



January 19, 2007, 1:30-3:00 PM

Early Childhood Center, Main Street School

Meeting Minutes

- ❖ Introductions (*Lanay Webb, Jeanne Leland, Donna Hubbard, Linda Prince, Karin Ihnen, Kathy Bloomquist, Lisa Isaacson, Rachel Fercho, Jodie Maher, Cindy Anderson, Kerry Moberg, Kathy Lentz, Wendy Walburg, Sue Monroe, Sally Nault-Maurer*)
- ❖ Open Announcements/Updates/Resource Sharing 3 minute limit please.
 - Birth to Three Conference: "Poverty: It's Effect on our Youngest Children" January 25 & 26, 2007 in Alexandria. For more information: www.mnngts.org/Birthto3/BirthtoThree.html
 - Rep. Eastlund is the lead Republican on the House Early Childhood Learning committee.
 - Check your email for Free Tax Assistance resources for low-income families; local and in the St. Cloud area
 - Isanti County forum on Internet Crimes Against Children; FREE, Monday, Jan. 22, 2007 from 6:30-8:30 PM at Isanti Middle School Auditorium, 201 Centennial Drive, Isanti. Speaker: Rick Nelson retired St. Paul Police Commander. It is an educational evening for parents and ADULT community members (no children/teens) on the dangers children face every time they access the internet. You will experience actual sites that Speaker Rick Nelson will enter as he travels the information highway as a young teen. And he will give important information on how to protect and safeguard your children and families. No registration required. For more information contact Brenda at 763-689-2253
 - *Cindy brought information on free tax preparation through Lakes and Pines.*
 - *Karin brought samples of "Kids Can't Wait to Learn" business posters available through Ready 4K at www.ready4k.org under Business. Posters are free.*
 - *Kathy Lentz brought samples of the United Way's Born Learning materials, also free. Materials can be viewed, downloaded, and/or ordered at www.unitedwaytwincities.org, click on "Success By 6" or by calling Mary Bjorneby at 612-340-7419.*
 - *A question was raised and a brief discussion followed on the structure of kindergarten in our district and the future plans for the structure of kindergarten. Our district currently holds all-day, every other day kindergarten. No plans for change at this time.*
 - *Senator Rick Olseen will be part of the Senate Education Committee scheduled to visit North Branch on Wednesday, February 7 from 6-8 PM at the North Branch High School Auditorium. North Branch and St. Croix River Education District leadership and staff will present the committee with testimony on their plans and successes in the area of kindergarten and first grade education. Following the presentation there will be a question/answer time. For more information, you may contact Senator's Olseen's office at 651-296-5419.*

❖ From last meeting:

Clarification from Karin: "The letter from the Initiative Foundation requesting a donation is done routinely to remind people that the IF has an option for gifting if that fits into peoples lives. It has nothing to do with your present grant, future grants, matching funds, etc. Basically just an FYI letter." Thanks Karin!

Chamber breakfast meetings: *Jodie reported these meetings are called Sunrise Table Connections. Groups meet every other Wednesday (early morning or afternoon). Coalition members could take turns attending as representatives of this group and networking with other area businesses and agencies. The next session is May to November. Anyone interested in attending for the coalition or sharing attendance with other members? Cost to coalition would be \$50-75.*

Newspaper articles/Marti Erickson: *These are a bit long to submit to local papers. Karin recommended articles through the Extension Service, Info U. These are about 2 paragraphs long and are available for reprint.*

Web site: *Lisa, Jodie, and Kathy continue to work on this! The software has been ordered and they'll give a tour of the site next month. Anyone with events/activities for upcoming calendar pages should develop as a Word document and send as an attachment to Lisa at "lisaacson1@msn.com".*

Fundraising: *Kerry provided clarification on parameters of fundraising. We are not allowed to ask area business for donated materials. Any letter requesting cash support needs to be approved by district leadership. The group discussed the pros and cons of seeking charitable gambling funds and decided to start with these resources. Future work will be as a task team*

❖ Continue to brainstorming new projects for year three grant

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

Task Team projects brainstormed during this meeting:

1. Improve Communications: Web site development & marketing
2. Educate Young Parents
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, Support one concert specifically for young children, develop more book bins to distribute around the community, provide books for Santa Anonymous, etc.
5. Advocacy/Increase Funds: Local groups to begin with: 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.

❖ Our next meeting:

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

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