

Minnesota Tribal Early Childhood Meeting
February 9th, 2007
8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Lee Turney-Facilitator

ATTENDANCE: Erin May (White Earth Even Start), Ofelia Lopez (MnDHS), Jean Dufault (Fond Du Lac Licensing), Dru Osterud (MnDHS), Nicole Tery (Grand Portage Head Start), Marilee Johnsen (Fond Du Lac Head Start), Tammy Wickstrom (Mille Lacs Head Start), Sandra Williams (MnTRECC), Chris Conner (LL Child Care), Patti Turney (NED), Mary Vanderwert (MDE), Scott Parker (Mn CCR&R), Naomi Munzner (MDE), Kevin Hedstrom (White Earth Head Start), Brent Bement (White Earth Child Care), and Lee Turney (LLBO)

The Minnesota Tribal Early Childhood Meeting was held at the Northern Lights Casino Event Center on February 9, 2007. MnTRECC hosted the meeting and Lee Turney facilitated. Sandra Williams was designated to take notes at the meeting.

Lee welcomed participants and each member gave an update on their program.

- Brent Bement (White Earth Child Care) talked about preparing for the 7th Annual White Earth Brain Development Conference. White Earth is in the process of setting up speakers for the conference. Brent discussed the Caring for Kids Point System for parents and providers where incentives are earned. He mentioned that oral health training is being provided with home visits to provide fluoride. He talked about the Read-Mobile and that Kim Lage is heading up the project and has an established route.
- Jean Dufault (Fond Du Lac) talked about licensing and mentioned the Data Tracker as being a great tool. Jean who is a new PIP trainer has been successful at providing many PIP training's in her area.
- Patti Turney (NED) discussed the training catalog and mentioned she had been receiving calls from providers requesting CDA information.
- Nicole Tery (Grand Portage) talked about a cultural curriculum grant.
- Chris Conner (LL Child Care) talked about upcoming renovations at the center and projected CDA training for staff at Leech Lake. Chris asked other programs what they do when parents are not working at center -how do we take monies out -direct deposit questions.
- Lee Turney (LL ECD) talked about the strategic planning phase that Leech Lake is involved in at the present time. Lee talked about the Head Start federal review with staff focus being on the bigger picture. He talked about the development of an Early Childhood Planning Training Calendar, the development of an immersion classroom, the building project at Onigum and the plan for LL Read Mobile to be on the road by summer. He spoke about

- the importance of passing on language and culture in Indian Country. Sandy mentioned LL new logo.
- Tammy Wickstorm (Mille Lacs) discussed with the group immersion in the classrooms and focused on two elders who spend time with the children in the classroom. Tammy mentioned that she had been the interim director 2 years ago and is now the director. Tammy mentioned still having challenges with the Onamia District and special education services for the children. Tammy mentioned a positive aspect is that the program has seen less turn over in staff which makes the program stronger and more stable.
 - Scott Parker (MnCCR&R Network Staff) talked about the importance of children receiving special education services. He stated there needs to be increases in dollars to provide these services. Children who receive services at an early age mitigates the need for services later. Scott talked about his excitement in relation to language revitalization work. He mentioned he enjoyed attending the PIP panel presentation at the CCR&R inservice in March. Scott mentioned he hopes to see more of a connection with the CCR&R and Tribal Programs in the future.
 - Marilee Johnson (Head Start Fond Du Lac) mentioned that there is a new chairwoman Karen Diver. Marilee is the interim Head Start Director Special Projects.
 - Ofelia Lopez (Mn DHS) spoke to the group about the professional develop registry system. She mentioned that Lora Kussman and Catherine Cuddleback are the lead staff. She explained to the group that the PD System will consist of 4 main components (Career Development, Career Lattice, Trainer Infrastructure, Delivery and Technology) She mentioned that the PD Registry will be connected to MnSTREAMS.
 - Mary Vanderwert (MDE) Mary will be monitoring 36 Head Start grantees. Ted's role will be to provide technical assistance and resources--no longer in field rep position. Mary discussed protocol which would be inclusive of : site visit, child file audit, fiscal management, review findings, exit interview, written report within 30 days and follow-up.
 - Dru Osterud (MnDHS) talked to the group about Family Friend and Neighbor (FFN) work. Baseline work with FFN providers. Systemize work with FFN providers/1st year provide training grassroots-work with CCR&R to work with FFN providers. She mentioned challenges in tracking FFN providers and that most baselines use their own system. She mentioned data privacy issues and rules governing sharing and handling of data.
 - Kevin Hedstrom (White Earth Head Start) Talked about Head Start Reauthorization. (A handout was given entitled: Improving A Great Program- Reauthorizing Indian Head Start 2007) Talking points for Head Start.

- Sandy Williams (MnTRECC) gave an overview of the MnTRECC program and the services it provides statewide. She mentioned that currently she is working on developing the next 2-year plan. One highlight of MnTRECC that she touched on was the success of the Tribal Early Childhood Curriculum Work Group that seen 10 of the 11 tribes working together to update the Positive Indian Parenting Curriculum and then align it with the ITTI curriculum.

The group talked about the development of a Tribal Early Childhood Advocacy Committee. The focus being to get Tribal issues addressed and to advocate for our own/ a unified voice. The group talked about the importance of having representation on this committee and the need to identify other early childhood programs. A list of names were established to be on the advocacy committee: Tammy Wickstrom, Lee Turney, Erin May, Jean DuFault, Heidi Mann, Barb Fabre, Sylvia Manthey, Kevin Hedstrom.

Tammy Wickstrom discussed the Tribal Pre-Service with the group. Conference and training -Head start needs to start planning year in advance. In the past the pre-service has been 2 days in length but that becomes very expensive—should look a 1 day pre-service training. For the Head Start Olympics every program has to bring an activity. Need to ensure training meets mandatory requirements which include: bloodborne pathogens, food handling, mandate Reporting etc. Tammy Wickstrom mentioned that they had hosted it last year and do not want to be the host this year! It was discussed that it may be more cost effective to bring trainers to perspective programs (mandatory trainings held at own agency). Jean DuFault and Marilee Johnsen agreed to host the event. They talked about hosting the event at the Black Bear Casino but will need to check on this as it is under renovations; another option was holding it at the school. Lee agreed to assist Jean and Marilee.

Enrollment Updates, PIR data and reporting were discussed.

The group was given a Minnesota Head Start Association, Inc Training Calendar Handout.

Lee stressed the importance of attendance at the Tribal Early Childhood Network Meetings and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Sandy told Lee that the planning team meetings would be held 4 times per year with the Tribal Early Childhood Network Meetings to follow the next day. The next Tribal Early Childhood Network Meeting will be held in June. The date to be decided at a later time. MnTRECC will be responsible for hosting the event and sending a flyer/agenda detailing the meeting to all participants. Lee Turney will continue to create the agenda and will facilitate the meetings.

Note: If somehow I missed information that you shared or have stated items incorrectly please let me know and I will amend the notes. There was a lot of valuable information shared so I do not want to have forgotten something or misrepresented something that should be inclusive of these notes.