

Metro work Group Minutes

The Metro Work Group met on August 20th 2010 at the Mystic Lake Event Center located in Prior Lake, Minnesota

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

Minutes Review

No corrections were found for the June 25th 2010 Metro Work Group Meeting

Reviewed the folder items

Presenter:

Meg Thomas gave a presentation on aMaze creators of the Families All Matter Book Project

- aMaze is a non-profit organization of parents, educators, and other caring adults working to create safe and respectful communities by promoting the knowledge, attitudes, and skills needed to work together across our differences.
- aMaze has been around since 1996 it challenges bias by providing skill building exercises and starting courageous conversation through the Families All Matter Book Project they go into schools, faith communities, after- school programs, and anywhere else children are together.
- It is popular for its academic, social, and emotional lessons
- Meets NAEYC accreditation standards(National Association for the Education of Young Children)
- The curriculum consists of a lesson book, 44 children's books and 9 persona dolls; they can be sold separately or all together as a package.
- aMaze is currently working on a project that would create a curriculum for programs to use with parents to help prepare them to advocate for themselves and their kids once they start k-12 school.
- Would like to talk with people who have contact with parents about what problems with parents and schools they're hearing about.
- aMaze is also looking for any models for empowering the parents that they feel has been successful.
- Meg passed around the curriculum book to view and introduced two of the persona dolls, Alana who is Anishinabe and Rama who is from Somalia.
- Susan Woodbury who use to help create sets for *Sesame Street Live* ,sews the dolls
- The face artist is a local artist named Stephen Michaels

Tribal Poster distribution of Ojibwe and Dakota

- No need for any posters at this time
- Betty Jane brought in an Ojibwe and Dakota poster for the MnTRECC booth

Program Updates

Minnesota Tribal Resources for Early Childhood Care (MnTRECC) Outreach Coordinator/ Faith Littlewolf

- MnTRECC will be holding its quarterly Planning Team meeting in Grand Portage, MN in September 2010
- MnTRECC will provide the coordination for the Early Childhood Network meeting that will be held in Walker, MN in September.
- MnTRECC Regional Grants Program and FFN Supports will begin September 1st 2010.
- MnTRECC is currently working on the music component to accompany the culturally relevant curriculum.
- MnTRECC is currently involved in the Building Quality Initiative.
- MnTRECC will recruit tribal providers North of Little Falls, MN for the Building Quality
- MnTRECC has been involved in the coordination with Elizabeth Cooper to create child care posters for the Upper Sioux and Lower Sioux communities and is currently working with Grand Portage to assist in their tribal poster.
- MnTRECC will be holding a grants orientation meeting in Mille Lacs on September 30th 2010 to set guide lines for the Regional Grants Program.

Hennepin County Baseline Coordinator/Fay Hopkins

- Working on completing the Getting Ready providers.
- Will be starting on Building Quality providers in September.
- Still working with the renovation loans.

Ramsey County Baseline Coordinator/Theresa Fountain

- Working with the Getting Ready providers to complete the first round of providers.
- Currently taking the Hands On To Teach training program.
- Will start working with Building Quality in mid September.
- FFN grants are now available.
- Licensed provider grants are available until September 25th.
- Suggested inviting Eileen Watson for Hands on to Teach as a presenter.

Wicoie Nandagikendan Early Childhood Language Immersion Program /Betty Jane Schaaf

- Did training for Mille Lacs for their Early Education Program on Language and Culture Curriculum Development.
- On-going technical training as they are working on a new website which will allow teachers and staff to update the website about current events, weekly teachings and language lessons or as needed.
- The summer program was 3 weeks long with 14 students with all activities outdoors along with daily field trips.
- Provided Star Lab visits to the Leech Lake Early Childhood Program visiting the Cass Lake and Ball Club programs.
- The Language camp had 70 children in attendance daily, daily demonstrations consisted of hoop dancers, a fire truck visit, and the Raptor Center. This camp ran in conjunction with the summer program.
- Working to ensure that the openings in the immersion classrooms are given to native families who wish to enroll their children in the Anishinabe Immersion High Five program.
- DVD presentation on 5 Ojibwe language lesson that can be viewed on youtube.com and typing in ogi ojibwe we partially viewed;
 - Makwa, Makwa Awenen Wayaabamad.mp4
 - Mooz Omakizinan.mp4
 - Mooz TPR puppets-verb ayaan.mp4
 - TPR – verbs namdabi, bazigwii, bimose
 - TPR song Giishpin Minwendamag.mop4

Wicoie Nandagikendan Early Childhood Language Immersion Program / Jennifer Bendickson

- Will not be a core group member but may occasionally come for updates

Elizabeth Bowstring

- Is moving out of the area and will no longer be a core group member

American Indian family Center/ Janice LaFloe

- Absent

American Indian Family Center / Leah Loud

- DOULA program has ended and will be hosting a closing picnic on August 28th.
- The American Indian Family Center Twin Cities Healthy Start program is designed to reduce infant mortality in the American Indian Community by providing support to expecting Native American woman.
- Currently working with approximately 90 clients for the Healthy Start program.

- Fall Feast will be held on September 15th at 4:00p.m. with the location to be announced.

Rueben Lindh Family Services Four Directions Family Center / Kay Tellinghuisen

- Four Directions held a kinder graduation on August 17th. Children received a diploma, graduation picture, new pair of tennis shoes and a back pack full of school supplies.
- Will be holding open house and a fall feast at the center for the families and the community on September 14th which will be funded by the First Children's Finance.

Cherish the Children / Heather Reynolds

- Had an accreditation visit from the National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA) this summer.
- Follow up after NEPCA visit is to get more parents and board involvement in the curriculum and program reviews.
- Had a second follow up visit with Parent Aware.
- The Children's Theater Company Early Bridges Pilot program finished early summer.
- The Literacy Lions and the preschoolers participated in the last week of language camp that was put on by Wicoie Nandagikendan Early Childhood Language Immersion Program.
- All classrooms are full, all is going well.

Marketing the Resource Guide

- Is tabled until October 29th 2010

Recruitment

- In need of 3 core group members

Cook Book Project

- It was decided that they would like to participate in a partnership with Robert Kirk to gather healthy recipes for the cookbook and to acknowledge where the recipe came from at the end of each recipe

FFN Data Base

- Informed group that Family Friend and Neighbor childcare is an unlicensed provider and that MNTRECC can provide support for them through grants
- Distributed brochure *Do you Care for The Children of a Family , Friend or Neighbor* from CCR&R
- Distributed the booklet *Taking Care of Our Children* from Resources for Child Caring
- They will display the above information at their agencies and will ask any FFN providers they may know for their contact information, then they will forward it onto MnTRECC Outreach Coordinator. MnTRECC will maintain the contact information and disseminate grant information to the FFN provider directly

- Theresa F. will check with Sandy M. to see if they can send their FFN data base list to MnTRECC to see what they track

Internet Mask Module (IMM)

- IMM is an online tool for parents looking for child care in Minnesota @ www.mnchildcare.org
- The group decided they would like to bring in Angie Bowman to demonstrate the IMM

Early Child hood Fair

- Purpose to bring together programs that serve children and get the MnTRECC services out to the other agencies and the public
- Date and time yet to be determined
- Possible space/ place to be held at;
 - The Minnesota Chippwa Tribe (MCT) Urban may have space available
 - American Indian Family Center may have a room for free
 - Cherish the Children if held on a Saturday
- Each core members agency/program have a booth
- Ideas of other suggested agencies;
 - Model Cities
 - Teen and Child Check
 - WIC
 - Bridges to Benefits
 - Police and Fire Department (Car and Truck)
 - The Public Library
 - MN Children's Museum
 - RCC and CCR&R
 - Twin Cities Healthy Start
 - MN Science Center
 - Hands on to Learn / Eileen Watson
 - Other clinic sites
 - Robert Kirk

Follow up

- Will make contact with Angie Bowman to confirm October 29th and schedule a time to come in and demonstrate the IMM
- Will E-mail the group an updated recruitment flyer
- Next meeting: October t 29th 2010 at the Mystic Lake Casino and Hotel 9:00a.m. – 3:00p.m.