

**PACT 4 Early Childhood Meeting**

**December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

**Willmar, MN**

Present: Mary Kay Sinner, Renville Co. Public Health  
Cindy Louwagie, Countryside Public Health  
Diane Winter, Meeker Co. Public Health Director  
Denise Kragenbring, Kandiyohi Co. Public Health Nurse  
Cathy Nelson-Messer, Heartland Head Start  
Rebecca Warpula, Dassel/Cokato Early Childhood

Donna Henning, Heartland Head Start;  
Lynette Braun, PET Program Coordinator  
Sharolyn Peterson, NL/S ECFE  
Jodi Wambeke, Willmar Early Childhood Programs  
Peggy Starz, ACGC School  
Wendy Walz, Litchfield Early Childhood Programs

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Approval of November 14 meeting minutes; motion/second by Cindy/Mary Kay. Motion carried
3. Approval of the agenda; motion/second by Peggy/Sharolyn. Motion carried.
4. The committee reviewed the following mission statement developed at the November 14 meeting:  
    “To enhance early childhood mental health services in the 4 counties.”  
    The committee completed the remainder of the items on the worksheet distributed by Rick Loseth at the November meeting. Diane will finalize and submit by January (see attached).
5. Rebecca and Wendy volunteered to complete the committee report form for today’s meeting and will provide a committee report at today’s full collaborative meeting .of the full collaborative.
6. Funding options for books were reviewed. A subcommittee was formed to continue the process of funding this initiative and to provide monthly updates to the Early Childhood committee. Subcommittee members are Wendy Walz, Rebecca Warpula, Sharolyn Peterson, and Peggy Starz.
7. Cathy Nelson-Messer provided an explanation of DECA-C which is based on an early childhood mental health consultation model and emphasizes prevention of mental health disorders, fostering of social/emotional well being, identifying and helping children at risk, recognizing that some children have serious problems needing intensive services, and views parents and teachers as collaborative partners. The Devereux Early Childhood Assessment Clinical Form (DECA-C) is a tool for social workers to utilize as a next step of Intervention for identifying mental health issues. The tool gathers information on the child’s strengths and needs by addressing both the total protective factors and total behavioral concerns. Staff have found it easy to do the interview process with the parent. After scoring, the information goes back to the staff working with the child to identify strategies. Based upon the number of high scores, Head Start has implemented skill-building therapy in the classroom in Hutchinson and Olivia. Licensure as a social worker is required for purchase and scoring. A kit includes the book and 30 protocols and costs approximately \$200. More information can be found on the Devereux Foundation website.
8. A Community Reinvestment Application was submitted to Prime West on behalf of Meeker and Renville Counties to fund the cost of Joy in the Journey for the medical assistance. Notices of funding are expected December 20.
9. Reflective Consultation with Scott Harmon Dec. 13, in Renville and Yellow Medicine and Dec. 14 in Meeker County. There will be monthly sessions on the second Thurs/Friday of every month.
10. Subcommittee reports—none.
11. Incredible Years Class Offerings:
  - Dassel-Cokato partnered with Wright County Public Health but due to limited public health staff time for recruitment of families, classes were discontinued after the third class due to low participation. They intend to try again in spring.
  - Rebecca will be assisting Maggie in the EV-W area starting January
  - Wendy reported that Sharon from Head Start and Joanna Struck will teach an 8 week evening class beginning Jan. 28
  - Classes are presently running at ACGC
  - NL-S will be starting a session in January
  - Yellow Medicine will have late winter/early spring classes in Canby and at the same time, a Hispanic class in Granite Falls
  - BOLD will be providing classes through ECFE. RCW tried a session this past fall through ECFE but the class was cancelled due to lack of registrations

12. Coalition updates: The Willmar Coalition has planned their 2008 events, 2 math events and reading events to be held at community locations, a gently used book drive and story time on the go. Meeker Coalition launched their website, [www.litchkidsfirst.com](http://www.litchkidsfirst.com). They participated in the Senior Expo in October and are planning a chamber event. The coalition has become the Child Abuse Prevention Council.
13. The next meeting is January 9, 10:00 am at the Kandiyohi County Health and Human Services Building in Willmar.
14. Being no further agenda items, the meeting was adjourned.

*Submitted by Diane Winter, PHN—Meeker County Public Health*