

Metro Work Group Minutes

The Metro Work Group met on February 12th 2010 at the Mystic Lake Event Center located in Prior Lake, Minnesota

Present: Faith Littlewolf, Betty Jane Schaaf, Theresa Fountain, Fay Hopkins and Kay Tellinghuisen

Absent: Jennifer Bendickson, Heather Reynolds, Janice Lafloe and Betty Bowstring

Minutes Review

Amendments to the 12/04/09 Metro Work Group minutes

Correction: Betty Bowstring (Lay off Status) not Betty Jane Schaaf

Correction: The following reflects an update from Betty Jane Schaaf on the happenings in her agency not Betty Bowstring (see bulleted area)

- Wicoie Nandagikendan Early Childhood Language Immersion Project
- On time- line with curriculum development
- On 11/17/09 the elders from the language department went to Washington, The Alliance of Early childhood Professionals received the Venture award for having a majority of elders working within their program
- Minnesota List Serve/ Happenings in Metro she sent Miguela notice about the article “Lost in Translation”. She informed group that any news on Native people can be posted in the list serve.
- November 30th 2009 Pioneer Press had an article about the school “Lost in Translation”
- Another book will be ready for translation in Sioux already in Ojibwe Lillian’s Life Story
- Program owns a star lab /which is a traveling planetarium that has Southwest Native American constellations all the planets, earth and sun. She is currently working on the Ojibwe and Sioux aspect and gearing it towards early childhood. It holds 20 to 25 adults. The star lab can be rented –price is negotiable.
- Will be starting up the star lab in December and will be providing it once a month
- A community engagement person will be hired
- Betty Jane may bring the new program director to next meeting as a guest to see what the Metro Work Group is about-potential recruit.
- The books that were written by the program are:

How the Loon got its spots (Ojibwe story) Illustrated by Jaime Mosely

Seven Dakota Virtues Seven (Ojibwe Values) Illustrated by Jaime Mosely

Lillian’s Life Story (Ojibwe story) Illustrated by Jaime Mosely

The Little Boy Man (Dakota story) Illustrated by Wayne Longcrow

- Books that they have the rights to share with other programs are Duck, Duck Goose, Oonga Boonga, Carrot Seed and Brown Bear Brown Bear
- They will be having a gallery where the 8 books mentioned above will be revealed and with one more to be revealed done by a local artist who wrote the book. Date and time will be announced.

Reviewed the folder Items

- Made note that the MNTRECC Grant application is in the folder and the flyer can used to copy and distributed to potential applicants.

Presenter: Betty Jane Schaaf (The Children's Theater Company Early Learners Project)

Early Bridges is a unique literacy program that uses storytelling and creative drama to help young children transform into storytellers of their own lives. By focusing on developmentally appropriate practice for early childhood, this program works directly with teachers and connects with classroom curriculum and goals, while empowering young children to use their own voice. Professional teaching artists from the Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis will come to your classroom for a series of repeat visits to help the children tell their own story with their own props.

This is a pilot project so it is the first of its kind the children's theater has attempted with the early childhood community. They have strong relations with school age groups now looking to focus on younger children and this is how this program came about. I was asked to be on this group last fall. Emily, from the children's theater asked Sandy to be on it and she recommended me.

She will forward the names of the inner city programs that were selected for the pilot project.

She invited the Metro Work group to come watch the program in action, she will let the group know when they get a schedule lined up.

She also did a mini presentation on the Minnesota DNR Project Learning Tree

Project Learning Tree (PLT) is an international award-winning environmental education program focusing on the forest as a "window on the world." PLT teaches not only about trees, but also about land, air, and water to help students understand our complex environment. These lessons help to instill the confidence and commitment to take responsible action on behalf of the environment.

PLT program provides workshops to educators using the hands-on lessons developed by hundreds of educators and environmental experts to bring the natural world into the classroom.

Minnesota Project Learning Tree Early Childhood Supplement /Book with curriculum and activities are provided with the training and there are other books that can be purchased.

Head start guidelines are followed and there is a cost to the training but can have a large group, to split the costs.

For more info visit www.mndnr.gov/plt

Distribution of Dakota and Ojibwe Tribal Posters

- Betty Jane: 12 posters to various Metro locations
- Fay : 45 small posters to various Metro locations
- Theresa: will follow up with # of posters distributed
- Kay: 1 poster of each at 12 of the work force centers and 1 poster of each at the 3 Reuben Lindh sites and one poster of each at the TENF office.
- Undistributed Posters; 381
- No need for more posters at this time.
- Possibly give Dakota poster to Mystic Lake Casino and Prairie Island Casino.

Program Updates

MnTRECC Outreach Coordinator/ Faith Littlewolf

- Sandy held her Planning Team meeting on 01/28/10 at the Black Bear Casino
- Still working with Upper and Lower Sioux on their pictures for the tribal posters
- Grand Portage having difficulties in getting their information, but still wants to participate in Tribal poster project
- Mntrecc still has grant monies available

Hennepin County Baseline Coordinator/Fay Hopkins

- Still working with the Getting Ready Project and the renovation loans
- FFN information session will be held and open to the public date and time not yet known
- Will be participating in a Career Fair at the MPLS Community Technical College on 02/18/10. Asked group if they have any information they would like displayed to get her the information by next Wednesday
- Partnership with S.E.A.R.C.H
- Gave out FFN Calendar to group

Ramsey County Baseline Coordinator/Theresa Fountain

Still working with the Getting Ready Project in Ramsey County

- Gave out MnTRECC grant information to two new FFN providers.

Wicoie Nandagikendan Early Childhood Language Immersion Project / Betty Jane Schaaf

- A New Director has been hired for the language programs.
- Hired two community engagements personnel one for the Dakota and one for the Ojibwe.
- Moved to a new location at Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Office building they have more space and the rent is more reasonable.
- Doing the Star lab again it is going great, sites she has been to are requesting another visit
- Storytelling time is for the winter season only.
- A four year old Dakota girl is reading Brown Bear Brown Bear that has been posted on you tube under Dakota language or Brown Bear Brown Bear.
- Met with Indian Education test scorers reported that children in the Language Immersion tested higher in general and tested lower in behavioral.
- Manitoba will be doing site visits on 02/17/10 and 02/19/10.
- Head start to start Language Immersion program, would like to see it happen in another area other then south side.
- State of Indian Affairs Council has granted 2.5 million B.I.A. monies first round of grant monies will become available 04/10/10.
- Still in draft form but foresees a barrier for the people who wrote for the grant that they may not be able to receive the monies due to the criteria, she will be contacting someone who is sitting on that committee, hopefully it can be changed before it is finalized.
- April 19th will be hosting the Grand Mother's Talking Circle.

Four Directions Reuben Lindh Family Services / Kay Tellinghuisen

- Four Directions doing great.
- O.P&W.E. Edwards open up grants to everyone on line, need a letter of intent which is due 03/1/10 Targets grants for native children.
- Woman leader ship of United Way www.unitedwaytwincities.org/ R.F.P. due 03/01/10

Resource Guide Changes

- Title will be filled in with solid red.
- Officially named The Metro Families Resource Guide.
- Replace table of contents with a graph page.
- Double check spacing.
- Correct the programs information that was cut off.
- Add in the Reservation ICWA offices.
- Add in Boise Fort Urban Office.
- Delete Ojibwe language table no longer exists.
- Add program information to Reuben Lindh.

Marketing the Resource Guide

- The group decided that they would like to see that each agency in the Metro Family Resource Guide receive a hard copy.
- The Group created a letter of explanation to be sent out with each guide stating that they are free to download, and any changes in their agency information can be made through the MnTRECC Outreach Coordinator and that it will be continuously updated. MnTRECC Outreach Coordinators contact information will also be included in the letter.
- The group will be researching different avenues to fund the printing of approximately 150 guides to the agencies.

Logo

- The group decided to use the drawing done by Steven E. Floyd to represent The Metro Work Group it signifies both Minneapolis and St. Paul.
- One change is to add the title of *MnTRECC Metro Work Group* along the top of the Medicine wheel.

Mission statement

- Use the new logo as a background for the new MnTRECC Metro Work Group mission statement.

Recruitment

- Betty Jane will work on recruiting Julie Greene.
- Kay will be working on recruiting a person from Headstart.
- Theresa /Fay will be working on recruiting a person from E.C.F.E.
- Faith will be working on recruiting Lucy Arias.

Future Projects

- To have an Early Childhood Resource Fair.

Other

- The group decided to have jackets made up with our name and logo and will pay out of own pocket for the cost.
- Theresa will be getting a quote.
- Kay took information packet for Heather.
- Betty Jane took information packets for Jennifer and Betty Jane.
- Faith will send out to Janice and Leah by mail.

Follow up

- Send out e-mail reminders to group on their recruiting.
- Resend Fay Shattered Hearts.
- Remind Theresa to e-mail the letter of explanation for the Metro Families Resource Guide for the file.

Next meeting: April 23rd 2010 at the Mystic Lake Casino and hotel 9:00a.m. – 3:00p.m.