



Notes

Tribal Early Childhood Curriculum Work Group June 5th, 2006

Attendance: Jean Default, Debbie Robertson, Lucy Carlson, Kathleen Headberg, Diane Smith, Lora Kussman, April Ironheart, Sandra Williams, Martha Allen, Kim Lage, Lisa Anderson and Sue Heisler

Absent Members: Betty Jane Schaaf-Beck, Audrey Roy, Angie Johnson, Melvin Monette, Darlene LaBelle-Manzanares, Sylvia Manthey, Rebecca Garay-Heelan and Denise Mershman

☀️ *Diane Smith took notes at the June 5th, 2006 Tribal Early Childhood Work Group Meeting!*

Culture is the process by which knowledge, values and beliefs are transmitted from one generation to the next.

Overview & Updates

Group members introduced themselves and gave a brief summary of their job and what area they represented from Minnesota --as a new member had been added to the group. Lora Kussman from the Department of Human Services-Child Development Services will be joining the group as a resource member---welcome Lora! Sandra asked the group to review the notes from the May 15th meeting; there were no corrections to the notes. A short discussion ensued regarding members who have been absent and not able to attend meetings. It was discussed that it was important to have representation from all areas of Minnesota. Sandra mentioned that meeting notes were currently being sent to absent members and that she would also try to touch base with areas not represented to get their feedback. Areas not represented by members include: Mille Lacs, Red Lake and Grand Portage. Sandra went over with members the contents of the folders they received at the meeting. Group participants received an updated member list with contact information so they are able to stay connected between meetings. Handouts detailing information about the Healing Vessels and Dakota Ojibwe workshops were discussed. Sandra mentioned that Media Wise will be presenting at the Healing Vessels workshop this year. The Sharing the Wisdom of Many Voices handout was discussed and Sandra directed members to check out the workshop courses as the Tribal Early Childhood Work Group Panel was listed in the mailing as presenters. Lora gave information on the Zero to Three conference and encouraged participants to become involved in the conference planning team. Diane Smith spoke briefly about the upcoming MnTRECC retreat and training day that is being held in Walker, Minnesota. She encouraged interested individuals to register and attend the retreat. Sandra also provided members with information on the "Live It" curriculum and gave contact information for those reservation interested in participating in the program. Diane mentioned that MnTRECC will be working on a TOT for this curriculum. It was mentioned that Deb Robertson and Lisa Anderson's communities are presently participated in the program and feel it is an excellent teen curriculum. Information was given to

members on the upcoming Retain Grants Information Session that will be held in Park Rapids, Minnesota. Members were reminded to turn in their reimbursement vouchers if they are going to be claiming the \$100.00 stipend. Members were given lunch vouchers to be used at the Grand Casino Buffet.

Follow-up Group Business

Sandra provided the group with a copy of the interagency agreement drawn up between the Leech Lake Early Childhood Development Division Minnesota Tribal Resources for Early Childhood Care(MnTRECC) and the Minnesota Department of Education(MDE)-Indian Education Program. A discussion was held regarding the need to revise the document so it details what the objectives of the work group are as the current document has objectives that are not those of the work group. It was decided that a sub-committee would be appointed to update and revise the document. Sandra provided the group with a sample draft of an Authority to Use Document & Permission Letter to Publishers for group members to review and discuss. The document with any necessary corrections would at a later date be sent to those publishers whose curriculum we would be considering aligning with the Minnesota version of the Positive Indian Parenting Curriculum. Group member Kathleen Hedberg gave a short presentation on the framework document. Kathleen had found the form on-line and had plugged in the Positive Parenting information to give us a beginning framework to work off of in the group. Kathleen stressed that this is just a visual tool and it may be altered if necessary to meet the needs of the group and its mission. Kathleen will electronically email Diane a copy of this form. Sandra mentioned that she had inserted into the folder a brochure that gives a general overview of the Infant Toddler Training Intensive so group members not trained in the curriculum would have a better understanding of the program. A handout was also provided to group members that detailed information on the Minnesota Certification process for the Infant Toddler Training Intensive Program. Sandra asked members to look at the handout titled, "Questions to Ponder & Discuss". The group responded to whether or not individuals would need to be certified in the updated PIP curriculum. Another question that followed was would individuals have to be certified in both the Positive Indian Parenting Curriculum and the Infant Toddler Intensive Curriculum. Diane stated, "my burning question is if we blend the curriculums are we in reality limiting the delivery of the Positive Indian Parenting Curriculum because of lack of certification in the Infant Toddler Training Intensive Curriculum?" She further stated that perhaps we need to create an additional session. For example: Session #9 which would involve blending the delivery with combination sessions of the (Positive Indian Parenting and the Infant Toddler Intensive) as they are relevant to one another. Then establish a certification process for this session—add in an annex and resources. Kim Lage spoke to the group about the delivery of the PIP & ITTI curriculum as a team approach. She further explained that when her and Sue go out into the community they are in essence blending the two curriculums in their delivery. The group further explored the question about whether we should train some trainers in West Ed. certification and some in the Minnesota version. Many individuals were interested in having the availability to complete training at West Ed. It was mentioned that if individuals were to be sent to West Ed. then it is imperative that when they come back that they finish up the required course documentation materials to meet the certification process guidelines. It was further noted that funding sources and potential funding sources may not look favorably upon persons attending West Ed. and not completing the additional training requirements to be granted certification in that module. Lora said she agreed that funding sources may have issues with persons not completed the training if dollars are spent to send individuals to West Ed. It was noted that Kathleen Hedberg has certification in all four modules of the PITC. It was further noted that Vicki Peabody is the only Native American Indian trainer who is certified by West Ed. in all four modules. Jean Dufault, Debbie Robertson, Lucy Carlson, Martha Allen and April Ironheart expressed interest in becoming trained in the PITC. Next, the group discussed the blending of the Positive Indian

Parenting Curriculum and the Infant Toddler Intensive Program to create the new updated curriculum. Some questions and concerns that developed out of that discussion were about infringement on copyright as we begin to blend the curriculums. It was mentioned that West Ed. is very protective of their curriculum and the way in which it is being used and we need to make sure that we are not infringing on their copyright. Sandra mentioned that she would speak with her supervisor Tamie Finn and then if need be follow-up with legal assistance from the tribal legal department. Sandra will update the group with her findings at the next regular meeting. Lora mentioned that she needed further time to review the work plan so she had a better understanding of the group's focus. Lora said being a new staff in her current position she would need to go back to her office and review the work plan to see what is actually written in regard to these two curriculums being blended. She stated that she would update the group at its next regular meeting. It was also mentioned that it is important that we recruit new trainers and that we continue to mentor old trainers as well as the new trainers. Kathleen and Kim shared the following additional resources with the group Brazelton Touch Points curriculum and videos. Lora asked if anyone was familiar with the two books-- Parents as Teachers & Healthy Beginnings.

Work Phase

Sandra asked the group if they wanted to stay in large group format or break into sub-committees as we began to work on aligning the Positive Indian Parenting Curriculum with the Infant Toddler Intensive Curriculum. Members decided to remain in a large group format and Kim, Kathleen and Sue assisted the group in aligning the curriculums. Kathleen volunteered to produce a chart depicting the process of aligning the PIP & ITTI. Sandra asked if Kathleen could electronically email her a copy of it when it is completed. (See Attachment)

Wrap Up/Reflections

It was discussed that we may want to bring Val Tanner back in to assist us in developing a recertification process for delivery of the training and to help with the updating and revising of the Positive Indian Parenting Curriculum. Sandra will contact Val to see if she will be available to join us at our next meeting.

Meeting was concluded!

**The Tribal Early Childhood Curriculum Work Group will
meet on July 17, 2006 at the Grand Casino -Mille Lacs
from 9:00-3:00 p.m.**