

MnTRECC Planning Team February 8th, 2007 Meeting Notes

ATTENDANCE: Tammy Wickstrom, Jean Dufault, Heidi Mann, Becky Littlewolf, Barb Fabre, Betty Bowstring, Sandra Williams
Special Guests: Lee Turney (ECD Director), Ofelia Lopez (DHS), Andy Hyser (Ready 4 K) and Meg Thomas (PD Council)

The February 8, 2007 Planning Team Meeting was held at the Northern Lights Event Center in Walker, Minnesota. The meeting was held from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. with six planning team members in attendance. Lee Turney (ECD Director)

opened the meeting by introducing Sandra Williams as the new Program Manager for the MnTRECC program and Becky Littlewolf as the new Program Manager for Leech Lake Child Care Services. Planning team members were welcomed and refreshments were provided.

Andy Hyser from Ready 4 K from the Duluth office came in and spoke to the group about the importance of preparing children for kindergarten. He stressed the importance of strengthening the connection between parents and providers and talked about parents being the child's most important teacher. He provided members with handouts that were inclusive of an Early Childhood Advocacy Calendar 2007 Session and an Early Childhood Advocacy Tool Kit. He talked about making your voice heard so that elected officials make decisions that support children and families. He encouraged individuals to take action and contact their legislators! Andy opened the discussion up to questions from the audience and gave his contact information.

Planning Team Members gave updates on their perspective programs. They shared highlights and talked about challenges. Sandy gave the MnTRECC update and informed planning team members that MnTRECC will begin to work on their new two-year plan.

Lunch was provided at the Northern Lights Buffet where members had the opportunity to network and visit with one another.

Meg Thomas provided a presentation on the focus and function of the Professional Development Council. Meg talked about the focus of the PD Council being a way to bring Early Childhood professionals building relationships and networking about current work while working to build a strong professional development system for all of Minnesota. She talked about the importance of having skilled and knowledgeable practitioners to work with Minnesota's children and families. She ended with inviting individuals to sit on the Professional Development Council. Meg provided the group with handouts on the professional development system. Meg

opened the meeting up to questions and provided the group with her contact information and the PD registry website for further information.

Ofelia Lopez(DHS) gave a brief overview on the FFN monies that had been designated to MnTRECC to assist baseline grantees. MnTRECC will receive \$5000.00 to provide technical assistance to the programs. Terry Vasques will be heading up the project.

Miscellaneous and old business was discussed by members. Sandy explained to the members that they must provide a W-9 and a request for payment form if they are to be reimbursed for attending the meeting. Sandy explained that if members are requesting hotel accommodations they need to contact Diane Smith who will assist them with the process. If requesting a motel room and plans change the participant must contact Diane to cancel the room so MnTRECC is not charged for a room that is not being occupied—most hotels have a 24 hour cancel policy. Sandy asked Barb Fabre if she had determined a date for the CCDF Plan Pre-Print as she is the one who will be providing the informal training. Barb mentioned she did not have her calendar with today. Sandy will email everyone to find out the best date to hold the special meeting. The planning team members decided that they would meet 4 times a year. The Tribal Network meeting would be held the day after the planning team meetings due to convenience for those individuals who are attending both meetings. MnTRECC will host the meeting and send out the invitations to members and Lee Turney will facilitate the meetings.

The meeting was concluded at 3:05 p.m.