



MINUTES OF THE KENORA DISTRICT BEST START NETWORK MEETING
held Wednesday, May 20, 2009
at the Kenora District Services Board Office in Dryden

Present: Kelly Williams, Kenora Association for Community Living, Kenora Family Connection Coalition
Janice Radburn, Keewatin Patricia District School Board
Barb Avanthey, Healthy Generations Coalition-Dryden, Ignace, Wabigoon, Vermilion Bay, Best Start Hubs
Kim Gardiman, Northwestern Health Unit
Leanne Mineault, Lake of the Woods Child Development Center
Bob Onysko, Kenora Patricia Child and Family Services
Dianne Apland, Kenora District Services Board, Director
Sarah Stevenson, Kenora District Services Board, Children's Programs
Mickey Samsal, Kenora District Services Board, Recording Secretary
Laurie Spalding, Kenora District Services Board Aboriginal Resource Worker (ex-Officio)

Teleconference: Sandra Russell, MCYS/MCSS

Regrets: Lynn Carlson, Kenora District Child Care Operators, Dryden Children's Resource Center
Janet Paterson, Patricia Centre for Children and Youth
Clarise Henrickson, Waninawakang Aboriginal Head Start
Nancy Phinney, Kenora Catholic School Board
Arlene Williams, Community Action Program for Children
April Lloyd, Reproductive Health Network-Red Lake Ear Falls
Ann Anderson, Rainy River District School Board
Donna Cutler, Local Service System Management Table
Debby Cousineau, North Words
Rhonda Brezinski, Dryden Children's Resource Center

Absent: Al Cesuinas, Northwest Catholic District School Board
Karin Laviolette, Child and Family Health Network

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Co-chair, Kelly Williams, at 10:00 a.m.

2. Welcome/Introductions

Kelly welcomed everyone and those members that were present and on teleconference introduced themselves.

3. Approval of Agenda

- 3.1 The agenda was not approved due to lack of quorum.
- It was decided the meeting would continue.
 - Agenda items requiring decisions were deferred to the June meeting.

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- 4.1 deferred – June 25/09

5. Unfinished Business

- 5.1. Terms of Reference: deferred until June 25/09

- 5.1.1. Best Start Hub Addition to the Terms of Reference – deferred until June 25/09

- 5.1.2. Membership of the Stakeholders:

- Lynn is creating a list of membership with current stakeholders.
- Most members are attending the Network meetings or sending a representative.
- It was identified that a representative from the Connell and Ponsford District School Area Board has not been attending the meetings.

ACTION: A letter will be sent from Kelly to those Stakeholders who have not been in attendance, inquiring if they are still interested in being Network Stakeholders.

- 5.2. Student Support Leadership Initiative:

- Sarah has had a response from Red Lake Area Combined Roman Catholic School Board, requesting more information. Sarah forwarded the SSLI Document.

ACTION: Sarah will contact Keewatin Patricia District School Board and Kenora Catholic District School Board for the June meeting.

- 5.3. Protocol between Early Learning and Care Programs and Kenora Patricia Child and Family Services:

- Sarah and Bob have contacted their colleagues inquiring if anyone has protocols established.
- There were questions regarding responsibility for child care fee subsidy when children go into the care of CAS.
- Feedback from colleagues is that it is a province wide issue.
- There is some indication that the matter is addressed in the Fee subsidy Guidelines.

ACTION: Sandra will advise.

- 5.4. Feed back on Network Tree and New Member Package:

- Sarah reviewed the Network Tree and discussion followed.
- Errors, omissions and additions were recorded.
- Leanne suggested that an attachment of acronym definitions be included.

ACTION: Sarah will make the changes and create a list of acronyms.

6. Business

- 6.1. Correspondence: None received for this meeting.

- 6.2. Update from the Ministry (Sandra Russell):

- College of ECE is now up and running. The registration has been going well.

- 18 month well baby, there will be an announcement in September regarding funding.
- Minister Deb Matthews continues to have ongoing meetings with the Federal government on child care funding.
- Best Start is alive and committed to by the province. Child Care is embedded in the Early Learning for Every Child Today, Poverty Reduction Strategy, Ministry of Children and Youth Services Strategic Framework 2008-12.
- An additional 18 million dollars has been allotted to bridge child care spaces in Ontario after 2010.
- Report from Dr. Pascal could be released at the beginning of June.
- Sandra suggested that the Network take a look at the 2008/2009 work plan and review it for September.

6.3. Update from the French Language Network: None forwarded for this meeting

6.4. Birth Rate Presentation (Kim Gardiman):

- Kim presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding Birthrates in the Kenora District in 2008.
- Sandra requested a copy be sent to her.

ACTION: Kim will provide Sarah with a copy to be forwarded to all Network Members.

6.5. Universal Screening in Best Start Hubs: deferred until June 25/09

6.6. Senate Report:

- Senate Report was forwarded to all Network Members.
- Kelly highlighted the key points of this report and discussion followed.

6.7. Sub-committee Updates:

6.7.1. Communication (Leanne Mineault):

- Lynn will be sending out the applications for the Best Start Partner decals.
- Leanne provided feedback on the informative workshop the committee had with Shannon Robinson.
- Subsequently the committee has developed a communication strategy which will be presented to the Network for consideration at the June 25th meeting.

6.7.2. Caring and Sharing (Sarah Stevenson):

- The Caring and Sharing Spring newsletter is complete, waiting for pictures from Red Lake opening.
- The Caring and Sharing Symposium in October has been expanded to invite all Primary Teachers, ECEs, SATs, Early Interventionists and Hub Coordinators.
- Potential presenters have expressed interest in participation but no applications have been received. Sarah urged partners to highlight their work with children and submit presentations.
- This group is expanding membership to develop Transitions from Early Learning and Care Programs to School for Children with Special Needs. There is commitment from Kenora Catholic District School Board, Northwest Catholic District School Board, and Red Lake Area Roman Catholic Separate School Board.

ACTION: Janice will inquire if someone from Keewatin Patricia District School Board is able to participate in the development of a Transition Plan.

6.8 Best Start Partners Update:

6.8.1. Community Coalitions:

Healthy Generations Coalition (Barb Avanthey):

- Dryden continues to meet and share information.
- Barb asked what information can be share with the coalition.
- Leanne suggested an idea that the communication sub-committee had, that a five bullet summary be developed at the end of each meeting, highlighting the items to be shared.

ACTION: Sarah will follow up as an ongoing agenda item for the next meeting.

Kenora Family Connection Coalition (Kelly Williams):

- They continue to meet.
- They have identified a gap of service for the Car Seat Program the Coalition is seeking more funding in order to ensure families have car seats before they leave the hospital.

Reproductive Health Network: Regrets

Child & Family Health Network: Absent

6.8.2 Best Start Hubs (Leanne Mineault and Barb Avanthey):

- Pickle Lake had their opening celebrations.
- Red Lake is scheduled to open on May 22.
- Leanne reported that the face to face bi-annual Best Start Hub Co-ordinators meeting was held in April.

6.8.3 Early Learning and Care (Sarah Stevenson and Kelly Williams):

- Sarah reported that the Red Lake Early Learning Centre will be having their opening in Red Lake Madsen School May 22/09.
- Kelly reported that the renovations are done at Kids Zone. They will be moving back on May 25th and starting gentle entry for infants on May 27th.
- Sarah is working on simplifying language used in documents for parents accessing fee subsidy.
- Sarah is hosting monthly teleconferences with the Early Learning Centres to review policies and keep programs informed. Kelly stated the meetings were helpful and informative.

6.8.4 Local Service System Management Table: Regrets

6.8.5 Northwords: Regrets

6.8.6 Northwestern Health Unit (Kim Gardiman):

- Public Health Nurses in all communities were trained on providing a work shop on how to support at-risk population.
- The 'Assets in Action' training session will be held June 17 & 18 in Dryden. Information and registration forms have been forwarded to Network Members.

6.8.7 Ontario Works (Dianne Apland):

- The Ontario Works caseloads are increasing throughout the district, with a higher percentage increase in Dryden.

- Ontario Works is working at using plain or simplified language in order to improve service to Clients.
- Dianne asked if any members were aware of any workshops that provide training for “simple wording and information”.
ACTION: Leanne will email Dianne with some information regarding the available workshops.

6.8.8 Infant Development Programs (Kelly Williams):

- Kelly attended the annual Ontario Association for Infant and Child Development Conference in Brampton.
- Ontario Association of Infant Child Development has distributed a paper on standards for infant development and presented to MCYS/MCSS.
- Reviews of Infant Development Programs are complete and awaiting feedback from the Ministry.

7. New Business

7.1. Nomination of 2009-2010 Network Chair or Co-Chairs: deferred until June 25/09.

7.2. Triple P (Positive Parenting Program):

- Leanne explained this program and discussion followed.
- Sarah asked what organizations are receiving training in Triple P presently.
- Leanne stated some areas of Lake of the Woods Child Development Center and Patricia Center for Children and Youth will have Triple P training in June.
- Dianne’s concern is that a program like Triple P would be very costly, initially as well as ongoing fees.
- Barb Avanthey shared the title of another program that she learned about at the Family Resource Program Canada called Positive Discipline.
- Sandra suggested that we contact Jane Bauer from the Sudbury Best Start Network. Sudbury has developed a paper that looks at all of the parenting programs options available.

ACTION: Sarah will contact Jane Bauer and inquire if the information they have gathered can be shared with the Kenora Best Start Network.

Barb will provide Sarah with “Positive Discipline” information to share with the Network.

Leanne will provide Sarah with the power point presentation on Triple P provided to the Hub Coordinators to share with the Network.

7.3. ‘Assets in Action’ June 17-18:

- Kim gave an overview of the workshop.
- It was identified that it is the same date as our next Network meeting June 17, 2009.
- Kim explained it was the only date available for presentation.

ACTION: It was decided that The Network meeting would be rescheduled for Thursday, June 25th.

8. Other Business

8.1 Early Literacy Specialists/Data Analysis Coordinator:

- Leanne reported that the Early Literacy Specialist review has taken place.
- Data Analysis Coordinator could provide support with the planning process for the Network.

8.2 Kenora Patricia Child and Family Services

- Bob informed group that caseload in Dryden is increasing.
- They recently hired another case manager in Dryden.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for June 25, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., KDSB Boardroom

9. Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:38 p.m.