book, *The Way I Feel* had been given out previously but many of the families already had this book so another book, *When I Am* which is in Spanish and English would be used. At this time, have no funding source that would cover it. Discretionary grant is to be used only to target high risk populations. Debbie suggested the statewide Abuse Prevention would maybe pay for the books-she will look into this. We will need to further discuss this issue at next meeting. Explanation of DECCA by Cathy Messer deferred to December meeting.
5. Committee Report Form: This form will be needed to be handed in to Shawna along with the minutes and attendance sheet. It is a summary of what is happening at our meetings and from this, a person can report to the Collaborative Meeting what has been discussed and what has come about due to our committee meeting. Rick states that we have already had good minutes but this is to be done by every committee. There is a form that needs to be followed.
6. Every month a member will need to be assigned to report to the Collaborative about our Early Childhood Meeting. This month Donna Henning volunteered.
7. Prime West application will be due December 7th for funding but will probably be an ongoing community reinvestment application that could be applied for again in the future for counties that have Prime West Insurance.
8. Reflective Consultation Training: Scott Harmon would like to set up a schedule for the second Thursday and Friday of every month to do training with staff in the PACT 4 counties. December 13th Yellow Medicine County is scheduled from 9:30-11:30 and Renville County is in the afternoon. Unsure at this time about Meeker or Kandiyohi Counties.
9. No subcommittee report since no one present that belongs to it. Will defer to December meeting.
10. Incredible Years Update: Incredible Years class can in part be funded by the SHARE grant- each county will receive about \$5,000 to conduct 2 classes. Renville Co. ECFE/BOLD will have January class open enrollment class; Meeker County planning on having a winter class; Kandiyohi County at Prairie Meadows Learning Center in Spicer January 8th through March 4th 6:00-8:00 pm. (call Sharolyn Peterson at 320-796-2443); and Yellow Medicine County plans on having a late winter/early spring Spanish class.
11. Coalition Updates: Donna reported that Willmar is planning a 2008-2009 Fire House Event.
12. Mission Statement: Each committee has been asked to address a number of key items as they reorganize under the new committee structure. The tasks are: Develop a Mission Statement that reflects the purpose and focus of your committee; Identify what is working well and what can be built on related to the committee's focus; Identify gaps in services related to your committee focus; Describe the planned outcomes for your committee – What do you hope to accomplish?; Specify how you will know when you have achieved your outcomes – evaluation; Identify needs and make recommendations for training within the scope of your committee; Make recommendations about resources for implementation and sustainability relative to the scope of your committee; and communicate progress and make recommendations to the Executive Board. Rick stated that this should be done by the end of December. The mission statement should illustrate, describe what this committee does. The committee did brainstorm for awhile and came up with the following mission statement:
“To enhance early childhood mental health services in the four counties.”
The strengths we identified were: coordinated services between public health and schools; implementing programs from one area to another area; information for parents and service providers; good collaboration between agencies; sharing resources; collective training – like Scott Harmon; longevity – long-going committee; and we have a primary, prevention focus. Identifying the gaps included: funding restrictions, lack of funding for needed programs; lack of parent feedback and lack of bilingual staff. That is as far as we got on the Mission Statement for this meeting.
13. The committee also discussed other ways to get childhood mental health issues information out to families. The parents in the group, Jaleenah and Stephanie, stated that they would read a newsletter before a newspaper. Maybe mental health information could be put in already-existing newsletters from ECFE, Head Start, school,

family services, etc. We agreed that we need to ask parents where this information would be best accessed by them rather than what we think would be best. Some people have access to computers and others don't. When we were discussing what parents would like to receive for incentives like preschool screening, both parents agreed a book is always welcomed.

14. Next Collaborative meeting is December 12th in Willmar. Early Childhood Meeting will be at 10:00 am in **Room 2045** of the Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services Building.

Submitted by Cindy Louwagie, PHN – Countryside Public Health