



August 24, 2007, 9-10:30 AM

Meeting Minutes

North Branch Area Library

- ❖ Introductions (*11 present: Donna Hubbard, Lanay Webb, Linda Prince, Sue Monroe, Barb Lundeen, Kathy Lentz, Kerry Moberg, Rachel Fercho, Kathy Blomquist, Linda Brown, Sally Nault-Maurer*)
- ❖ Open Announcements/Updates/Resource Sharing
 - From Karin

Karin Ihnen has accepted a new position with St. Cloud Technical College as their child and adult studies instructor. Her last day with the Initiative Foundation is today, August 24. From Karin: "Please share with other coalition members that I will also miss them very much and thank them for the dedication and time they have and continue to put into each of the coalitions. You and they are changing the world one community at a time."

Check out the website for the Minnesota Fathers & Families Network for events, activities, and resources:
www.mnfathers.org
 - Summer Issue of the Initiative Foundation's Children Youth and Families News You Can Use newsletter. Link to the page: http://www.ifound.org/children_c_news.php
Link directly to PDF: http://www.ifound.org/docs/files/CYF_NYCU3.pdf
 - Cindy Anderson is no longer with Lakes & Pines CAC/Head Start. She has accepted a kindergarten teaching position at Linwood Elementary with the Forest Lake School district. Cindy wrote "It has been such a pleasure getting to know all the fantastic folks in the North Branch Early Childhood Coalition. Thank you for your dedication, tireless energy, and work for families...I extend to everyone a fond farewell, and keep up the advocacy for all early childhood issues and concerns."
 - Jodie Maher will be taking a leave from the group due to a house fire sometime in July.
 - From Kelly Rogstad, Trinity Christian School Preschool Director: "Early Childhood Seminar" scheduled for Saturday, October 6, 2007, 9 AM- 4 PM. Presenters include: Melissa Felland, Janice Hofschulte, & Shannon Dufresne. Registration required, fee \$50 before Sept. 19, \$55 after Sept. 19. For more information call Kelly at (651) 674-7042.
 - Rachel passed around new informational tools on the Parent Support Services (formerly Crisis Nursery.) For additional copies contact Rachel: 651-674-8569, rfercho@chsfs.org
 - Lanay new office address: 6133 402nd St. Services offered at this location include: Public Health, WIC, Child Care Licensing, etc.
 - Lanay recommended this website as a helpful resource for coalition members: University of MN, Center for Early Education and Development(CEED) Visit the site to join their mailing list: www.education.umn.edu/ceed
 - Kerry reviewed building improvement projects that have been completed over this summer. All are invited to stop by the Early Childhood Center located in the Main Street School building on September 6 from 5:30-7:30 for their program Open House.
 - Barb announced Strong Foundations Conference (formerly Birth to Three) will be held in Duluth, January 31 (pre-conference), February 1- 2, 2008.
 - Initiative Foundation is recruiting a VISTA member to work with the Initiative Foundation in Little Falls. Let Sally know if you'd like a copy of the position description. Application deadline is September 15.
- ❖ From Jeanne: "Please report that we had numerous compliments from concert goers on how much they appreciated the literacy component of our summertime concerts in the park. Families arrived early from the first week on to make sure they got a book." Jeanne has requested we discuss continued support of this component by our January meeting, so that books can be selected and listed in the summer brochure that goes to print in March. *Members commented on local press coverage with pictures from Chisago County Press & Post Review.*
- ❖ Statewide meeting in St. Cloud, Wednesday, September 19, 2007 at the Radisson Suite Hotel in St. Cloud. Each coalition may bring up to 3 members. Anyone able to attend? *Featured speakers are Terrie Rose speaking on "Promotion, Prevention, and Intervention: Supporting the Social and Emotional Development in Young Children." and Okokon O. Udo speaking on "Engaging Diverse Communities."* *Attending: Barb Lundeen, Kerry Moberg, Donna Hubbard. Sally will send them more information.*
- ❖ Child Care Resource & Referral made a donation to the coalition of \$500 worth of children's books. Suggested ideas for the books are: replacements for book bins, distributed at WIC/food pantry, Santa Anonymous, etc. Other ideas? *Members brainstormed the following locations to receive books to give away and/or book bins: Children's Mental Health, Child Protection, Child & Teen Checkups, Senior living: nursing homes, assisted living (Intergenerational, Comforts of Home), Senior Center*

- ❖ *Lake State Federal Credit Union approved our request for a donation of \$500 to develop Family Book Bins—thanks Kathy Blomquist! Donna will enlist the help of her children to assemble the bins, arrange the photo opportunity with Lake State and deliver the bins around the community.*
- ❖ *Web site update: Lisa, Kathy: Kathy requested information for the calendar pages and that all content be reviewed this fall.*
 - Ready, Set, Go project update:*
 - (from 5/07 meeting): The event would take place on a Thursday evening sometime this fall. The event will be structured as stations, with each station demonstrating high quality activities to promote skills in a specific area. Participants would rotate to different stations, each one featuring a different appetizer or fondue. The evening will also include some structured small group work.*
 - The group talked about involving other agencies and resources, such as early childhood mental health resources as an outer circle of stations. We also talked about the numbers being higher than budgeted for and looked at the possibility of charging \$5-7 for material costs to attend. We also talked about having a cash bar available. Sally will check with Karin/IF on this and the cash bar idea.*
 - Update: We are able to charge for the event; \$5-10 per person was discussed. Also, we can include a cash bar option. The group discussed the pros and cons of this idea. It was also recommended the initiation clearly state this was for adults, not children.*
- ❖ *The group discussed upcoming Community Festivals and how the coalition would participate. Last year Sally was at the Baby Toddler Expo, Sue & Linda worked the Community Expo, Jeanne handled the Concerts in the Park. We talked about reasons for participating (coalition promotion, membership promotion & invitation, promotion of coalition activities such as marketing the web site this year) and how we need to carefully consider participation given limited resources of time of members. We also discussed selecting events where families were not already being served by other agencies or having coalition members already participating in events through their work agencies also represent and distributed information on the coalition. Members agreed we should participate this fall in:*
 - *Vehicle Fair portion of the city Fall Harvest Days, Saturday, September 29, 2007 from 10-11 AM. Kathy Blomquist will do this. Sally will get information and books to Kathy for distribution.*
 - *Baby Toddler Expo, Saturday, October 13, 9-12 AM. Who? If no representative, Kerry thought the EC Advisory Council would be willing to stuff coalition information into books and bags for distribution.*
- ❖ *Linda Prince will follow-up with the Rotary on the second half (payment of \$500) of the \$1000 contribution made to the coalition.*
- ❖ *Local business engagement update: Donna, Kathy B., Kerry, and Sally are planning to meet to discuss ways to engage local businesses.*
- ❖ *Year Three Projects: Let's form some task teams—(members were asked to choose a team to join)*
 - *Connect with families via newsletter focusing on late infancy & toddler development (6, 12, 18 months.) Develop a publication highlighting toddler development tailored to local resources. (Kerry, Pam)*
 - *Website promotion (Jodie, Kathy, Lisa)*
 - *Ongoing fundraising/business engagement/membership (Barb, Sally)*
 - *Book bins (Donna, Sue, Linda, Lanay)*
- ❖ *Next meeting discussion: Revisit our goals & focus, redefine why we exist, why we each are members of the coalition, develop a plan for enlisting new members*
- ❖ *Our next meeting: Friday, September 21, 2007, 9-11 AM., at the library.*
 - Schedule for the year? The group agreed to schedule meetings on the 2nd Friday of each month in the mornings from 9-10:30 AM. Occasionally meetings will be 2 hours long; 9-11 AM. If the second Friday falls on a holiday or non-school day, the coalition meeting will be the following Friday. February and March meetings will be in the afternoon from 1:30-3:00 PM.*

Tentative meeting schedule for the 07-08 year:

Friday, September 21, 2007

Friday, October 26, 2007

Friday, November 16, 2007

Friday, December 14, 2007

Friday, January 25, 2008

Friday, February 15, 2008

Friday, March 14, 2008

Friday, April 18, 2008

Friday, May 16, 2008

Friday, June 20, 2008