



## TRIBAL EARLY CHILDHOOD CURRICULUM WORK GROUP

DATE: MARCH 15TH, 2006

---

Attendance: Kathi Hedberg, Lucy Carlson, Kim Lage, Emily Bakken, Martha Allen, Deb Robertson, Lisa Anderson, Sandra Williams, Diane Smith, Melvin Monette, Katy Chase, Julie Wasiluk, Rebecca Garay-Heelan

The 1<sup>st</sup> Tribal Early Childhood Curriculum Work Group was held on from March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at the Grand Casino in Mille Lacs. There were 13 people in attendance at the meeting. The seven core members who were in attendance at the group included the following individuals from their perspective areas: Kathi Hedberg & Lucy Carlson/Fond Du Lac, Kim Lage/White Earth, Emily Bakken/Leech Lake, Martha Allen/Metro, Deb Robertson/Lower Sioux and Lisa Anderson/Bois Forte. Also attending the group were the following five resource people: Melvin Monette/Minnesota. Office of Indian Education, Rebecca Garay-Heelan/Minnesota Office of Indian Education, Diane Smith/Professional Development Coordinator, Julie Wasiluk/MNCCR&R, Katy Chase/MNCCR&R, Sandra Williams/MnTRECC.

### Introduction:

Welcome and Introductions: Group members introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of their job and which area they were representing in Minnesota. Sandy explained that this particular Work groups plan would be to focus on two curriculums which would include the Infant Toddler Training Intensive curriculum and the Positive Indian Parenting Curriculum. It was further explained that funding for this work group project was made possible through a Bush Foundation Grant and the monies from the Minnesota Department of Human Services. Participants were told that only the 12 core members of this work group would be reimbursed the \$100.00 stipend to offset their costs for attending; resource individuals would not receive the stipend. Participants were informed that they need to fill out the voucher form noting on the form whether the stipend go directly to them or to the program. Core group members were informed that reimbursement may take from 14-30 days. Diane Smith gave a brief description on how to use the CCR&R chat room. Sandy asked if anyone had an interest in taking notes for the meeting if not she would take notes and type them and send them to all participants. Sandy will provide the note taking and sending out the notes.

### Presentations:

Katy Chase from the Minnesota Childcare Resource and Referral Network gave a presentation on the Not By Chance Curriculum. Katy talked about the three tools that the department of human services would like to see used in early childhood settings. Katy talked about the Minnesota Early Childhood Indicators of Progress-which describes what the child should know and be able to do to be ready for school. She spoke about the Minnesota Core Competencies-which describes what providers should know and be able to do to help assist in the school readiness. Another piece Katy talked about was the Quality Rating Scale-which would rate child care providers and can be thought of as a consumer guide to childcare. Katy passed around training manuals for the group to look at and explained the books could be obtained free of charge through June 2006. Katy talked about community guides and identified

*Martha Allen as the individual heading up that sub-committee. Katy mentioned that participants working on the sub-committee for the community guides would receive a \$250.00 stipend to off-set costs for travel. Katy talked about the tips for delivery, tips for trainers, tips for the curriculum and the need for there to be a consensus over the terminology individuals use in early childhood. Katy mentioned the Eager to Learn on-line site and the opportunity to take the Not By Chance Curriculum online and gave the following website to the participants-[www.mnstreams.org](http://www.mnstreams.org).*

*Julie Wasiluk from the Minnesota Childcare Resource and Referral Network gave a presentation on the Infant Toddler Training Intensive Curriculum. Julie gave a power point presentation and provided participants with handouts on the curriculum. Julie said the program seeks to ensure that infants get a safe, healthy, emotionally secure and intellectually rich start in life. She talked about the three components involved in the mission which include: Increasing availability of quality childcare for all children under 3 years, provide information that increases the practice of responsive, respectful and relationship based childcare and the last to work to influence national, regional and local policies that meet the needs and interests of individual infants, toddlers and their families in regard to curriculum development and program activities. Julie talked about the 4 modules and that each module has lessons that accompany them and video resources. Julie briefly mentioned module 5 which is new and its focus is on special needs. Julie spoke briefly on the Minnesota certification process for trainers and the national West Ed. Training in California. Julie also mentioned that there are areas in Minnesota that will not allow Minnesota trainers who do not have the West Ed. Certification to provide training. She updated participants that there are currently 164 trainers in the state of Minnesota primarily through the CCR&R network. Julie also mentioned that there are some mentoring dollars available for individuals to be trained in Minnesota.*

*Kim Lage from White Earth Childcare Services gave a presentation on the Positive Indian Parenting Curriculum. Kim began her presentation by introducing herself showing the curriculum manual and telling participants this is how I honor my culture. She continued by sharing personal reflections and talked about the place to start is going back to where you were born... She shared with the group pieces of personal experiences about herself and her family and her culture. She talked about the importance of her culture, traditional old ways and honoring that culture. She told the group that culture is ever changing and that culture gives us the guidelines on what is acceptable. She showed a picture of a child in a cradle board and then asked the audience how they thought the child was feeling and followed up by sharing information on traditional use of the cradleboard. She talked to the group about traditional storytelling as a way of communicating with children and she talked about lessons of Mother Nature. She talked about the greatness of getting back to nature and being inquisitive and that nature holds great science ideas. She spoke about young parents, young families, traditional parenting and the importance of training young parents to honor their traditions. She said she was not there to judge them just there to give the curriculum as a vehicle and that she was just planting seeds. She said all families have strengths-sometimes balance just gets out of whack. She shared brief passages from (2) books Chippewa Child Life and Its Cultural Background by M. Inez Hilger and Chippewa Customs by Frances Desmore.*

#### Wrap-Up

*The meeting was opened up to questions and sharing thoughts and reflections of the day. Rebecca Garay-Heelan mentioned that she thought the idea of promoting a generic curriculum with cross representational components might be what we should be looking at as a group. Another group member mentioned that they would like to have names and contact information for the other members of the group. The group agreed and each participant will receive a list of the names with contact information.*

*The group decided that up-coming meetings would be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at the Grand Casino in Mille Lacs from 9:00a.m-3:00p.m*

*The dates for the upcoming meetings will be as follows: April 13, May 11, June 8, and July 13, 2006. The group decided that they would each go into there perspective communities and gather information of the services that are available and services and resources that are needed but do not exist. At the next meeting each area would share this piece with members of the group. Sandy asked if the group wanted speakers brought in to speak on the items on the agenda which included: Ceed, Anti-biased Curriculum, MnSmart, and the Bush Wellbriety Sugar Project. There was no affirmative response from work group members so Sandy will not look into speakers for these topic areas at this time. The meeting was concluded!*

*Next Meeting April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006*

*Amendments to the Notes*

*Amendments to the notes submitted by Katy Chase on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006 were as follows: Per Katy, "I just wanted to clarify that what the third document Not by Chance trains on is the Environment Rating Scale (ERS) of which there are four books; the Family Day Care ERS, the Early Childhood ERS, the School Age ERS and the Infant Toddler ERS. Providers can use these books to improve their program. The Minnesota Core Competencies looks at the skills and knowledge of the provider. The Quality Rating System is the proposed voluntary system that will serve as a consumer guide. Ready4K would be the contact organization for that initiative. It does use the ERS to help determine a program rating.*

*Melvin Monette made the following corrections to the notes on March 30, 2006- Rebecca Garay-Heelan and Melvin Monette work for the Minnesota Office of Indian Education not the Minnesota Department of Indian Education. Rebecca Garay-Heelan's direct phone line is 651-582-8862 and Melvin Monette email address should appear as [melvin.monette@state.mn.us](mailto:melvin.monette@state.mn.us).*