

Metro Work Group  
April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007  
Notes

**ATTENDANCE: Nan Desjarlait, Betty Jane Schaf Beck, Betty Bowstring, Margaret Boyer, Sandra Williams**

The meeting was held at the Grand Hinckley Inn conference center on April 23, 2007 from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in Hinckley, Minnesota.

The meeting began with members giving updates on their programs in the Twin Cities area. Margaret Boyer spoke about the importance of language immersion in classrooms at an early age. Margaret talked about the challenges encountered when trying to find individuals for the classroom who have a CDA and whom are fluent speakers of the language. She mentioned one challenge being that teacher unions in schools have to keep teachers who have seniority so younger teachers who may know the language are often bumped from the classroom by those teachers who have seniority but are not qualified to teach language. She talked about the rules regarding the seniority needing to be changed at the legislative level. She talked about the need for more money to develop immersion programs and curriculum. Margaret stated she had come to the meeting in hopes of finding some monies to support a language and cultural camp project she had been working on in the Metro area. Group members were told that there were some excess MnTRECC grant monies and that they should feel free to submit a brief proposal to be reviewed by the grants advisory committee that would be meeting on May 11th, 2007. Sandy encouraged the group to contact Ann Cloud at MnTRECC if they had further questions. Sandy talked about the scholarship forms that were in the packets and encouraged individuals to apply for scholarships for the White Earth Brain Development Conference. Betty Jane talked about working on kindergarten readiness and language immersion in the classroom. She spoke of the need for children to continue on throughout school in immersion classrooms so they do not learn the language and then lose it from non-use. Betty Jane agreed with Margaret that it is difficult to find individuals that are fluent in the language and are also trained to work in early childhood classrooms. Betty Bowstring talked about the school attendance program she works in and the importance in supporting parents when they are having challenges with their children. Nan talked about the cultural camps she is involved in at Rutledge, Minnesota and arranged a tour so the group could visit the camp in the afternoon. Nan also brought in literature and photograph albums to show group participants the varied cultural activities the camp provides to groups. Margaret declined to visit the camp, as she had to be back at her office. Betty Jane, Sandy, Betty and Nan toured the Rutledge Camp. The camps provide a great cultural experience for children and families who are trying to sustain their culture. One of the group participants mentioned holding the metro meetings at the camp if the cost was in range with what was in the MnTRECC budget.

**Sandy provided the group with handouts on upcoming workshops and conferences. Sandy reminded members that they must have submitted a W-9 form and a request for payment voucher to be able to receive their stipend reimbursement. Sandy asked members if they had come up with any names of members who may be interested in joining the metro group as core participants. Members are still working on contacting individuals who may have an interest in being involved in the group. Core group members must be at the entire meeting to receive the \$100.00 stipend. If they are not in attendance at the entire meeting the stipend will be pro-rated.**

**The meeting was concluded and a meeting was set for June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at the Grand Hinckley Inn @ 9:00 a.m.**