

# NOTES



## TRIBAL EARLY CHILDHOOD CURRICULUM WORK GROUP

August 21st, 2006

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***Attendance:*** Sue Heisler, Kim Lage, April Ironheart, Lisa Anderson, Lora Kussman, Jean DuFault, Diane Smith, Sandra Williams and Tami Finn

***Absent Members:*** Audrey Roy, Angie Schoenborn, Martha Allen, Deb Robertson, Denise Mershman, Betty Jane Schaaf Beck, Kathi Hedberg, Lucy Carlson, Martha Allen, Deb Robertson

☀️ ***Diane Smith agreed to take notes for the August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006 Tribal Early Childhood Work Group Meeting and Sandra will compile and type the notes and send them out to all members...***

***Added to the end of these notes are the summaries of the meetings held with Red Lake and with the office of Indian Education.***

### Information & Updates

***Group members reviewed the July 17th, 2006 notes and there were no corrections or additions to the notes. Sandy went over the contents of the folders that each group participant received at the meeting. A handout detailing information about the Super Conference that is slated to be held October 26th, 27th, and 28th was discussed. Sandy also provided information on the Connecting the World's Children with Nature workshop and informed the group that the organization hosting the event was offering scholarships if anyone has an interest in attending. Sandy gave a brief update to the group regarding the meeting she had with the Indian Education Office staff which included Yvonne Novak, Melvin Monette, Rebecca Garay-Heelan. Also in attendance at the meeting was Valerie Tanner. The meeting was held in Roseville, Minnesota in the Mn. Department of Education Building on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006. The purpose of the meeting was to work with the Indian Education staff and Val Tanner to gain their insight and ideas on arriving at the best process to effectively update the Positive Indian Parenting curriculum. The discussion centered on updating the PIP curriculum and brainstorming ideas about the incorporation of key concepts from the ITTI, other curriculums and resources into the Minnesota version of the PIP. Other thoughts that were explored were the idea to create a practitioner's guide that trainers could utilize when delivering the training. The guide would incorporate key concepts from the ITTI***

*and other curriculums and it would be aligned with the PIP. The guide would become the property of Leech Lake. Yvonne Novak stated that the Minnesota version of the PIP is free to download off the web and the guide if produced should be free to download. Other discussions included in the meeting were in regard to an inter-agency agreement being drawn up between the Indian Education Office and the Tribal Early Childhood Work Group with Leech Lake being responsible for the drafting of the agreement. We also discussed copyright issues, how the certification process for trainers might look, adding reliable websites, health information, quotes, stories, nutrition tips and literacy activities. (Please see the attached document for further detail of the meeting).*

### Group Business

*Diane Smith has compiled information on the status of PIP and ITTI Trainers to determine who is active and where individuals are on completing certification for perspective curriculums. Sue Heisler informed the group that she has completed her paper on one of the modules for ITTI certification. It was noted that several of the work group participants will be attending the PIP Training that will be held in Walker, Minnesota on September 21<sup>st</sup> and September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006 to be certified in the PIP curriculum. The contact person for the training event is Diane Smith. Sandy mentioned that those individuals who submitted resources to be added to the updated PIP curriculum should send the authors of the books that they have submitted. Members of the group discussed compiling quotes from the reservation to add to the updated PIP curriculum. It was stated that if anyone submits a quote from an individual they need to make sure that they have written permission from the person to utilize the quote in the curriculum. It was also discussed that individuals may submit quotes/stories and sign it anonymous. Sue Heisler mentioned that she would talk to individuals about submitting quotes as she will be visiting all the reservations over the next weeks. Other group members also expressed an interest in submitting quotes from individuals on their perspective reservations. Sandy will gather all the information submitted by group members and put it into a file until the implementation process is initiated.*

### Update—Tamie Finn

*Tamie introduced herself to the work group and asked that the group members introduce themselves and which area they represent. Tamie explained to the group that she had been asked to come the meeting to provide the group with an update on the timeline of activities regarding the Tribal Early Childhood Work Group. She also stated that she was glad to have the opportunity to meet all of them and praised them for all their hard work and efforts. Tamie began by informing the group that we will need to develop a narrative and a preliminary budget to submit to the Bush Foundation by September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006 for funding regarding the implementation phase of this project... Tamie went on to explain that the implementation phase will involve three separate components; it will include curriculum development, certification and delivery. Tamie also mentioned that as we move into the next phase of this project it*

would be important that the group members sitting at the table stay on and be a part of the implementation work group. In addition, Sandy would continue to recruit individuals in reservation areas that we are lacking membership to secure a core group of ten individual. Resource individuals would also be contacted to be a part of the group! Areas that have not been in attendance at the group meetings are Mille Lacs, Red Lake and Grand Portage. Sandy has had a sit down meeting with Red Lake representatives to gather their information and input. (Please see additional document on meeting with Red Lake) Grand Portage has received mailings and in July we were able to make contact with Heidi Manns from Mille Lacs. Heidi gave us names of individuals who may be able to be a part of the group. Sandy will contact the individuals to see if someone will be available to attend our next meeting. Lora Kussman stated she was very interested in this project and helping to secure funding for the implementation piece of the project. Tamie informed the group that there are some additional dollars in the travel budget that could be moved to allow the group to hold another meeting in September or October. Tamie asked if group members felt there was a need to have a wrap-up meeting and the consensus of the group was a meeting was needed to tie up loose ends. A meeting was slated to be held on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006 at the Grand Casino in Mille Lacs from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

#### Update-Live It Curriculum (Lisa Anderson)

Lisa Anderson gave an update on the Live It Curriculum that is presently being delivered in the Bois Forte area. Lisa stated that the curriculum had been delivered at two different times in her area. She mentioned that ideally 10 individuals are a core group for the delivery of the curriculum; however the two presentations that they provided to the reservation had only five participants. Lisa said the delivery of the curriculum was successful and that the curriculum really has many good activities geared to a teen audience. Lisa Anderson donated two t-shirts from Bois Forte for a door prize drawing. Kim Lage and Sue Heisler were the winners of the drawing!

#### Work Phase (Small Group)

Members of the work group met to work on the selection of key concepts from the ITTI curriculum to be utilized in association with the PIP curriculum. Sue and Kim assisted the group in determining key concepts from the ITTI. Tamie, Diane, Lora and Sandy met in a separate group to further discuss the implementation process, curriculum development, certification, delivery of the updated curriculum and funding.

#### Celebration

Group members were recognized for their dedication and hard work to the group and its mission. Framed certificates and padfolios were presented to the group members. Tamie also thanked Diane and Sandy for their continued work in the group and presented them with a recognition gift.

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## **Update on Tribal Early Childhood Curriculum Work Group Meeting with Red Lake.**

### **Introduction**

*Due to a shortage of staff to adequately cover their offices Red Lake representatives have been unable to attend the Tribal Early Childhood Curriculum Work Group meetings that have been held in Mille Lacs. For that reason we arranged for a meeting with representatives from that reservation. In attendance for the Red Lake area was Angie Schoenborn and Nancy Kingbird and the meeting was held at Applebee's Restaurant in Bemidji, Minnesota on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006. Audrey Roy was scheduled to attend the meeting but was not in attendance due to a schedule conflict.*

### **Meeting & Discussion**

*We discussed area resources that Red Lake currently has available and that are not in need of enhancement. Please note the following list:*

- \*\*Family Children Services*
- \*\*Foster Care Homes*
- \*\*Senior Apartments*
- \*\*Planned Parenthood*
- \*\*Women's Shelter*
- \*\*Fitness Center*
- \*\*WIC & Wellness*
- \*\*Housing Authority & Finance*
- \*\*24 hour Childcare Services*
- \*\*Boys & Girls Club*
- \*\*New Beginnings*
- \*\*Medical Facilities/Healthcare*
- \*\*Casino Revenue*
- \*\*Native Employment Works*
- \*\*Homeless Shelter*
- \*\*Mental Health Services*

*When we discussed which services in Red Lake that need enhancement Angie and Nancy stated that like most of the other reservations they are in need of teen parent programs due to the high rate of teen pregnancies. It*

*was also mentioned that drug and alcohol issues are also a concern on the reservation.*

### *Update On the Tribal Early Childhood Work Group*

*Sandy shared information on what has been happening in the curriculum work group and talked about how the ITTI key concepts and key ideas from other curriculums would be embedded into the Positive Indian Parenting Curriculum. Information was shared on resources the group had gathered to support the curriculum and Red Lake was invited to send in resources that they would like to see added to the updated curriculum. The idea of using story quotes was also discussed and a series of questions were asked whereby they were able to give input. Nancy and Angie supplied their contact information-- so please feel free to contact them should you wish to discuss the group with them or just to introduce yourself.*

### *Questions*

*Other questions and responses from the meeting are outlined below:*

- 1. What revisions or updates do you see as being needed in regard to the Positive Indian Parenting Curriculum as it is today?*

*Response: Items on budgeting, tips on saving money by shopping wise but meeting the nutritional guidelines. Both Nancy and Angie stated that they have resources that they would like to see added to the resource page in the updated curriculum.*

- 2. When looking at the Positive Indian Parenting Curriculum being revised/updated what population do you feel this revised curriculum should be delivered to in the American Indian communities?*

*Response: Both Angie and Nancy felt that the area that should be targeted is the teen population and young parents.*

- 3. Are you a Positive Indian Parenting Trainer, or do you have ITTI training and if not are you interested in having your name put on a list for upcoming Positive Indian Parent trainings so you can be a trainer?*

*Response: Angie and Nancy do not have PIP or ITTI training. Both have an interest in receiving the trainings at some point in time.*

*4. If we are able to receive the funding to begin implementation of the updated curriculum would you be interest in being involved in that process and would one person from your reservation be able to attend the meetings that are located in Mille Lacs?*

*Response: Nancy Kingbird expressed interest and will update us as to whether she will be able to come to the meetings. Angie stated she is very busy with her program but would try to supply us with names of individuals from Red Lake who may be interested in attending meetings and being actively involved in the implementation process.*

*5. How do you feel about embedding quotes or stories from elders and community members from each perspective reservation in the updated Indian Parenting Curriculum?*

*Response: Both Nancy and Angie felt embedding the quotes was a good idea and they will be submitting quotes from elders and community members from Red Lake.*

*Red Lake has an interested in being represented in the curriculum work group and also in the implementation group when funding allows the operation of this group. If it is possible they will send someone to attend the meeting to represent their areas. If they are unable to attend we will keep them updated through email, phone and local meetings. Their input will be added to the notes of the meeting.*

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## ***Tribal Early Childhood Curriculum Work Group & Indian Education Office Planning Meeting.***

A planning meeting was held on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006 from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Minnesota Department of Education Building. The following individuals were in attendance at the meeting: Yvonne Novak, Rebecca Garay-Heelan, Melvin Monette, Valerie Tanner and Sandra Williams. The purpose of the meeting was to brainstorm and

to develop strategies to determine the process of updating the Minnesota version of the Positive Indian Parenting Curriculum.

Below are the questions and responses from the meeting and other relevant information.

**1.) How do you visualize the ITTI and other curriculums being blended into the updated version of the PIP?**

**Response:** The consensus of MDE was that the time has come and the Minnesota version of the PIP needs to be updated. The group discussed the blending of the ITTI curriculum into the PIP. The biggest concern expressed was that because the ITTI contains so much information if the entire curriculum is blended into the PIP curriculum the PIP curriculum would be lost in the process or overshadowed. The group was receptive of just utilizing the key concepts of the ITTI. The group discussed that it may make sense just to align the ITTI and other curriculums to the PIP through the creation of a practitioners guide. This guide would provide supplemental material and trainer's could utilize it in the delivery phase of the curriculum. Yvonne also mentioned that since the Minnesota version of the PIP is free to download on the web it was her position that the guide should also be free to download. Yvonne stated that Leech Lake would have ownership over the guide should a guide be established.

**2.) What other information do you feel is relevant or should be incorporated into the updated PIP curriculum?**

**Response:** The planning group was receptive to the idea of adding quotes or anecdotes as Yvonne phrased them to the updated curriculum. Other ideas that were discussed regarding updating the PIP were adding some inexpensive tips on preparing food for families, diabetes and other health care issues and reliable websites for parents to connect to for supplemental information. Melvin mentioned that he thought it important to add literacy items and activities. Sandy informed the group that information from other curriculums might also be utilized in the process of updating. Sandy has spoken with Wayne Bohn/Tribal Legal Program to gain insight on copyright issues when utilizing other individual's curriculums.

**3.) Should the name of the PIP curriculum be changed once it has been updated? If so what suggestions do, you have in regard to changing the name of the curriculum?**

**Response:** Everyone appeared to be in agreement with Valerie Tanner's suggestion that the curriculum should remain as it is as people are familiar with it. To make people aware that the curriculum has undergone updates she suggested we change the color and add to the front page 3<sup>rd</sup> Printing 2006. It was also discussed that if the guide is developed it should have pockets to store supplemental information.

**4.) Would individuals delivering this training have to be certified in both the PIP and the ITTI curriculums to train on this updated version?**

**Response:** It was mentioned that perhaps a new certification process would need to be created. Yvonne mentioned that perhaps individuals could receive college credit upon completion of the training. It was decided that this was an area that would take some thought because we do not want to lose American Indian PIP trainers in the process because they are trained in the PIP but not trained in the ITTI.

**5.) What is the purpose of the Tribal Early Childhood Work Group?**

**Response:** The purpose of the work group is to update the Minnesota version of the PIP by blending the ITTI and other curriculums into the PIP curriculum. Other pertinent information will also be incorporated into the PIP curriculum which may include: diabetes and other health care information, car seat safety, shaken baby, fetal alcohol syndrome, anecdotes from the reservations etc.

**6.) Who are the participating reservations in the curriculum work group?**

**Response:** Present representation in the Tribal Early Childhood Work Group includes the following: Leech Lake, Fond Du Lac, Upper Sioux, Lower Sioux, Bois Forte, Metro, White Earth, Mille Lacs, Grand Portage and Red Lake. Representation is either through attendance at the work group, phone, email or mail.

**7.) Who will have ownership of the updated curriculum-what are your thoughts on this matter?**

**Response:** MDE will continue to have ownership of the curriculum. Leech Lake would have ownership of the practitioner's guide should one be created. Both items would be on the web and there would be no cost associated with downloading these materials.

**8.) What plans are there for future direction of materials and training?**

**Response: We will be requesting continued funding from the Bush Foundation and the Minnesota Department of Human Services. We will also continue to research grants from other agencies and giving programs. Yvonne mentioned checking into the Bill and Linda Gates Foundation for monies to help support our project.**

**9.) What will Indian Ed's role in the process and what will MnRECC's role be in the process?**

**Response: It was decided at the planning meeting that MnTRECC will draft an agreement between the two parties. The document will define the objectives and the functions of each collaborating partner. Both parties will sign off on the agreement.**

*The meeting was concluded and Sandy will take the information back to the work group. We will continue to update the Indian Education Office through notes from our meetings and we will continue to utilize them as resource individuals.*

***Meeting Adjourned!***