



September 15, 2006, 1-2:30 PM
Early Childhood Center, Main Street School
Meeting Minutes

- ❖ Introductions: (*11 present*) *Cindy Anderson, Kathy Bloomquist, Jodie Maher, Linda Kaufmann, Kathy Wills, Karen Ihnen, Donna Hubbard, Donna LeKander, Kerry Moberg, Linda Prince, Sally Nault-Maurer*
- ❖ Open Announcements/Updates
 - You are invited to attend a morning with Marian Wright Edelman, Monday, October 16, 2006 from 9-Noon (9-10 AM registration) in St. Cloud. Attendance is complimentary and limited to the first 500 reservations. To reserve a spot, contact Jolene Howard at the Initiative Foundation: jhoward@ifound.org, (877) 632-9255.
 - Interesting: The Denver city council agreed to put a proposed sales tax to fund early childhood education on the November ballot. The measure passed 10-1. The program would collect %12 million a year by raising the sales tax by 0.12 of a percentage point (an extra 12 cents on every \$100 purchase.) An analysis found that a household with an income of \$40,000-\$50,000 would pay \$25.35 per year for the preschool tax. This type of family, with an eligible child, would receive a preschool tuition credit of \$5,265. The proposal had support of the business community because it allowed parents to choose where they sent their child to preschool. "Quality early childhood education is the most cost-effective way to develop a viable workforce in Colorado" said Gail Klapper, director of the Colorado Forum, a group of 60 chief executive officers in Colorado.
 - Tuesday, October 24, 2006, 6-8:30 PM, Regional Early Childhood Coalition Reunion Dinner at Initiative Foundation in Little Falls. Goal: 3-5 coalition members to attend. *Donna LeKander interested.*
 - An opportunity for our coalition: John L. McKnight, Northwestern University, Chicago will be presenting Asset Based Community Development Institute (ABCD Summit) on November 8, 2006 in Owatonna.
 - Barb Lundeen passed on an upcoming opportunity: Jeff Thompson will be presented on "keeping the spirit of collaboration alive during times of budget cuts, etc." specific to early childhood areas: Wednesday, September 20, 2006 from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM at the Anoka Hennepin Staff Development Center, Erling Johnson C & D, 2727 N. Ferry Street, Anoka. Registration is limited; to register call 763-323-KIDS, or e-mail Cheryl.Olson@co.anoka.mn.us
 - Membership changes and welcome to new members: Barb Bishop, no longer with Isanti County; Donna LeKander, Lakes & Pines Community Action Council; Kathy Wills, Family Pathways; Marlin Trulsen, Five County Mental Health Center; Melissa Vrudny, Community Partnerships, Daniel Thell, MOPS
 - Welcome Karen Ihnen, new Program Specialist with the Initiative Foundation. We'll be working with Karen from now on.
- ❖ We are not too late for Fall Harvest Days: Volunteers will be needed both Saturday (10-4) & Sunday (Noon-4) September 23-24, 2006. *The group decided at least two members were needed per shift. Donna Hubbard encouraged commitment to both days of the event. Sally will send out an email to members requesting help. The group felt the Baby-Toddler EXPO, October 14, 2006, 9-Noon, was an important event to be at. Sally will register the group; cost: free!*

Task Teams:

1. Improve Communications: We need to move forward on hiring a new web master, promotion of web site: *Jodie and Kathy B. held a virtual meeting during a portion of this meeting with Lizard Revolution. There are a few other Early Childhood Coalitions working with this company with great success, however the set-up cost is \$3000; the monthly fee is minimal (less than \$20). Jodie proposed several options: stages of development and cost, partnering with other nearby coalitions to get a break in cost. These will be presented to the group at the next meeting.*
2. Educate Young Parents: Speaker series, poster display units, child care visits

- Arrangements for speakers were divided up between task team members. Kerry has scheduled Dr. Rhoeder to speak on Bedwetting. Other speakers, topics coming. Karen suggested some speakers available through the MN Extension service, available free of charge on a variety of topics.

3. Promote Early Literacy: Literacy information in “Welcome to North Branch” information, literacy wheels throughout community, more book bins
 - Developmental Wheels were delivered for distribution to all Immunization Clinics
 - To develop more Book Bins: we need to: visit existing locations to check on use & condition of bins/books (Linda Prince will check: WIC Clinic & Food Pantry, Jodie will check the Court House, Sally will check on North Branch Allina clinic) order more books, purchase more bins, print more labels & Language Tips cards
 - Jodie brought a sample “Preschool Progress Report for Four and Five Year Olds” published by Hayes School Publishing Co. as something we could purchase or develop something similar to distribute with books. Sally checked their web site: www.hayespub.com and the reports are available in English and Spanish for 2, 3, 4&5 year olds for \$3.95 per set of 10.
4. Advocacy: candidate forum Jeanne Leland informed Sally about a local candidate forum organized by the League of Women Voters scheduled for October 24 for state, county commissioners and county attorney positions. Therefore, we will not host another forum. The Cambridge-Isanti Early Childhood Coalition is however planning on hosting a candidate forum specific to education. Sally will let members know of the date.
5. Indoor/Drop-in recreation: Staff To begin the week of September 25
- ❖ Transportation The group held a brief discussion on transportation needs in the area:
 - Kerry reported the EC Program currently provides transportation/Heartland Express to:
 - 3 students on punch cards
 - 1 family using tokens
 - Kerry also talked about the taxi service in town. A whole family (up to 6 people) can be transported anywhere in the area for \$5.00. The service is reliable. There are some funds and plans in place to assist families in crisis, with follow-up measures available.
 - Kerry recommends giving tokens to clinics to use at their discretion.
 - Concerns/questions shared: transportation is a huge issue—maybe too big for our group—we should stick with what we do well, simply providing tokens without follow-up is difficult to monitor, other sources of help existCoalition promotion: Membership form to slip inside pamphlet Discussion included creating a calling tree for those attending to call/re-invite those missing. Sally will develop this.
Other suggestions:
 - Parents: MOPS will be attending, Sally will ask Parent Educators for suggestions of possible parents to invite, will ask them to announce the need during their classes, and will develop something to give to parents; Kerry will invite one of her parents from her Head Start Class
 - Faith Community: Sally will contact Norma Bourland, Congregations Concerned for Children, Someone (?) will contact Steve at the Lutheran Church

❖ Our next meeting:

Friday, October 27, 2006, 10-11:30 AM

Meeting location: To be determined—watch for meeting announcement