



October 27, 2006, 10-11:30 AM
United Methodist Church
Meeting Minutes

- ❖ Introductions (11 Present): *Lanay Webb, Cindy Anderson, Karen Ihnen, Sue Monroe, Kathy Wills, Barb Lundeen, Linda Prince, Jodie Maher, Pam Pignato, Kerry Moberg, Sally Nault-Maurer*
- ❖ Open Announcements/Updates 3 minute limit please.
 - From Karen: Seminars around the state: “Keeping Dads and Kids Together” For more information on locations go to www.mnfathers.org/news2006html Seminar will focus on three family legal issues: understanding supervised parenting time, preparing for MN new child support guidelines and hosting family law clinics. Workshops are geared toward anyone working in family services, child development, early childhood development, public health, social services, parents, caregivers, etc.
 - Also from Karen: Information on Minnesota Fatherhood Summit, January 22-23 in St. Cloud: www.mnfathers.org/summit.html
 - Karen highlighted MN Parent magazine: High quality information, local activities highlighted, free to families. We can request deliveries be made to our area. Is this currently being delivered?
 - Linda Prince announced the Friends of the Library Book Sale, Saturday, October 28, 2006 from 10-2 PM.
 - Lanay Webb has Trick or Treat bags provided by Every Child Matters. Bags include a sticker and bipartisan information encouraging parents to vote for kids. Sally will take 400 to Anoka Halloween Parade, Sue will use as book bags for children’s books at the library.
 - Early Childhood Special Education/Pam Pignato is currently very busy as new criteria for qualifying for services is implemented.
- ❖ Barb Lundeen talked about metro perceptions of the EC Coalitions and the desire to have the process put in place in the metro area. Karen shared that McKnight is planning on introducing some version of the EC Coalition process to the metro communities.
- ❖ From last meeting:
 - Web site: *Lizard Revolution would charge \$3000 set up fee. We discussed the possibility of a statewide EC website with individual communities branching from that. Kerry will check with a parent on her availability/interest in working on our website.*
 - Transportation: *Next meeting.*
- ❖ Baby Toddler Expo: Sally distributed about 75-100: IQ magazines on Early Childhood, Coalition pamphlets, and 2-300 coupons for free books. Sue Monroe reported coupons are being brought to the library (about 10).
- ❖ Marian Wright Edelman; www.childrensdefense.org “Working in early childhood is not a job—it’s a calling.” See the Children’s Defense Fund website for information on the following:
 - Call to Conscience and Action regarding health care for all children. Sally distributed a sample of this, available on their website.
 - The Cradle to Prison Pipeline
 - Children’s Sabbath, resource manual \$10 *Has anyone heard of this? No one had.*
- ❖ Candidate Forum *No one at the meeting had attended the forum in North Branch, however Karen encouraged us to encourage families with young children to vote, as typically they do not. We discussed barriers for families wishing to vote. Ideas we talked about included “fast tracking” families with young children, providing play areas for young children, etc. Sally will explore some possibilities with local election judges and voting places.*
- ❖ EC Reunion at Initiative Foundation *Karen & Sally gave updates. Sally highlighted the readers and free books at the Concerts in the Park this summer and the United Way events. Karen reported new*

coalitions for this region are in Pine City and Little Falls. Pine City's host organization will be Pine Technical College. Little Falls involvement stemmed from kindergarten teachers approaching a principal to look at what could be done to ensure more school readiness. The principal then approached the Initiative Foundation and applied for the coalition process. There was discussion on the process of how communities apply to participate as an EC Coalition, what qualifications are needed, etc. We discussed hosting, an event with other coalitions for our members and members of surrounding communities to learn more about the process, how to get involved, etc. Ideas included a dinner, speaker, in January. Karen thought perhaps we could apply for a project grant to offset costs.

Great ideas shared at the reunion dinner included:

- “Fishing for Books”: Princeton At festivals/carnivals this was an activity to distribute books*
- “Ready. Set. Go.” Brainerd Lakes A series of community events for early care and elementary school professionals to build relationships and discuss school readiness expectations, transition activities, etc.*

Task Teams:

1. *Improve Communications: Jeff Yaw has donated the cost of the subscription for one year (\$88) and the renewal fee for our domain name (\$14). Total donation: \$102. Sally will send him an acknowledgement and thank you on behalf of the coalition.*
 2. *Educate Young Parents: The Cambridge-Isanti coalition is still finalizing their action plan for this year and it may or may not include speakers. We discussed promoting each other's events to try to encourage more attendance in both communities.*
 3. *Promote Early Literacy Book bins were checked and not found. We'll work to recreate and distribute.*
 4. *Advocacy*
 5. *Indoor/Drop-in recreation Kerry will track the number of families participating on Thursday evenings.*
- ❖ *Transportation*
 - ❖ *Coalition promotion: Membership form done Sally will bring to the next meeting.*
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- ❖ *Our next meeting: Note time change!*
Friday, November 17, 2006, 1-2:30 PM, Early Childhood Center