



NOTES

TRIBAL EARLY CHILDHOOD CURRICULUM WORK GROUP

Date: July 17th, 2006

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

Absent Members: Audrey Roy, Angie Schoenborn, Martha Allen, Deb Robertson, Denise Mershman

☀️Diane Smith agreed to take notes for the July 17th, 2006 Tribal Early Childhood Work Group Meeting and Sandra will compile and type the notes and send them out to all members...

Information & Updates

Group members reviewed the June 5th, 2006 notes and there were no corrections or additions to the notes. Sandra went over the contents of the folders that each group participant received at the meeting. Handouts detailing information about the 6th Annual Child Care Conference, the 6th Annual Wellbriety Conference, Bridges Out of Poverty Workshop and Poverty Its Effect On The Youngest Children Workshop and the NCAI Youth Commission Ambassador Leadership Program were discussed. Darlene LaBelle-Manzanares provided the group with Sharing The Wisdom of Many Voices Conference registration materials and provided a flyer for the upcoming Minnesota Child Care Resource and Referral Network Open House which is being held on August 11th, 2006. April Ironheart passed out a brochure for the 2006 Meander Upper Minnesota River Art Crawl Jean DuFault gave the group an update on the Ojibwe/Dakota Language & Literacy Workshop. Group members received the MnTRECC newsletter and were asked to look it over for dates and information about upcoming events.

Group Business

Diane Smith gave a brief overview of the Letter of Intent about the "Live It Curriculum." The letter of intent is to collaborate with the Tribal Early Childhood Curriculum Work Group members from the various reservations to implement the Live It Curriculum on all the reservations in Minnesota. Diane asked interested parties to

contact Patricia Welch or herself if they were interested in the project or needed additional information. It was mentioned that some reservations already have the curriculum in place. Sandy explained to the group that a large percentage of the reservations had representation by members in the Tribal Early Childhood Curriculum Work Group. Contacts were currently being made to set up meeting with Sylvia Mathney from Grand Portage and Audrey Roy from Red Lake. Sandra mentioned we also did not have representation from the Mille Lacs area. Kim Lage suggested contacting Heidi Mans for representation of the Mille Lacs area. Sandra said she had tried to contact her over the past months but had been told she had taken a temporary leave from her position. Sandra will attempt to contact Heidi again to see if she is willing to meet and provide information regarding the Mille Lacs area.

Sandra provided a handout that outlined the meeting that she attended with Val Tanner on July 11th, 2006. Val agreed that there was a need to update/revise the curriculum. Val thought it was important to incorporate into the curriculum modern day skills with traditional skills. Val also had concerns that if we blended the entire ITTI curriculum into the Positive Indian Parenting Curriculum that we may lose the Positive Indian Parenting Curriculum. Val suggested using the word embed instead of blend in reference to the process of putting the curriculums together. Val agreed that we should add Shaken Baby, Fetal Alcohol and Car Seat Safety components to the curriculum. Val stated that she would like to see information added on health issues such as diabetes. She also mentioned that she felt it would be a good idea to add story quotes from members of each reservation. Val was unsure of how the certification process should look for individuals delivering this expanded curriculum. There was also a concern that trainers that are now Positive Indian Parenting trainers might be excluded from the delivery of this curriculum if they were not ITTI trained due to new requirements with the new revised curriculum. Sandra mentioned that it would seem important to get the trainers who already have pieces of the ITTI in process completed and that dollars be secured to allow them to receive the remaining training. It was also discussed that new trainers be allowed to receive the training too. Sandra also mentioned that it was important that if programs are paying for individuals to take the ITTI training then individuals taking it must complete the process. It was mentioned that requirements needed to be put in place to ensure individuals follow through and complete the training. It was mentioned by trainers that an obstacle to completion of a module was the research papers that must be completed once the trainer completes the in-house training. Sue Heisler mentioned "money talks" maybe individuals could be offered a stipend for completing the papers. Someone else mentioned providing a motel room where trainers could go to finish the paper away from family interruptions. Kathleen Hedberg mentioned that perhaps we could come up with an agreement between the agency and the individual whereby the employer would allow the trainer to take time off from the job with pay to complete the necessary paperwork for certification. It was mentioned that it may be more cost effective if we were to contact West Ed to see if they would be willing to come here to provide the training instead of individuals going out to California for the training. Diane discussed the Positive Indian Parenting TOT scheduled for September and stated the agenda would consist of working with the curriculum as it looks today or on what the Tribal Early Childhood Curriculum Work Group is doing with the curriculum. Sue Heisler pointed out that Kim and herself have held a training in Mille Lacs and are training the Positive Indian Parenting with the ITTI and been delivering training on it for years.

Sandra informed the group that she had met with Wayne Bohn (Tribal Legal) on matters concerning the blending of the PIP and the ITTI curriculums in relationship to copyright issues. From a legal standpoint if we embedded the entire ITTI into the PIP curriculum then we would be subject to copyright infringement. He agreed it may be a better position to use the key concepts of the ITTI since they are somewhat universal concepts known to everyone and were not created by West Ed. We could blend those concepts into the curriculum using our own language. It was also mentioned that individuals at West Ed should be contacted if indeed we are going to use their information in its entirety. Another idea that was discussed was that a guide be developed that cited information from the ITTI as follow-up or to use the words "for additional information" giving credit to authors of the ITTI or other curriculums that were being utilized. It was decided that the information would be taken back to the group and Tamie Finn the Program Manager for discussion. The group was receptive to selecting key concepts written in our own language, adding story quotes from the reservation, adding diabetes information, Shaken Baby and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and information from other curriculums. Diane Smith mentioned that she felt that we should concentrate on using only 3 key concepts. The group began to work on selecting the key concepts from the ITTI for Lesson One in the PIP curriculum "Traditional Parenting." The group will work on selecting key concepts for the other lessons on their own and we will come together at the August meeting as a large group to pull everything together at our next meeting.

Speaker

The meeting was turned over to speaker Meg Thomas who gave a presentation on the Anti-Bias Curriculum written by Louise Derman-Sparks. Meg provided the group with handouts that provided information on four Anti-Bias curriculum goals. The four goals that Meg presented to the group included:

√Nurture each child's construction of a knowledgeable, confident self identity and group identity.

√Promote each child's comfortable, empathetic interaction with people from diverse backgrounds.

√Foster each child's critical thinking about bias

√Cultivate each child's ability to stand up for her/himself and for others in the face of bias.

Meg shared with the group that this is not a curriculum per say but more a broad perspective of concepts. She also mentioned it is not meant to be a stand alone curriculum. When the presentation was completed Meg asked group members to assist her in by answering questions she had in regard to the curriculum as she herself was gathering information to update/revise the Anti-Bias curriculum. Meg passed around copies of the curriculum for members to view. Members from two of the reservation were allowed to keep the curriculums and Meg stated she would send additional copies up for other interested agencies. Sandra asked if we would be able to use information from this curriculum if we decided to incorporate pieces of it into our revised curriculum. Meg stated we could use the four goals and she would contact Louise Derman-Sparks to see if she would give us permission to use items within the book.

Wrap-Up

A discussion was held regarding the end of the Tribal Early Childhood Work Group and the planning of a recognition event for the group. Sandra explained that it would be \$999.00 to have a boat take us out on the lake if we went through Eddy,s Resort which is an affiliate of the Grand Casino in Mille Lacs.. Sandra mentioned that the price was not within the budget and that she would continue to look for something else. Lisa Anderson mentioned that her husband would probably be interesting in chartering a boat for us and the expense would be far less. Sandra will follow-up with Lisa and Mark Anderson in regard to the event and prices. Group members will receive invitations by email when details are finalized on the event.

Sandra briefly spoke about the implementation process stating that the group would most likely begin in November 2006 providing funding was secured for the project.

The meeting was concluded and a tentative date of August 14th was set for the next group meeting/recognition event. The date has since been finalized and will be on August 21st, 2006.