



NOTES

TRIBAL EARLY CHILDHOOD CURRICULUM WORK GROUP

April 13th, 2006

Attendance: Kathleen Hedberg, Denise Merschman, Lucy Carlson, Lisa Anderson, April Ironheart, Darlene LaBelle-Manzanares, Jean Default, Deb Robertson, Sue Heisler, Kim Lage, Diane Smith, Sandra Williams.

Absent Members: Betty Jane Schaaf-Beck, Audrey Roy, Angie Johnson, Martha Allen, Melvin Monette, Rebecca Garay-Heelan, Sylvia Manthey

Introductions:

Welcome & Introductions: Group members introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of their job and the area they represented in Minnesota. Sandy shared several pieces of information from the work group packet that had been presented to members. Sandy shared with the group informational handouts on the Dakota/Ojibwe Language Planning Meeting. Sandy explained she would not be attending the meetings and was hoping a group member may have an interest in sitting on this panel. Kim Lage mentioned that she had also passed the information along to individuals in the White Earth Community. Two group members Deb Robertson & Jean Dufault would like to attend the meetings. Sandy told them she would forward their contact information to Kathleen Moriarity and hoped that one or both of them would be willing to share information with the work group after their attendance at the meeting. Sandy explained that the Dakota/Ojibwe Language Planning Meeting had slated July 10th as the date set for the workshop that the planning panel is currently working on putting together.

The group reviewed the notes from the last meeting and Sandy mentioned to the group that she had added QRS handouts to the back of the notes per request from Katy Chase. Sandy asked members to look over the member contact list to ensure their name and contact information was correct. Sue Heisler, Jean Dufault & Darlene LaBelle-Manzanares made corrections to their contact information. Sandy will update the contact list with the new information and she will also add Denise Merschman to the list as she will be replacing Emily Bakken as a core group member.

Sandy asked group members if they had received their stipends. The group had not received their stipend and Sandy asked them to email her if the stipends did not arrive within the upcoming week. Reminders were given telling group members that if the stipend was going to go directly to them they would need to put their social security number on the form. If the stipend was to be paid out to the program then group members would need to put the program's tax identification number on the form. The

group was reminded that the stipends could not be paid out without this information on the forms.

Sandy shared information and handouts with the group on upcoming training and workshop events. Sandy gave the group a flyer on the Bi- Regional Tribal Child Care Meeting and 2006 NICCA National Conference that is being held in Rapid City, South Dakota. She also shared a flyer and scholarship information on the 2006 Communities Collaborative Conference- Brain Development Working Together For Every Child that is being held in Mahnomon, Minnesota.

Other information in the folder included a map of Minnesota with the districts on it. A MnTRECC brochure, MnTRECC Newsletter, Weyerhaeuser Family Foundation handout, Deep Cultural Iceberg handout, the Lost Dr. Seuss Poem and a stipend reimbursement form. The group members were given lunch vouchers to eat at the Grand Casino Buffet. Sandy collected the reimbursement stipends and explained to group members that those without social security numbers and tax identification numbers would not be processed until the number was called in or emailed to her to add it to the form.

Presentations:

The meeting was turned over to group members from the different areas of Minnesota. Each area member gave a brief presentation about the resources and services that currently exist in their communities. Then they spoke about the needs and gaps in services and about the barriers or roadblocks to seeing those needs being met.

Denise Merschman/LPN/Leech Lake cited resources available in the community as follows: Health Division, Infant Toddler Room, Special Needs, Referrals, WIC, MCH, Well Child Check, Teen Check, Head Start, Tribal Child Care, ECFE, ESFE, Bug School and Boys & Girls Club. Sandy mentioned that Leech Lake was presently looking into the idea of a reservation book mobile; similar to the one that White Earth has in place. Denise cited community needs as being transportation issues, teenage pregnancies, lack of teen/youth activities, parent participation, parenting skills, peer pressure for teens, lack of positive teen/youth activities, lack of family treatment centers & a lack of support or follow-up programs for parents coming out of treatment facilities, lack of life skills for parents, and no safe house for domestic issues. Denise talked about the barriers in the community that stood in the way of these services being incorporated. She mentioned funding for programs to fill the gaps in services was and is always an issue in meeting the needs of the community and programs. She also cited substance abuse, high school drop out rates, violence, mobility of families and (relative care), lack of communication with families, teen pregnancies which increases young single parenthood, lack of parenting skills and not enough ways to get information out to the communities.

Darlene LaBelle-Manzanares brought up the idea of having teens involved in social justice groups. Please contact Darlene for more in-depth information on this idea.

Lucy Carlson & Kathleen Headberg cited resources available in their community as follows: Tribal college, Head Start, Early Head Start, ECFE, Even Start, Child Care Programs, Tribal Childcare Licensing, Health Division, WCC, HIS, WIC, Family Center, ECSE, Human Services (County & Reservation), Face Program, Indian

Education, Tribal School (K-12 year round program), Upward Bound Program, High School/College Recruitment, and Parenting Programs. Areas of need which exist included the following: support systems for youth, support systems for parents that are incarcerated and follow-up support systems when they return to the reservation. It was also mentioned that there was a need for a safe house, transitional housing, emergency nursery and further education in all programs.

They talked about the need for teaching coping skills, basic life skills, budgeting and management skills. They mentioned that is a real need to return to practicing our culture and language and to begin to look for new ways to fund our projects other than with grants. They cited there was a real need to get the Tribal Government more involved. They cited the barriers as being poverty, family stressors, multi/blended families, oppression, and many of the same barriers that existed in Leech Lake communities. They also cited as a barrier excessive use/abuse of prescription drugs.

Jean Dufault/Fond Du Lac: cited resources from her area of Fond Du Lac as having a Families First Program, ICWA, (3) community centers for teens 17 years old and younger, CHR program which helps with doctor and dental appointments, CHR also helps provide transportation for elderly and the disabled to appointments, a college close by for community members to access and other resources available as mentioned by Lucy and Kathleen. Jean cited needs as being preventive education to combat ever present meth and prescription drug usage and preventive education on teen pregnancy and single parenting. Jean stated that transportation was not an obstacle. Jean cited funding for programs and adequate staff to educate the community was a challenge.

Lisa Anderson/Bois Forte started by explaining that Bois Forte is one of the smaller reservations and cited resources for her area as MCH, Elder Care Nurse, (2) nurses that work with young families, Health Human Services, School District (K-6), older children are bused off the reservation, ECFE, Indian Education, Human Services with a family based advocate, parenting curriculum, skills for parenting, collaboration within agencies and Reservation Resource Guide. Lisa mentioned the following as needs in the community: transportation issues, need for more positive teen based activities, Health Teen Conference, develop teen pregnancy panel, suicide and depression information and a way to get information out into the community. Other needs include a lack of jobs on the reservation and challenges with agencies. Barriers which exist include excessive prescription usage, lack of tribal official input, lack of opportunities to collaborate and encourage communication and continuity, lack of written community guide. Lisa mentioned that she would like to see a safe house developed for families. Lisa mentioned transportation is an issue but that they are currently working on this issue, she mentioned teen pregnancies and a lack of employment and jobs as being barriers. However, in her estimation the biggest barrier is families not accessing the programs that are available in the community.

Deb Robertson/Lower Sioux cited resources available in her community include the following: HIS, Under The Big Tent, Girl Scout Program with own curriculum, New Horizon Program came in and talked about teen pregnancies for the 8-13 year olds. Deb talked about the Grandmother Society that was just created; but is off to a good start, charter school, anger management classes and chemical dependency program. Deb also mentioned that she does a five minute segment on the radio three times a

week to relay positive happenings in the community instead of just hearing about negative happenings all the time. Deb cited school truancy rates and teen pregnancies as being barriers for the community. She cited challenges with working with the Tribal Council and tribal politics as being a barrier. She cited a real need for a focus being put on teens and the youth in the community and mentioned suicide projects.

Sue Heisler/Kim Lage/White Earth cited resources available in the community which included the following: BBCI for youth to age eighteen, drum group, community pow-wows, summer youth program (need to be extended into the winter months), reservation newspaper, language classes, home health, literacy book mobile, on going-training and conferences, mini diabetes conferences and many of the same resources the other communities have listed. Needs that were cited by this area were as follows: more programs for youth during the summer, advocate for the 0-3 age group, need for more rural housing and same needs as most of the other programs already represented. It was stated, "if we didn't have drugs, alcohol or money we would have it made."

Darlene LaBelle-Manzanares/Metro cited that the Metro area has most of the same resources, barriers and needs that have been presented by previous groups. However, she stated the one difference that does exist is in her area is Native Americans practice a more modern way of life.

April Ironheart/Upper Sioux stated that her reservation is one of the smaller ones in Minnesota. April talked about her project being a new program and that presently she is the only staff. April talked about resources available in her community which included: parent network/support, ICWA and preventive actions being taken to provide education to teenagers on birth control and other issues. She talked about needs in the community being preventive education on sexual transmitted diseases and meth usage. She said funding is always a barrier as it is other areas.

Upon review of the brainstorming of community resources, needs and barriers existing in tribal communities in Minnesota we found commonality and a direction in which to move to seek funding for projects that would benefit all the communities. An apparent need among all communities appeared to be a lack of funding to develop and create new projects to fill the gaps in services. We talked about funding and the group will be looking for grants that would help support projects and visions. It appeared all the communities felt there was a real need for youth based projects and programs. Sandy mentioned that there was a grant she had looked at recently that was from the Women's Foundation of Minnesota Social Change Fund that might be something the group could look at to address service gaps in programs for teen, teen pregnancies, parenting and life skills projects. Sandy said she would send the grant information out to the members to look at it and we could maybe look at it as a group at the next meeting.

Grady Appleton provided an internet presentation on the Eager To Learn Online Learning Program. He expanded on information on how to navigate the site, gather information and register for affordable classes. The site is an internet-based educational program that provides professionals, parents and other caregivers with in-depth, interactive, research-based learning experiences. He provided the group with

the following website to access www.mnchildcare.org if interested in taking classes. Grady was also scheduled to teach the group to navigate and use the CCR&R chat room but was unable to provide the presentation due to a computer glitch at the casino. It was discussed that he may come back at another time to provide this if we are able to set up a location where we are able to access the internet that is not blocked by a firewall.

***Val Tanner** provided a presentation on the Minnesota version of the Positive Indian Parenting Curriculum. This curriculum is structured after the model developed by the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA), formally the Northwest Child Welfare Institute, in Portland, Oregon. It is the intent to utilize the NICWA version but to use handouts and lessons geared to our own individual needs. Val talked about the following goals: 1.) Help Indian parents in their search for values and attitudes inherent in traditional Indian child rearing practices. 2.) Parents may then come to incorporate them into his/her own families. 3.) Enable parents to develop positive and productive attitudes, values and parenting skills which have their roots in their own Indian Heritage. She spoke about Positive Indian Parenting Beliefs which included: 1.) All cultures are in a continuous change and adaptation to new life situations and conditions. 2.) Indian Traditions*

Val went through each of the lessons in the Minnesota version discussing each lesson and citing examples or stories. She discussed that the Minnesota version lacked information in traditional storytelling and suggested more needed to be added to the curriculum. She mentioned there is a need to advocate to parents to work with their children's schools-supporting school and education. She told the group that they could contact Yvonne Novak at the Office of Indian Education for a copy of the Minnesota version of the curriculum or they could download it off their site. There was a group discussion of revising the manual by adding onto the curriculum more traditional stories. Diane Smith asked if the Minnesota Positive Parenting Indian Curriculum could be revised. Val stated that the curriculum could be revised. A discussion developed regarding the idea that the group was not so much interested in revising the current curriculum as they were interested in supplementing or adding on to the already present version of the curriculum. A suggestion was made to speak with elders to pass on traditions, stories etc. Jean said a barrier in the Fond Du Lac Community would be finding elders to pass on traditions. It was discussed that information needs to be gathered from two worlds; traditional and modern day life when presenting the curriculum. It was also stated that when presenting you need to know your audiences and their needs. Discussions followed on the fact that bringing in the ITTI curriculum is a great idea but not enough we need to add in items that include the school age children. Other items that need to be added could include: diabetes information & traditional foods, SIDS, Shaken Baby Syndrome, Stop It Now, and Brain Development. A discussion about Copy Right Laws came up and Val Tanner suggested Sandy meet with or contact Yvonne Novak at the Office of Indian Education in regard to writing a letter making a special request to have permission to supplement/add to the current curriculum. Sandy will look into this and will update the group at the next meeting.

Wrap-Up

Sandy mentioned to the group that the next meeting would be somewhat different than the past two group meetings that were more informational in format. Sandy directed

members to the attachment added to the agenda. She explained that the group would be looking at developing (3) research projects to work on, that they would need to name their projects and that they would need to come up with time lines for project completion and a budget for each project.

It was decided that sub-committees would be formed to work on each of the projects. Ideas were discussed by the members on the projects they would like to see developed. It was discussed that a sub-committee would be formed to work on blending the ITTI curriculum & the PIP curriculum together while adding pieces from other curriculums. Another piece of this sub-group's task would be to gather and add resources/supplements to the current PIP curriculum possibly using some of the items mentioned in the above paragraph of these notes.

A second sub-committee would be responsible for adding a provider piece to the current PIP curriculum and developing strategies/methods on how the curriculum would be brought to the Native American communities. Upon brainstorming community needs it was decided that among all the communities there was a need to expand services for teens due to teenage pregnancies, drop out rates, depression, suicides, stds, peer pressure and other issues.

The third project will be to look at funding a project for teens, young women and social change. Sue Heisler thought it was a great idea to look for funding for the project. Sue Heisler would also like to be a part of the sub-committee that is working on supplements to the PIP curriculum. Kim Lage expressed an interest in adding a provider piece from the ITTI to the PIP. Kathleen Hedberg expressed interest in working on the blending of the curriculums and the supplement piece of the curriculum. Other members will make a decision on the projects they are interested in working on at the next meeting. It was suggested that Val Tanner be asked to join the group to help work on the curriculum development piece.

Sandy mentioned that even though we are meeting in Mille Lacs we have no member representation from this area, nor do we have representation from Red Lake or Grand Portage. Sandy will continue to send group packets to these areas and encourage their input in the process.

Due to a conflict with the meeting room at the Grand Casino for the 2nd Thursday of May the group will meet on Monday- May 15th, 2006.

Next Meeting-May 15th, 2006

Any questions, please contact:

Sandra Williams, MnTRECC Special Projects Coordinator

1-800-551-0969 / 218-335-8381