



Kenora District Best Start Network Meeting
Minutes
January 28, 2009

Present:

Clarise Henrickson, Waninawakang Head Start
Donna Cutler, Local Service System Management Table
Kim Gardiman, Northwestern Health Unit
Shelly Durance for Al Cesuinas, Northwest Catholic District School Board
Arlene Williams, Community Action Program for Children
Janet Paterson, Patricia Centre for Children and Youth
Bob Onysko, Kenora Child and Family Services
April Lloyd, Reproductive Life Coalition-Red Lake/Ear Falls
Barb Avanthey, New Generation Coalition – Dryden/Vermilion Bay/Ignace
Lynn Carlson, Kenora District Child Care Operators -Dryden Children's Resource Centre
Kelly Williams, Kenora Association for Community Living
Kenora Family Connection Coalition
Helen Clark, Ontario Works Kenora District Services Board
Sarah Stevenson, Children's Programs Kenora District Services Board
Laurie McIvor, Aboriginal Resource Worker Kenora District Services Board
Mickey Samsal, Kenora District Services Board

Teleconference:

Leanne Mineault, Lake of the Woods Child Development Center (Best Start Hubs)
Nancy Phinney, Kenora Catholic School Board
Sandra Russell, MCYS MCSS

Regrets:

Debby Cousineau, North Words Preschool Speech/Infant Hearing
Karen Laviolette, Child & Family Health Network – Sioux Lookout
Rhonda Brezinski, Dryden Children's Resource Centre

Absent:

Caryl Hron, Keewatin Patricia District School Board

Welcome/Introductions

Kelly welcomed everyone at all sites and introductions were made.
Amendments to the Agenda as follows, Ministry Update and Cultural Sensitivity Training will follow Old Business
Understanding the Early Years North added to New Business.

Review/Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the November 26th meeting were read.
Leanne requested the following change, that the second line in the Communications Sub-committee Report should be changed to read Network Chair.

Clarise indicated that her surname was not correct.
These changes will be made as noted.

Old Business

- a) Position Paper to Dr. Charles Pascal: The position paper was sent December 10/08 and no reply has been received. Lynn asked Sandra if she was aware of the date that Dr. Pascal would release his recommendations. Sandra indicated that Dr. Pascal is currently writing his paper and the Premier hopes to have it by the end of May. Sandra believes that an announcement will not be made until the end of June at the earliest.
- b) Letter FASD Rural Remote Strategy: This letter was also sent December 10/08, no reply has been received.

Ministry Update

Sandra shared the memo that was sent to all Child Care providers that all Early Childhood Educators need to be registered with the College of ECE by February 14, 2009. If staff do not comply Terms and conditions to the licences will be affected. Kelly commented that the time line of 10 days was very tight.

Sandra mentioned that 48 sites of the Infant/Development program are being reviewed along with 54 sites of the Early Literacy Specialist. Staff will be asked to journal their activities for 5 days. These reviews will be long and in-depth.

Cultural Sensitivity Presentation

Laurie presented Cultural Sensitivity presentation. Discussion and questions followed. This presentation can be sent electronically. Network Members or people from their organization may contact Laurie for further information.

2009 Planning Dollars

Total Planning Dollars \$28,800.

Sarah requested \$10,000 for administration and coordination costs to be retained by the KDSB. This includes cost for, teleconference, boardroom use, lunches, snacks, administration and coordination.

Kelly asked everyone to think about ideas to utilize these dollars, proposals and discussions will take place at the next meeting.

Discussion about 2008 Update took place. Sarah asked about Supporting At-risk Families and Blind Low Vision and who to contact. Donna said the Supporting at Risk Families for front line workers training is available through Kim Gardiman. Agencies are to contact Kim for available dates. Donna explained that Holly Allen from CNIB, Thunder Bay has provided training on Blind Low Vision.

Leanne commented that Deb Cousineau will be providing training for the Hub Co-ordinators. It was recommended that the Best Start Network Update be reviewed at the next meeting.

Update from the Regional French Language Network

None forwarded for the meeting

Sub-committee Updates

Communication: This committee is made up of members from the Rainy River and Kenora Best Start Networks. Laurie has joined this committee. Leanne has agreed to Chair of this committee until September.

Committee is looking for representation from education in the Kenora District. Kim Anderson from Northwest Catholic School Board Represents in the Rainy River District.

Caring and Sharing: This sub-committee will be meeting Feb 5th. They are planning for 2009. School Boards acknowledge value in original proposal, however could not commit at present time (December, 2008). Committee will have new proposal for next meeting.

Best Start Symposium

Lynn and Sarah reported on the Best Start Symposium that they attended in December. They shared ideas on the early years presentations, Network mobilization and Aboriginal outreach. Email of presentations will be forwarded to Network Members from Sarah. If requiring further information members can contact Sarah.

Donna will send Sarah UNICEF report, to be forwarded to Network Members.

Best Start Partners Update

Community Coalitions

The New Generations (Barb Avanthey), commented that they have very broad representation in their Coalition but attendance fluctuates. Despite the attendance a lot of sharing does happen. They have invited a member from the medical community but no volunteers have joined their meetings. Inventory of community services update has just been completed. Barb will provide a report on a gap in services.

There has been an increase of people accessing food banks in Ignace, supplies are stressed any ideas for additional support that they can access. Lynn suggested the Moffat Foundation.

Red Lake Reproductive Health Coalition (April Lloyd), has just completed a kit for mother's that are being flown out for delivery of their child.

Kenora Family Connection (Kelly Williams) said that they have the same struggles with attendance.

Child and Family Health Network (regrets Karin Laviolette) Janet commented that the Network moved their meetings to the school and that has helped with the attendance.

Best Start Hubs

Coordinators received Child Development Training from Line Perrons on January 19th. There were 75 in attendance and the Coordinators were quite impressed with the training.

Kelly inquired if Infant Development programs could be invited to these workshops in the future.

Leanne reported that there is a surplus of \$21,889 from the Capital dollars for Best Start Hubs. She has had requests from Dryden, Red Lake and Ear Falls Best Start Hubs for additional funding.

Leanne will email Hubs for opportunity to submit requests.

Leanne, Kelly and Sarah will review submissions and make recommendation of where dollars should be flowed.

Early Learning and Care

Lynn reported how the programs in the district are doing. She said that some programs are being asked by their councils to cut their budgets even lower. It is a struggle to keep the programs viable.

Ontario Association Infant & Child Development Best Practices & Standards

Kelly gave an overview of the Association and explained that funding was received for three years. In 2006 Best Practices were revised and in 2007 training was held. A Committee has developed standards document that has gone to the Ministry for endorsement. Distribution will follow.

New Business

Understanding Early Years Workshop registration packages have been sent. Deadline to register is February 6/09.

Sarah asked if any other agencies would like to report as standard agenda items at future Network meetings. Northwestern Health Unit and Local Service System Management Table will.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be March 25th, at 10:00 am.

Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45