



Metro Notes

November 17th, 2006

Grand Hinckley Inn @ Hinckley, Minnesota

Members Present: Betty Jane Schaaf-Beck, Betty Bowstring, Theresa Fountain, Nan Desjarlait and Sandy Williams

Absent Members: Leila Goggleye, Jennifer Bendickson

Information & Greeting

The meeting began with introductions among core group members. Sandy went over the information in the folders that was presented to the core group members. Sandy talked briefly about the Beyond the Pearls...Stepping into our future that will be held on April 27—28, 2006 in Minnetonka, MN. The goal of the conference is to help develop and support a cadre of trainers and leaders who reflect the communities they serve. Sandy explained that the conference was calling for proposals and that honorarium stipends would be given to presenters. The deadline to submit proposals is December 1, 2006. Sandy also mentioned that at the back of the flyer there was a scholarship form to assist individuals who wished to attend the training. The deadline for scholarship assistance is February 1, 2007 and the contact person is Julie Wasiluk. Theresa Fountain one of the members of the group informed the group she was assisting with the conference and encouraged attendance at the event. Sandy gave the group a flyer on the Second Annual Minnesota Birth-To-Three Conference Poverty: Its Effect On The Youngest Children. The conference will be held on January 25 & January 26, 2007 at the Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria, MN. Sandy provided the group with a handout on the Voices for Children Advocacy Day that will take place at the Minnesota State Capitol on Thursday March 29, 2007. This years theme is: Plant the Seeds-Help Children Bloom. The event is free and is designed to provide parents, teachers, early childcare and education professionals across the state to stand up and be counted as a voice for children. The event will include a rally in the Capitol Rotunda, activities for children and opportunities to visit with legislatures. A handout was given to group members advertising the Winter Family Theatre Event that features "A Christmas Carol" that is slated for December 10, 2006 at the

Stages Theatre & Hopkins Center for the Arts in Hopkins, Minnesota. Sandy passed on information she had found on the internet regarding several workshops being held in the Metro area. The workshops are being hosted by the Minneapolis Interagency Early Intervention Committee (MIEIC) and the forums focus around infant mental health. The following forums have been scheduled and will be held at the Wilder School Auditorium in Minneapolis. All forums are free of charge and open to the public.

√ December 11, 2006-Impacts of the NICU on Parents & Infants

√ February 26, 2006-Managing Challenging Behaviors in Preschool children

√ April 30, 2006- Foster Care

Sandy also provided the group information on the Toyota Family Literacy Fund. The fund is looking for nominations for a teacher who has demonstrated exemplary efforts in family literacy to help parents and children achieve their academic, personal and professional goals. The teacher of the year will receive a \$5000.00 award for his or her program, a trip to the 16th Annual National Conference on Family Literacy in Orlando, Florida courtesy of Toyota. Several finalists will be selected to receive free attendance at the conference. The deadline for nominations is December 1, 2006. The group mentioned individuals from the Metro area who would be good nomination candidates. The folder also contained the following informational items: MnTRECC Newsletter, Please Put Me Back To Sleep Door Hanger, First Children's Finance Minnesota brochure, MnTRECC brochure, Center for Inclusive Child Care Brochure, www.MinnesotaHelp.info brochure, Reduce the Risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome(SIDS) magnet and a map of Minnesota CCR&R Service Areas.

Core Group/Stipends/W-9 Forms

Sandy talked about the development of the core group which would consist of ten individuals. Sandy asked group members to be thinking about individuals to serve on this work group. At the present time 5 slots are open and need to be filled. Betty Jane suggested they contact individuals in the Metro area and then send the names and contact information to Sandy. Sandy would keep the group informed on how many members are needed as the slots begin to fill. Individuals would receive a \$100.00 stipend for attending the work group to defray costs to attend. Sandy explained that any individual who is requesting the \$100.00 stipend must fill out a stipend request form and a W-9 form. Sandy went on to explain that if the individual is requesting the stipend go to them personally then they must fill out the W-9 form and they must fill out the stipend request form complete with their social security

number in the appropriate area. If an individual is requesting a stipend go to their agency then the signing authority at the agency must sign the W-9 form and include their tax exempt status number a stipend request must also be filled out. No payments can be made to individuals until the forms are returned completed to the Childcare Division of Leech Lake.

Theresa mentioned the importance of finding individuals who were committed and would be in attendance at the meetings on a regular basis. The group was very receptive to the new meeting space and the meeting being 6 hours in length; it was mentioned that the longer meeting time would give them the time to work as a group to accomplish their goals. It was unanimous that the meetings would continue to be held at the Grand Hinckley Inn in Hinckley, Minnesota every other month and the day would be on a Friday as that would work the best in the group member's schedules. The meetings would be 6 hours in length and will be held from 9:00 a.m-3:00 p.m.

Work Phase

Sandy provided the work group members with a handout from the Minnesota Council on Foundations (Grant Seeking In Minnesota) The handout details the different types of grants that agencies are able to apply for when seeking funding. These grant types include: planning grants, seed money or start-up grants, management or technical assistance grants, facilities and equipment grants, endowment grants and program related investments (PRI). Sandy explained to the group that this information may be helpful as they are beginning to seek funding for projects they are hoping to bring to the metro area. Sandy also provided the group with a handout which details 8 components to writing a successful proposal. Betty Bowstring mentioned that an agency was now in place that may be utilizing family advocates and wondered if we should still fund for family advocates as planned. It was suggested that the group find out what type of services these family advocates provide in the Little Earth Community and see if the group would be duplicating services if they were to try to secure monies for the hiring of four family advocates.

It was also mentioned that the group should find out about collaboration with partners in the community in regard to the project. Sandy mentioned that the grant that Betty Jane had given Sandy to look at had a good history piece with it and could be used with information added in their new grant. It was decided that Betty Jane, Betty and Nan would research looking for statistics and other geographical information that could be used in the narrative piece of the grant. They would update the group at our next meeting. The group asked Sandy if she could email them the information that was

brainstormed at an earlier meeting regarding the community and the services it had in place and the gaps in services that were apparent in the Little Earth Community. Sandy will email the information to the members of the group. Members of the group will look over the information and determine the job description of the family advocate. At the next meeting they will brainstorm what this person will do and how this person will help fill existing gaps in services. Members will bring back their research information and share it with the group as they begin the grant writing process.

On-line Chat

Sandy provided the group with instructions on how to utilize the on-line Eager to Learn Chat. It was decided that if a member of the group thought it would be beneficial to meet between meetings to exchange information then they will contact Sandy and she will set up a chat.

Presentation

Nan, a new member to the group, gave a brief overview of her program. She explained that she was involved in setting up cultural camps. At the present time she is in the process of setting up a winter camp. She explained to the group that these camps are not posh places to go, that they are about getting back to nature and have a very rustic appeal. Sandy asked what the eligibility was to be involved in this program and Nan said it was open to all American Indian families in the community. Sandy asked her if she had any brochures with information on the camps, Nan stated they are still in the process of putting brochures in place. Sandy mentioned that the camps might somehow fit into the Cultural Host Houses that this group hopes to fund as a project in the future.

Conclusion of the Meeting

The meeting was concluded at 3:05 p.m. and it was decided that the group would hold their next formal meeting on JANUARY 19, 2007 AT THE GRAND CASINO HINCKLEY INN.