



## MINUTES OF THE KENORA DISTRICT BEST START NETWORK MEETING

Held Wednesday, September 30, 2009

at the Kenora District Services Board Office in Dryden

<b>Present:</b>	Kelly Williams,	Kenora Association for Community Living, Kenora Family Connection Coalition
	Leanne Mineault,	Lake of the Woods Child Development Centre Best Start Hubs/Ontario Early Years Centers
	Janet Paterson,	Patricia Centre for Children and Youth
	Clarise Henrickson,	Waninawakang Aboriginal Head Start
	Shelly Durance,	Northwest Catholic District School Board
	Lynn Carlson,	Kenora District Child Care Operators, Dryden Children's Resource Center
	Arlene Williams,	Community Action Program for Children
	Barb Avanthey,	Healthy Generations Coalition-Dryden, Ignace, Wabigoon, Vermilion Bay, Best Start Hubs
	Deanna Pacheco,	Keewatin Patricia District School Board
	Candice Goretzki,	Nishnawbe-Gamik Friendship Centre
	Tina Durfey,	Metis Nation of Ontario
	Sarah Stevenson,	Kenora District Services Board, Children's Programs
	Dianne Apland,	Kenora District Services Board Ontario Works
	Mickey Samsal,	Kenora District Services Board, Recording Secretary
	Laurie Spalding,	Kenora District Services Board, Aboriginal Resource Worker
<b>Guests:</b>	Chris Maltais,	Lake of the Woods Child Development Centre, DAC
	Bill Reynolds,	Lake of the Woods Child Development Centre, DAC
<b>Regrets:</b>	Kim Gardiman,	Northwestern Health Unit Healthy Babies Healthy Children
	Bob Onysko,	Kenora Patricia Child and Family Services
	Donna Cutler,	Local Services System Management Table
	Debby Cousineau, Helen Clark,	North Words Kenora District Services Board, Ontario Works
<b>Absent:</b>	April Lloyd,	Reproductive Health Network-Red Lake Ear Falls
	Karin Laviolette,	Child and Family Health Network
	Sandra Russell,	Ministry of Children and Youth Services/Ministry of Community and Social Service

**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 introduced themselves.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion NO: KDBSN2009-4**

Moved by: Janet Paterson

Seconded by: Leanne Mineault

**RESOLVED THAT** the agenda for the Best Start Network meeting scheduled for 10:00 a.m on Wednesday, September 30, 2009 be approved as presented.

**CALLED: CARRIED**

**ACTION: NONE**

**4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION NO: KDBSN2009-5**

Moved by: Clarise Henrickson

Seconded by: Arlene Williams

**RESOLVED THAT** the minutes of the June 25, 2009 meeting of the Best Start Network be approved as presented.

**CALLED: CARRIED**

**ACTION: NONE**

**5. Best Start Network Financial Report (Sarah Stevenson)**

2009 Best Start Network Financial Report September 30, 2009

Total 2009 Budget	\$31,492
Best Start administration cost to Kenora District Services Board	\$10,000
Best Start Network Meetings	634
Tele-conferences	349
Caring and Sharing	7,000
Best Start Communication	<u>7,000</u>
Total spent to September 30, 2009	\$ 24,983
Remaining Balance	\$6,509

**6. UEY/EDI FINDINGS**

- Chris Maltais and Bill Reynolds Data Analysis Coordinators of the Lake of the Woods Child Development Center provided the following presentations.
- Chris Maltais presented, “Factors Affecting Early Child Development in Northern Ontario: The Parent Interview Direct Assessment of Children Survey”
- Bill Reynolds, presented the “UEY North Early Development Instrument Findings”

**ACTION: Chris and Bill will plan to attend Community Coalition Meetings, and share data specific to each individual community and assist in planning to meet individual community needs.**

## 7. Unfinished Business

### 7.1 Parenting Programs.

- Best Start Hubs are looking and updating parenting resources and investigating the Triple P Parenting Program.
- The Network decided that a subcommittee would be formed to investigate the parenting programs available and currently being implemented by the network partners.
- The following Network Members volunteered for the committee: Kelly Williams, Barb Avanthey, Leanne Mineault, Janet Paterson, Sarah Stevenson, and Candice Goretski

**Action: Sarah will inquire with Kim Gardiman, Donna Cutler and Deb Cousineau if there is interest for participation from the Health Unit. Sarah will arrange for a meeting.**

### 7.2 Universal Screening in Best Start Hubs

- The meeting for September 1, 2009 was cancelled and needs to be rescheduled at present a future date has not been set.
- It was decided that many of the same members had interest in Universal Screening as Parenting Programs and the two working groups will be combined.

**ACTION: A new sub committee was re-established to develop options for Universal Screening in Best Start Hubs as well as review parenting program options.**

## 8. Business

### 8.1 Correspondence

- A letter was received by the Co-Chairs from the Ministry regarding the 18 month well baby incentive.
- A letter was received from Dr. Jean Clinton from the Offord Center for Child Studies, looking for applications from three sites interested in piloting The Enhanced 18 month Well-Baby Visit.
- It was determined that the Network would not be submitting an application at this time
- It was decided that the network should attempt engagement of the local medical community with regards to the 18 month well baby screen.

**ACTION: Sarah will revise the letter sent out to engage Aboriginal Partners to the Network for Lynn and Kelly's approval. The letter will be addressed to Katherine Campbell of the Dryden Family Health Team.**

### 8.2 "WOBFM" Dr. Pascal's Report SWOT Analysis

- The Network reviewed the Strengths/Weakness/Opportunities/Threats document developed in the summer pertaining to With Our Best Future in Mind-Pascal Report. The document was revised, with additions and changes.

- A need to have input from senior administration of school board was identified.
- The revised suggestions from today will also be attached at the end of the minutes.

**ACTION: A request will be sent to Senior Administration for their input. A copy of the revised document will be attached to these minutes.**

8.3 Update from the Ministry – None forwarded for this meeting.

8.4 Update from the French Language Network – None forwarded for this meeting

8.5 FASD Update Kenora/Sioux Lookout

- Janet described the program in Sioux Lookout. In Phase One the committee identified the gaps. They will be following through with addressing the identified gaps in Phase Two. Janet will provide more information about the project as it unfolds.

8.6 Sub-Committee Updates

8.6.1 Communication Work Plan (Leanne Mineault)

- Leanne presented the Communication Sub-committee work plan. Identifying the tasks and lead as well as vacancies for leads. She also presented 4 key messages.

*Best Start is about community...making Northwestern Ontario a great place to raise a child.*

*Best Start is about children...helping them be the best they can be.*

*Best Start is about families...parents are the first and most important teacher in a child's life.*

*Best Start is about connections...we're all in this together.*

- The Network recommended a change to the key messages as follows:

*Best Start is about families...families are the first and most important teacher in a child's life.*

**ACTION: Leanne will take this revision request back to the Communication Sub-committee.**

8.6.2 Caring and Sharing (Sarah Stevenson)

- Sarah reviewed the work of the Caring and Sharing Committee.
- The Caring and Sharing Symposium will take place on October 3. There are 124 children services providers with representation from all sectors attending.
- The Network members are in the process of narrowing a date to meet about creating a document for transitioning pre-school children with special needs to school. The meeting will take place sometime in November.

## 8.7 Best Start Partners Update

### 8.7.1. Community Coalitions

Healthy Generations Coalition (Barb Avanthey)

- The coalition met September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Kenora Family Connection Coalition (Kelly Williams)

- The coalition met September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Barb Jackson was elected as the Chair.
- They have a new member who is the Special Assignment Officer with the OPP. She is very interested and will be holding Car Seat Clinics.

Child and Family Health Network: Absent

- Candice Goretski spoke as she is a part of both groups.
- A lot of community interest.
- The meetings consist of community partners sharing the programs they are offering.

**ACTION: A letter will be sent to the chairperson inviting them to send a rep to the Network Table.**

Reproductive Health Network: Absent

### 8.7.2 Best Start Hubs (Leanne Mineault)

- Leanne reported that the Best Start Hub Co-ordinators met face to face for a 2 day session, several in services were provided.
- Barb Avanthey has developed a power point presentation about the services that are available at the Best Start Hubs. Barb and Leanne will work together so that this presentation is available to all service agencies to be utilized at community presentations and with children services partners.
- A large component of the Best Start Hub Development Work Plan for the current year is the development of protocols between hubs and children services partners.

### 8.7.3 Early Learning and Care (Lynn Carlson)

- All centres very busy during Gentle Entry.
- Continue to work with schools to provide before and after school programs with families.

8.7.4 Local Service System Management Table – None forward for this meeting

8.7.5 North Words – None forward for this meeting

8.7.6 North Western Health Unit – None forward for this meeting

### 8.7.7 Ontario Works (Dianne Apland)

- Dianne explained that each Ontario Works client was given a Back to School back pack. Each pack included school supplies and vouchers for a pair of runners and one outfit.
- Ontario Works case loads in the District are going up.

8.7.8 Infant Development Programs (Kelly Williams)

- Review Report has not been received yet.
- Kelly will share the report when it becomes available.

**9. New Business**

9.1 Change in next meeting venue.

- Kelly asked the Network if the next meeting can be held in Kenora. All were in agreement. The location is to be determined.

9.2 Development of a meeting summary

- Sarah will develop the meeting summary that is to be shared with the various organizations.

**10. Next Meeting**

The November 25, 2009 Best Start Network meeting will be held in Kenora. The location is to be determined.

**11. Adjournment**

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

*Minutes approved: November 25, 2009*

*Lynn Carlson, Co-Chair*

**Identifying Risks and Opportunities: moving forward with the recommendations from Dr. Pascal, “With Our Best Future in Mind”.**

**(This is a document open to additions, omissions.)**

<b>S T R E N G T H S</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Size of communities (small)</li> <li>▪ Service providers work together out of necessity.</li> <li>▪ Collaboration and interaction among children service providers.</li> <li>▪ Kenora District Best Start Network has engaged Community Coalitions as Advisories to the Network.</li> <li>▪ Resource Teachers are employed by child care programs and working incapacity outlined in the report.</li> <li>▪ Caring and Sharing Committee Develops collaborative professional development opportunities.</li> <li>▪ 3 Best Start Hubs located in schools including Child Care.</li> <li>▪ Best Start Networks (Kenora/Rainy River) have joint communication committee, developing consistent message for Best Start across both Districts.</li> <li>▪ Some communities are ready.</li> <li>▪ Access to the EDI and PIDAC data in place.</li> </ul>	<b>O P P O R T U N I T I E S</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Moving closer to true integration using a broad based approach.</li> <li>▪ Working toward increased engagement with Aboriginal children services providers.</li> <li>▪ Further integration will increase accessibility for families.</li> <li>▪ Joint Professional Development opportunities available to wide sectors, broaden scope.</li> <li>▪ Innovative ways to increase skills across sectors. (i.e. parenting knowledge for SLP/speech for home visitors or child care).</li> <li>▪ Developing a common theme/approach across sectors.</li> <li>▪ Creative use of existing dollars.</li> <li>▪ Ontario Works and Early Learning and Care Programs are working together to support families.</li> <li>▪ Hubs are connecting to a larger number of children’s services providers and protocols are being developed.</li> <li>▪ Transition to school document for children with special needs being developed.</li> <li>▪ Process development for managing enhanced or increased services in Hubs (i.e. maintaining confidentiality and record keeping etc.)</li> </ul>
<b>W E A K N E S S E S</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Geography of District (Isolated communities)</li> <li>▪ Constant rapid change is confusing families.</li> <li>▪ No FASD diagnostic services in the District.</li> <li>▪ Inability to recruit qualified professionals to our area.</li> <li>▪ Need to connect to the medical community.</li> <li>▪ Aboriginal children services are less engaged.</li> <li>▪ Silos of aboriginal and non aboriginal services.</li> <li>▪ Need for committed leadership from school boards.</li> <li>▪ Lack of communication between Ministries (Education/ Children and Youth/ Health and Long Term Care)</li> <li>▪ Limited specialized medical resources in the District to meet the children’s and family needs.</li> <li>▪ Increased waitlists as more children are identified at an earlier age.</li> </ul>	<b>T H R E A T S</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No new dollars.</li> <li>▪ Sparse population and declining population may mean services continue to be unavailable in some of our communities.</li> <li>▪ Job erosion.</li> <li>▪ Limited space in schools to provide extended children’s services.</li> <li>▪ One size does not fit all, therefore may not work for all areas.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Flexibility is needed to meet the needs of our population, urban, rural, Aboriginal.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Salary differential ECE/EA/ECE/Teachers in schools.</li> <li>▪ Increased levels of bureaucracy for funding flows.</li> <li>▪ Level of preparedness to support increasing urban aboriginal population.</li> <li>▪ Only Paediatrician in the District is set to retire in the new year</li> <li>▪ Ontario Works Applications with children identified in the family unit increasing.</li> <li>▪ Increased numbers of transient families.</li> <li>▪ Increased stress on families.</li> <li>▪ Child welfare case load increasing in some communities.</li> <li>▪ No choices for children who are not “ready” for school.</li> <li>▪ Current before and after school programs are operated by child care operators. Not operating these programs would mean lost revenue to programs and add stress to child care viability.</li> <li>▪ Parents history with education system may impact linkages and how comfortable they are in the school.</li> </ul>