

Metro Work Group Minutes

October 23rd 2009

The Metro Work Group met on October 23, 2009 at the Mystic Lake Event Center Located in Prior Lake, Minnesota.

Present: Faith Littlewolf, Betty Jane Schaaf, Theresa Fountain, Fay Hopkins, Heather Reynolds Leah Loud, Janice Lafloe, and Kay Tellinghusien

Absent: Lucy Arias, Jennifer Bendickson, Betty Bowstring, Louisa Cox, and Cleone Thompson

Minute Review

One change: Update for Wicoie Nandagikendan second bullet change to Four Directions instead of Four Winds

❖ *Program updates*

MnTRECC Outreach Coordinator / Faith Littlewolf

Handed out laminated MnTRECC map

Reminded group that MnTRECC no longer will be paying out stipends

Informed group that the Metro Work Group meeting will continue to hold meetings in Prior Lake, Mn

MnTRECC Outreach Coordinator / Faith Littlewolf for Sandra Williams

Facilitated by Sandra Williams MnTRECC held its quarterly planning team meeting at the Black Bear Resort and Casino on 10/15/09 in attendance were members from: White Earth, Leech Lake, Upper Sioux, Bois Fort, Mille Lacs, Grand Portage, Fond Du Lac, Metro, The Department of Human Services and The Minnesota Center for Professional Development (MnCPD).

Hosted by MnTRECC and facilitated by Lee Turney the Tribal Early Childhood Network meeting was held at the Black Bear Casino and Resort on 10/16/09 in attendance were members from: The Planning Team, Headstart and Child Care Resources and Referral (CCR&R).

MnTRECC held a Grants Review meeting at the Abinoojii Oshkii Bimadiziwin (AOB) building in Cass Lake on 10/20/09. The committee reviewed MnTRECC grant application requests and made the recommendations for funding allocations. The MnTRECC Professional Development Coordinator will be sending out award letters within the next 10 days.

Sandra worked in accordance with Early Childhood Director (ECD) to review the Department of Human Services (DHS) work plan and made the necessary cuts to the budget due to MnTRECC receiving fewer funds for the next two years as follows:

1. MnTRECC will no longer pay out stipends to the Metro Work Group members.
2. MnTRECC will no longer provide stipends or lodging accommodations to Planning Team members for Planning Team and Network meetings.
3. MnTRECC will no longer pay meeting cost for the Tribal Networking meetings.
4. MnTRECC will no longer provide mileage or lodging accommodations in regard to the Positive Indian Parenting (PIP) Trainer support activities.
5. MnTRECC will no longer hold an annual Retreat.
6. MNTRECC site visits will be scaled back and provided if there is excess funding at the end of the year.

Note: It is our attempt to continue to provide services and programming at the same level we have in the past – cutting only areas of support to agencies attending our meetings and events. It is our hope that individuals will continue to attend and find the support within their own budgets

MnTRECC is continuing its work on the new culturally relevant curriculum. The MnTRECC Professional Development Coordinator will be sending out a Request for Proposal (RFP) to identify an individual or group to provide a musical component to the curriculum.

IMPORTANT NEWS! The revised PIP curriculum and Practitioners Guide was approved through the MnCPD as an approved Minnesota curriculum. It is the first American Indian curriculum to be approved!

Tribal Posters are being created at Grand Portage, Upper Sioux, and Lower Sioux—work on these posters will begin in July 2010.

The Metro Work Group and Greater MN Tribes are working on completing Resource Directories.

Cherish the children Program Report/ Heather Reynolds

Waiting to be scheduled for accreditations and review with National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA).

New staff needs to be trained in Creative Curriculum.

New billing System is frustrating

Interviewing for Assistant Director and Toddler Teacher

A cook was hired.

Enrollment numbers are down after the summer.

A lot of part time requests

A large number of families waiting for child care assistance

Staff and children out sick with possibly 2 being H1N1 cases

Wicoie Nandagikendan Early childhood Language Immersion Project / Betty Jane

Betty Jane will be sitting on the advisory committee for the Minnesota Children's Theater **for** Early Childhood Initiative. The theater visited the school, they were quite impressed. Early Bridges is a unique literacy program that uses storytelling and creative drama to help young children transform into story tellers about their own life. They are looking to start a pilot project with 2 to 3 Early Childhood sites. The Professional Teaching artist can coach the teaching staff how to be more dramatic and fun with their teaching skills. Centers can contact the following individuals at: Betty Jane Schaaf at bettyjaneschaaf@yahoo.com or Emily Beckstrom at ebeckstrom@comcast.net if they are interested in a visit.

Betty Jane has been working on an ongoing basis with William Mitchell School of Law on copy and publishing rights for the children's books that will be translated into Ojibwe and Lakota. They also have 10 of their own books written and 3 have already been translated. William Mitchell School of Law will be publishing an article in the Pioneer Press, Star Tribune and the New York Times.

They are doing the normal field trip with the kids. Approximately 50 kids will be going on a field trip to the Science Wild life Refuge, it is more culturally relevant because it has, bears, lynx, coyotes, wolves, hawks, fox, owls, and snakes the animals that are found in the area.

DNR has kits you can check out on different animals

Attended a Swedish storytelling workshop and told a short story in Swedish.

Hennepin County Baseline Coordinator / Fay Hopkins

Fay noted that there are FFN Incentive grants available

Getting Ready project is prerequisite to the Parent Aware pilot project to support Family Licensed providers and Center based care providers to prepare for the Parent Aware rating

Environmental Rating Scale(ERS) is a tool to aid providers in their profession development, only available in the city of Minneapolis.

FFN Outreach event will take place 11/13/09 at Resources for Child Caring East from 6:00pm - 8:30pm an informational booth and a make it and take it will be available at the site

Faye is currently providing play and learn groups in Ramsey and Hennepin County

Provided back pack safety training to satisfy requirements for MnTRECC Health and Safety kits -will send MnTRECC the sign in sheet

Held a S.E.A.R.C.H. Play and Learn to teach them how to do it in their own communities-- was set up for South East Asian but mostly Somali's showed up.

Ramsey County Baseline Coordinator / Theresa Fountain

Theresa will host an FFN event in November at the Resources for Child Caring East, flyers will be sent out.

Working on the Getting Ready Program for Parent Aware by looking for providers in the pilot area

Hosted a Play and Learn group at the American Indian Center, these are done quarterly.

Reuben Lindh - Four Directions Family Services / Kay Tellinghuisen

Budget cuts in 3 programs that will take a 50 % cut starting January 2010

Enrollment is down

School age is full-- had to open another room

Implemented the ounce Scale

Stated the reaccreditation process, very intense 1 year to complete

Two staff will be trained on the CLASP

Using a screening tool from Center of Disease Control in monitoring the H1N1

American Family Indian Center Janice Lafloe & Leah Loud

Working on Strategic planning around new center/ could take up to a couple years

Growth in own capacity, once in new building will be looking to expand services in other surrounding counties, that would include Dakota, Washington and parts of Anoka

Partnership is with ECFE and is hosted at Cross Roads Elementary

Would eventually like to establish an Immersion Language program and to learn what the process would consist of from other agencies that have already implemented a program.

CCR&R / Scott Parker

Delivered 400 of the small Ojibwe and 400 of the small Lakota posters and 75 of the poster size to communities in the Twin Cities

He mentioned that CCR&R could possibly print off more posters if needed

Tribal Posters Mapping Distribution

Betty Jane will distribute to: Waite House, Way to Grow South, TNAF

Kay will distribute to: Four Directions, Upper Midwest American Indian Center, Way to Grow North, and Workforce Center in MPLS.

Leah /Janice will distribute to: American Indian Family Center, American Indian Families Project, American Indian Family & Children Services, American Indian Magnet Program, Division of Indian Works (DIW) in St. Paul, Woman of Nations and St. Paul Indian Ed

Janice will distribute to: Ain Dah Yung (Our Home) Center, and the Workforce Center in St. Paul

Scott Parker will deliver to: Early Childhood Resource and Training Center (ECRTC) Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Multi Cultural

Template Resource Guide Review

Metro work Group decided that they will move forward with the Resource Directory and select their own name for the Resource Guide

Have Emergency contacts such as: 211#s Food shelves Housing, Crisis line in back of directory

Have insert pages

Have grid page

Have an appendix

Have it alphabetically listed

Have an Early Childhood Section of

- Day Cares
- Play Groups
- Pre- school
- After school
- Language programs

▫ MnTRECC brochures will be handed out with the distribution of the Tribal Posters to the different agencies.

The Metro work Group will send out fax's to agencies for any updates, if no response, means no change

❖ Revised Mission Statement completed

Metro Work Group

Mission Statement

To strengthen the cultural heritage of American Indian children residing in the metro area by promoting and supporting early childhood services that foster skills for school and life success

Other Business:

Metro work group wants to design their own group logo and will bring logo ideas and artwork to next meeting if not maybe modify MnTRECC logo

North suburban not in book, is it Native?

Suggested to invite surrounding areas to join group

Invite John the New Director at Upper Sioux to sit on group as a core group member

Recruit for a community representative to sit on as a core group member

Will be recruiting for one core group member

Provider looking for help with flooring, Fay will offer her assistance to the provider with the Home Renovation program through her office

❖ Follow up

Faith will forward MnTRECC FFN grant application to Fay

Faith will send out reminders to bring logo ideas to next meeting

Faith will have template for the directory complete by 12/04/09

Faith will bring Revised Mission statement

Set next meeting date for **Friday December 4th, 2009** at Mystic Lake Hotel and Casino