



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

Early Childhood Center, Main Street School

### Meeting Minutes

- ❖ Introductions (12 present): *Rachel Fercho, Kathy Blomquist, Karin Ihnen, Lisa Isaacson, Kathy Lentz, Barb Lundeen, Kerry Moberg, Linda Prince, Sue Monroe, Pam Pignato, Sally Nault-Maurer*
- ❖ Open Announcements/Updates/Resource Sharing
  - From Karin: Check out this web site if you are interested in some excellent Early Childhood fact sheets. [www.macmh.org](http://www.macmh.org) (Click on the fact sheet icon on the left). They also have a soft cover book available "A Guide to Early Childhood Mental Health" that is worth a look at if Early Childhood Mental Health is one of your or your coalitions interests. Their toll free number is 1-800-528-4511.
  - Also from Karin: Check out this website at the MN Fathers & Families Network for upcoming events/trainings for work with fathers: [www.info@mnfathers.org](mailto:www.info@mnfathers.org)
  - From Linda: *The Friends of the Library book sales is scheduled for Saturday, May 5—same day as the city-wide garage sales. The book sale will take place during the regular Saturday library hours, 10 AM to 2 PM, donations are accepted at the library. Usually this sale includes lots of children's books and videos.*
  - From Rachel: *If anyone knows of a family in need of financial assistance (day care, basic needs, etc.) Children's Home Society & Family Services may be able to help. Funds are available until June. Send information to Rachel ([rfercho@chfs.org](mailto:rfercho@chfs.org)) or have the family contact CHFS at 651-674-8569.*
  - From Barb: *A summary of the recent Collaboration Conference which took place during the latest snow storm. Barb recommended their key note speaker David Walsh's new information on the importance of saying NO to children or reading his new book: NO: Why Kids of All Ages Need to Hear it and Ways Parents Can Say It.*
  - From Lanay: *The Family, Friend, and Neighbor Event is coming up, April 26<sup>th</sup>, at Trinity Lutheran church in Lindstrom. The coalition is providing books to be given to participants (those who register will receive at least 2-3 books each). Additional books will be distributed to licensed providers in our area and possibly to foster families with young children.*
  - *The library will hand out books that they still have at the upcoming Community Expo. Coalition pamphlets and Membership forms will be tucked in each book. They have about 50 books remaining.*
  - From Karin: *Barb asked Karin to give an update on the THRIVE initiative. Funding from various foundations has allowed training sites throughout the state to provide training on children's mental health. St. Cloud is the area for our region of the state. Possibly we could schedule a speaker on children's mental health for an upcoming meeting. Sally will look into this.*
- ❖ Ready 4K Updates
  - Todd Otis from Ready 4 K also said that legislators will be on Spring Break from April 3rd to the 10<sup>th</sup>. This would be an excellent time to reach our legislators with conversations about the importance of continued support for early care and learning, local work with young families, impact of increased funding, etc.
- ❖ Web site update: Lisa, Jodie, Kathy: *Lisa summarized work: the school readiness pages are still being formed; local resources will be listed under the Programs/Resources area with links to resources outside of our local area under Links. Keep checking it out!*
- ❖ Fundraising update—I need some help! Or plan B: Apply for \$7500/\$2500 matching funds. Discussion included: The current balance for the coalition's activities is \$0.00. We are unable to apply for the next grant from the Initiative Foundation until we raise at least \$2500. EC Program has already dedicated \$2500, but would rather this contribution come from another source as that program budget is stretched. The group decided to still try to raise the \$5000 for the \$10,000 grant amount. Fundraising takes a lot of time, and the following people will help:
  - Stacy Lions, Steve Mueller, no phone number or email
  - NB Lions, Don Hartzell, 651-674-4965; 2<sup>nd</sup> letter sent, *Sally following up*
  - American Legion Post #85, 651-674-4810; 2<sup>nd</sup> letter sent, *Sally following up*
  - North Branch VFW Post 6424, Pat Tallico, 651-674-7854; 2<sup>nd</sup> letter sent, *Sally following up*
  - Stacy/Lent Fire Relief: *Lisa gathering contact information*
  - Rush City Jaycees *maybe Jodie; Sally will ask her*

- NB Area Hockey Association: possible \$500 Lisa/Sally
- Thrivent Lutheran: Kathy Blomquist
- Hinckley Casino: Kerry Moberg
- Rotary and Lioness: Linda Prince
- United Way: Kathy Lentz

*Optimistically, the group decided to go ahead and make a commitment to Community Education to provide 50 books for 5 of this summer's concerts. We will also provide \$275 towards the Splatter Sisters concert as a co-sponsor with the EC Programs. Book titles will have to be selected once we have a firmer budget.*

❖ Transportation update—Next meeting

❖ Ready, Set, Go event grant opportunity:

To foster collaboration between early care (*and education*) and elementary school professionals in order to build professional relationships and communicate kindergarten expectations as they relate to early care settings, transition activities and the success of early learners, so children enter kindergarten better prepared to learn and thrive.

Grant available up to \$3000 (\$500 coordinator salary)

3 events/Brainerd model

Application deadline: April 15, 2007

*Karin emphasized the importance of bringing people together to discuss, network, and build relationships on equal ground. The group decided to go ahead and pursue this opportunity. Discussion included possibly including discussion on what early care and education means, the importance of having representation from all agencies in on the planning: kdgn teachers, Trinity, child care providers association, etc. A small planning team will move ahead; team members include: Lanay, Kerry, Pam, Sally. Sally will contact Nichole Laven/Trinity, Lanay will contact two providers. Sally will schedule the meeting.*

❖ Finalize brainstorming new projects for year three grant

See proposed budget & project plans. *Available from Sally*

❖ Our next meeting:

Friday, April 20, 2007, 1:00-2:30 PM