



December 15, 2006, 1:30-3:30 PM
Early Childhood Center, Main Street School
Meeting Minutes

- ❖ Introductions (10 present): *Lisa Isaacson, Jodie Maher, Sue Monroe, Rachel Fercho, Kathy Lentz, Karin Ihnen, Pam Pignato, Cindy Anderson, Donna Hubbard, Sally Nault-Maurer*
- ❖ Open Announcements/Updates 3 minute limit please.
 - New from the Initiative Foundation: News You Can Use highlighting Children, Youth and Families Programs at the IF. Sally will forward to all coalition members via email as issues are available.
 - Grant Writing Workshop offered at the Initiative Foundation, Little Falls, MN, 1/9/07, 8:30 AM- NOON, \$40, prepaid registrations required. Register with Jolene at 877-632-9255; jhoward@ifound.org
 - Also at the Initiative Foundation: "Serving In Public Office--A practical workshop for Incumbents, New-Elects and Appointed Public Servants" Friday, January 5, 2007, 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM. Register with Leah Posterick at 877-632-9255; lposterick@ifound.org
 - Birth to Three Conference: "Poverty: It's Effect on our Youngest Children" January 25 & 26, 2007 in Alexandria. For more information: www.mngts.org/Birthto3/BirthtoThree.html
 - From Lisa Isaacson: Learn to Skate available for 4-8 year olds through the Hockey Association, beginning January 6 and continues for 6 Saturdays. Registration required. For more information, contact Lisa at 651-674-2479; lisaacson1@msn.com
 - From Jodie Maher: Resources for Child Caring will be doing trainings at Room For Growing in North Branch. Jodie is hoping to schedule some for afternoons and will share information with this group on upcoming dates. Also, Jodie shared information on a series of breakfasts offered through the local Chamber of Commerce. These happen on every other Wednesday morning and could be a great opportunity for sharing information on the coalition and networking with area businesses. A series has already begun, and Jodie will get some more information on when the next one is starting. Are there any members who could attend on behalf of the coalition?
 - From Kathy Lentz: United Way's Success By Six website is ready and a great resource for parents. Visit www.Bornlearning.org and check it out!
- ❖ From last meeting:
 - Web site update: Jodie, Lisa, Kathy, Lanay
 - Lisa and Jodie explored a few different options for continued development of the website, including meeting with Jeff to see what was currently in place. Based on what they received, they showed the group what is in place and recommended we build on what we currently have. The group agreed! To continue development the coalition would need to purchase Studio 8 from Adobe, which is available to educational institutions for approximately \$300, hopefully allowing an access code for several people to make changes and updates. Questions raised: 1. Does this software allow multiple people access for changes or would we need to purchase more? 2. If we planned on updates before/after coalition meetings would the software need to travel along? Lisa agreed to continue web site development and act as the web master. Thank you Lisa & Jodie for all of the work!!*
- ❖ Brainstorming new projects for year three grant: *The group agreed to go ahead and seek a third year grant, requesting a \$10,000 challenge grant with \$5,000 local match. Discussion on fundraising included approaching organizations soon as their timeline for distributing funds is typically in January/February. We brainstormed possible organizations to request funds from and the list included: Lions, Sportsman's Club, Legion, Kiwanis, Rotary, Utility companies (MN Energy Resource), Hockey Association. Karin noted that several businesses have an employer donation policy where funds are set aside for donations based on employee participation. Coalition members*

should ask their employers if such a policy exists within their business. Jodie noted in her experiences, Wal-Mart is more apt to donate goods, rather than funds.

Guidelines from the Initiative Foundation:

- Projects should be provided by or partnered with the coalition—not just funded by the coalition
 - Projects should be focused with families with lower income needs in mind
- From Kerry: Heartland will not be dropping off preschool age kids next school year but establishing regular routes. Impacting about 16 families.
 - From Jeanne: Funding a children's concert again at our Concert in the Park, Funding and selecting books to be read at each concert.

Brainstormed List of potential projects under each Priority Area for Year Three:

1. Increase Communication:
 - Purchase software
 - Continue to develop web site, including expansion of links, parenting resources, community calendar, etc.
 - Promote website in the community
 2. Educate Young Parents:
 - Place more emphasis on infant and toddler development including information on brain development, baby sign, stress, baby massage, etc. Discussion included connecting with families with new births and include developmental information, a blanket, resources, distribute through county services and leave packs at clinics for babies born outside of the county/local hospitals, or adopted babies. Pam noted that the ECFE program currently makes contact with each new baby/family. Another idea was a 6 month or toddler contact.
 3. Provide indoor recreation.
 4. Literacy Promotion
 - Continue to provide books to be distributed through ECSE, the library, Concerts in the Park (this included discussion for changed format: possibly provide a rocking chair to read from and gather children around, include props, have local leaders introduce a reader, make sure books are predictable and interactive, etc.)
 5. Advocacy
 - Participate in Voices for Children Day at the capitol to further build relationships with elected officials.
 6. Fundraising: Have 1-3 members assist Sally in raising \$5000 for Year Three grant.
- ❖ Our next meeting:
Friday, January 19, 2007, 1:30-3 PM
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