



February 16, 2007, 1:00-2:30 PM

Early Childhood Center, Main Street School

Meeting Minutes

- ❖ Introductions (11 present): *Lanay Webb, Jodie Maher, Karin Ihnen, Kathy Lentz, Rachel Fercho, Cindy Anderson, Wendy Walburg, Kathy Blomquist, Sue Monroe, Sally Nault-Maurer*
- ❖ Open Announcements/Updates/Resource Sharing
 - Additional Tax Preparation Assistance sites being held by the Senior Federation
Chisago County Community Center in North Branch: Starts Feb. 23 Fridays 9:00am-3:00pm Call for appointment 651-674-8658
Cambridge Public Library: Starts Feb. 17 Saturdays 9:30am-3:30pm Call for appointment 763-689-6555
Seven County Senior Federation Starts Feb 20 Tuesdays 9:00am-3:00pm
Call for appointment 320-679-4700 or 1-866-679-4700
Lakes and Pines agency and Starts Feb 3rd Saturdays 10:00am – 1:00pm (walk ins welcome)
Princeton Library Starts Feb 22 Thurs 1:00pm-6:00pm call for appointment 763-389-4183
Milaca Parke Apartments Starts Feb 22 Thurs 9:00am-12:00pm call for appointment 320-983-6631
Pine City Nutrition Center Starts Feb 18 Saturdays 10:00am-1:00pm Call for appointment only 320-629-3024
 - The current status of the bills that are part of Ready 4 K's *Get Minnesota Ready for Kindergarten!* Initiative are available at www.ready4k.org under Public Policy
 - “Wondering if your town has what it takes to build and maintain a community center?” CenterPieces, the Costs & Considerations of Community Centers workshop offered by the Initiative Foundation on Thursday, March 15, 2007 from 9 AM to 4 PM; \$45 fee includes lunch and materials. Community center experts and central MN panelists will cover such topics as planning, budgeting, fundraising, taxation, bonding and operations. The information will apply to most recreational public buildings, including senior and teen centers. Register by March 9 by contacting Leah Posterick at (877) 632-9255 or lposterick@ifound.org
 - From Karin: Updates from Minnesota Father
LEGISLATION FOR FATHERHOOD FUNDING: Gov. Tim Pawlenty has included a new project titled the Minn. Fatherhood Leadership Initiative in his budget proposal, released in late January. The monies, \$500,000 per year in 2008 and 2009, would go to support innovative local fatherhood programming across Minnesota. Please help educate policymakers about the value of this funding! The funding would be included within the self-sufficiency area of the Department of Education’s early childhood funding. Contact your legislator and let them know that this small amount of money would be a valuable commitment toward increasing the role of fathers in promoting healthy early childhood development. A brief description of the project is online here: www.mnfathers.org/policy.html. For more details, please contact Paul Masiarchin at (651) 222-7432 or info@mnfathers.org.
As members of the finance committees which determine early education funding, the following Senators and Representatives will be particularly important to educate. Especially if you live or work in their districts, please contact them by phone, email, or in person. You may access their contact information online at www.leg.state.mn.us.
Senate Finance Committee - E-12 Education Budget Division: LeRoy A. Stumpf (Chair), Terri E. Bonoff (Vice Chair), Gen Olson (Ranking Minority Member), Ellen R. Anderson, Tarryl L. Clark, Chris Gerlach, David W. Hann, Amy T. Koch, Claire A. Robling, Sandy Rummel, Kathy L. Saltzman, Tom Saxhaug, Linda Scheid, Dan Skogen, Patricia Torres Ray, Betsy L. Wergin, Charles W. Wiger
House Finance Committee - Early Childhood Learning Finance Division: Nora Slawik (Chair), David Bly (Vice Chair), Rob Eastlund (Lead-GOP), Patti Fritz, Pat Garofalo, Steve Gottwalt, Scott Kranz, Carolyn Laine, Erin Murphy, Bud Nornes, Sandra Peterson, John Ward, Lynn Wardlow, Ryan Winkler, Mary Murphy (ex-officio)
CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH PROCLAMATION: Join Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota as Gov. Pawlenty proclaims April as Child Abuse Prevention Month – and help show that men and fathers are concerned about abuse prevention. Monday, April 2, 2007, 10:00 – 10:45 am, State Capitol Steps and Rotunda, St. Paul. Learn more at www.pcamn.org.

- *From Karin: If you feel you're receiving too much information from Karin (or Sally) please let one of us know!*
- *From Lanay: Provider of the Year nominations are currently being accepted. You may get more information from Lanay at lamille@co.chisago.mn.us*
- *Also from Lanay: Kelly Roxstad, Trinity Preschool, has talked of providing training for child care providers, other EC professionals, etc. Watch for more info.*
- *From Wendy: Child Care Resource & Referral in partnership with Chisago County are planning an event for Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) child care providers on April 26 to include supper, speaker on literacy, Lakeshore with a science demonstration, etc. Watch for more information or contact Wendy at walburgw@pinetech.edu*
- *From Cindy: Amy Klobochar will be stopping in North Branch at the Oak Inn on Thursday, Feb. 22 around 11:45 AM on her way to visit Lakes and Pines. More information from Cindy at Cindya@lakesandpines.org*
- *From Kathy Lentz: "Powerbrokers" from the state and members of the Early Childhood Caucus are being brought together by United Way to discuss needs of early childhood. The message is "not either/or for all-day, every-day kindergarten or early childhood" but both deserve investment focusing specifically on needs of children/families of low-income.*
- ❖ *Web site update: Software has been purchased (\$310) and has arrived; Lisa purchased a book (\$35) and has donated a tremendous amount of time to get the website up and running. Check it out at the address at the top of the minutes. HUGE thanks to Lisa, Jodie, and Kathy who have been the engines getting this going again. What we first thought would cost thousands, has cost under \$400 for similar results due to their generous work. THANK YOU!!
Members should send Lisa information for the web site along with the area you'd like the information to fit. Menu options include: Programs & Resources, School Readiness, What's New, Events, Web Links, About Us, Contacts.*
- ❖ *Ready for Kindergarten booklets are available through the IF. Our coalition will receive about 200 and can purchase more at .15 each. Who needs some? Should we purchase some? Let Sally know if you'd like some for your organization. A question was asked about availability on-line. Karin will check on this.*
- ❖ *Kindergarten Transition Summit at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center, Tuesday, March 13, 2007; 9:30 AM -2:30 PM. Keynote speaker Dr. Sam Meisels, President of the Erikson Institute, a graduate school in Childhood Development located in Chicago. Learn about intentional plans focused on a smooth transition into kindergarten for young children and their families. Proctor-Hermantown programs highlighted. We can send a team of 4 from our coalition. Anyone interested? We should hear what is currently in place in this community prior to attending. If you're interested in attending, let Sally know ASAP.*
- ❖ *Legislative update: Voices for Children Advocacy Day March 29, 2007 begins with a rally in the Capitol Rotunda at 10:00 AM. Anyone planning on attending? Again, please let Sally know.
Perhaps we can piggyback with the EC program's plan.
Karin also summarized legislative activity: Kathy Gaalswyk, Initiative Foundation testified on the MN Early Childhood Initiative on Feb. 15, Everyday/All Day Kdgn is being emphasized, etc.*
- ❖ *Fundraising update Information and requests have been submitted to the North Branch Area Hockey Association (\$2500), Stacy Lions (\$1000), North Branch Lions (\$1000), and American Legion Post #85 (\$1000). Sally, or anyone else interested, will follow-up with phone calls. Sally will present on behalf of the coalition at the North Branch Area Hockey Association on Wednesday, Feb. 21.*
- ❖ *Continue to brainstorming new projects for year three grant*

Year Three Task Team proposed projects:

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

1. Improve Communications:

- ❖ Purchase software
- ❖ Continue to develop web site, including expansion of links, parenting resources, community calendar, etc. Promote website in the community *Something in FFN bag at upcoming event,*

Share information with Head Start family advocates and home visitors (Cindy), As you think of links, ask agency/organization to also link with our site, publicize in EC newsletter (Sally), generate computer/address labels with web address to distribute to preschools, ECFE, child care homes/centers to stick on kids, Community EXPO stickers, One sheet posters for poster frames (Kerry?), bookmarks with information at library, refrigerator magnets (Lisa has a resource), news release to local papers, Sara on district webpage (Sally)

2. Educate Young Parents

- ❖ Place more emphasis on toddler development including information on brain development, baby sign, stress, etc. Discussion included connecting with families at 6, 12, or 18 months to provide developmental information, resource information, etc. *Jodie contacted the county and searches can be done based on birthdates at a cost of \$15 per month searched for. For example, a search for children born in April and May of 2006 would cost \$15/month for a total charge of \$30. Discussion included the same information may be available through Public Health for no charge, are the names available electronically to avoid the task of re-entering data to generate mailing labels, etc.*
- ❖ Develop and distribute informational newborn packets to clinics for babies born outside of the county/local hospitals or adopted babies. *We considered a publication Kerry had sent to the meeting and decided to develop one of our own, customized to local resources.*

3. Provide Indoor/Drop-in Recreation for Families:

- ❖ Ongoing support of staffing for evening playtimes, marketing of opportunities, etc.

4. Access for all preschoolers to Literacy-based education:

- ❖ Provide books for Concerts in the Park (changed format ideas: 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.)
- ❖ Support one concert specifically for young children
- ❖ Develop more book bins to distribute around the community
- ❖ Provide books for ECSE, the library, Santa Anonymous

5. Advocacy/Increase Funds:

- ❖ Request supporting funds from local groups to include: Hockey Association, Snowmobile Association, Stacy/Lent Fire Relief Association, Stacy Lions, North Branch Lions, Rotary, and American Legion Post #85. Requests will range from \$1000-\$2500. Sally will develop a letter and send to Kerry, Jodie, Lisa, and Kathy for review before submitting to organizations.
- ❖ Participate in Voices for Children Day at the capitol to further build relationships with elected officials.
- ❖ Fundraising: Have 1-3 members assist Sally in raising \$5000 for Year Three grant.

6. Transportation:

- ❖ Heartland will not be dropping off preschool age kids next school year but establishing regular routes. Impacting about 16 families with the district program. *Discussion included other options for transportation to include taxi (Kathy Blomquist will gather information of feasibility), advertising to families already attending programs to provide transportation to families with need for a reduced or waived class fee (coalition would pay tuition of driving family)—it was recommended that families doing this go through car restraint training (3 hour training offered free through Public Health), any bus/van provided by local child care center we could use?, What would it cost to pay driver/bus from school district?—challenge being driver can't leave the bus to walk child to/from home and neither can provider, limo service in Wyoming a possibility, will Heartland re-consider providing a consistent route for preschool with a ride-along adult (coalition pay for cost) (Jodie)*

- ❖ Our next meeting:

Friday, March 16, 2007, 1:00-2:30 PM

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