



MINUTES OF THE KENORA DISTRICT BEST START NETWORK MEETING

Held Wednesday, November 25, 2009
at the Northwestern Health Unit office in Kenora

Present:	Kelly Williams, Barb Jackson, Janet Paterson, Lynn Carlson, Donna Cutler, Bob Onysko Caryl Hron Dean Carrie Murray Delorme Carol-Lynne Oldale Sarah Stevenson, Mickey Samsal,	Kenora Association for Community Living, Kenora Family Connection Coalition Lake of the Woods Child Development Centre Best Start Hubs/Ontario Early Years Centers Patricia Centre for Children and Youth Kenora District Child Care Operators, Dryden Children's Resource Center Local Services System Management Table Northwestern Health Unit Healthy Babies, Healthy Children Kenora –Patricia Child and Family Services Keewatin Patricia District School Board Keewatin Patricia District School Board Kenora Catholic District School Board (arrived at 10:20) Ministry of Education Kenora District Services Board, Children's Programs Kenora District Services Board, Recording Secretary
Teleconference:	Al Cesiunas, Sandra Russell,	Northwest Catholic District School Board Ministry of Children and Youth Services/Ministry of Community and Social Service
Regrets:	Kim Gardiman, Leanne Mineault Debby Cousineau, Clarise Henrickson, Tina Durfey, Candice Goretzki, Barb Avanthey, Arlene Williams,	Healthy Babies, Healthy Children Lake of the Woods Child Development Center North Words Waninawakang Aboriginal Head Start Metis Nation of Ontario Nishnawbe-Gamik Friendship Centre Healthy Generations Coalition-Dryden, Ignace, Wabigoon, Vermilion Bay, Best Start Hubs Community Action Program for Children
Absent:	April Lloyd, Karin Laviolette, Joan Schelske	Reproductive Health Network-Red Lake Ear Falls Child and Family Health Network Kenora District Services Board, Ontario Work

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Co-Chair, Lynn Carlson at 10:05 a.m.

2. Welcome/Introductions

Lynn thanked everyone for attending and those members that were present and on by teleconference introduced themselves.

3. Approval of Agenda

3.1 Motion NO: KDBSN2009-6

Moved by: Al Cesiunas

Seconded by: Janet Paterson

RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the Best Start Network meeting scheduled for 10:00 am on Wednesday, November 25, 2009 be approved as amended.

The Network approved amendments to the agenda to move Business Items 6.4 and 6.1 to follow Agenda item 4.

CALLED: CARRIED

ACTION: file

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion NO: KDBSN2009-7

Moved by: Bob Onysko

Seconded by: Donna Cutler

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the September 30, 2009 meeting of the Best Start Network be approved as presented.

CALLED: CARRIED

ACTION: Post to the Kenora District Services Board Website

6. Business

6.4 Update from the Ministry

- Sandra informed the Network that a series of teleconferences and face to face meetings are being scheduled by MCYS to update children services providers.
- The Regional Ministry will meet with the Best Start Chairs and the District Services Board Child Care Managers on Friday, November 27/09 via teleconference.
- The regional Ministry will meet with Pre-school Speech & Language, Blind Low Vision, 18 Month Well Baby, Health Babies, Healthy Children, Infant Development Program, Ontario Early Years Center, Early Literacy and Infant Hearing Program will meet via teleconference on Monday, November 30/09.
- There will be a Ministry meeting in Toronto on December 2, 2009 that will include the Best Start Chairs, CMSM's and the District Services Board.
- Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Children & Youth will sign off together on final choices for the Early Learning Programs, prior to confirming selections with school boards.

- 6.1 Full Day Early Learning for 4 and 5 Year Olds (Early Learning Program)
- Lynn reviewed the information that had been provided up to now.
 - The Kenora District Best Start Network and the Kenora District Services Board have been invited to provide information as to clarify impacts the Early Learning Program will have on the viability of child care in the chosen communities.
 - Directors of the School Boards and their Chairs will sign off on the submissions to the Ministry of Education.
 - District School Boards are expected to submit their school site selection proposals to the Ministry of Education by November 30/09.
 - Dean Carrie, Keewatin Patricia District School Board explained the criteria and requirements that the school boards must meet, as set by the Ministry of Education.
 - The Ministry of Children and Youth will not be providing fee subsidy to families for the ELP extended day.
 - Fees and cost of the extended day portion of the ELP will be set on a cost recovery basis.
 - Carol-Lynne Oldale explained that all decisions around before and after school programming have not been decided. Carol-Lynne Oldale said that the Ministry of Education is looking at fee subsidy for the before and after school programs for families in need of assistance.
 - Carol-Lynne informed the Network that a draft copy of the curriculum will be available in early January.
 - Ministry of Education will decide on school site selection by January 15/10.

Keewatin Patricia District School Board (Dean Carrie)

- KPDSB will be allotted 2 sites in the first phase, commencing September 2010. They will provide one combined JK/SK class at each site.
- Their proposed school site selections were shared with the Network in no particular order as follows:
 - Ear Falls Public School
 - Lillian Berg Public School (Vermilion Bay)
 - Ignace Public School
 - Pinewood Public School (Dryden)
 - Evergreen Public School (Kenora)
 - Keewatin Public School
- Transportation will not be provided for boundary cross enrolment.

Kenora Catholic District School Board (Murray Delorme)

- KCDSB will be allotted 1 site in the first phase, commencing September, 2010.
- Their proposed school site selections were shared with the Network in no particular order as follows:
 - St. John's Separate School (Red Lake)
 - St. Louis School (Keewatin)
 - Pope John Paul II School (Kenora)

The Northwest Catholic District School Board (Al Cesiunas)

- NWCDSD will be allotted 1 site across two districts in the first phase, commencing September, 2010.

- Their proposed school site selections were shared with the Network in no particular order as follows:
 - St. Michaels (Fort Frances)
 - St. Patrick's (Atikokan)
 - St. Joseph's (Dryden)
- At St. Joseph's they would provide the Early Learning Program for JK not SK.

Questions, Comments and Responses

- Kelly asked if the boards are considering bussing for the before and after school programs. Dean responded that it was not being considered for next year but may be considered at a later time. Carol-Lynne commented that no additional transportation dollars have been allotted at this time.
- Al identified concerns of schools being forced to open JK and SK programs five days a week under a different model if coterminous boards choose schools in a community that did not have ELP designated to them.
- Sarah added to that idea and how in turn that would affect the viability of child care if transition funding was only provided for programs in communities where the Early Learning Programs were being initiated.
- Lynn asked Al why a full day for JK and not SK. Al response was the cost factor.
- Sarah stated that child care viability in Ear Falls would be affected by choosing that school to implement an Early Learning Program, recent economic down turn in that community is already causing a drop in the attendance and the child care program.
- Sarah stated that based on the information provided by the operators regarding their waitlists for infant, toddlers and pre-schoolers all other programs should be okay with the support of the transitional dollars and servicing a younger age group. There is concern about child care viability if programs lose the revenue from operating before and after school programs. All of the operators in the Kenora District operate one or more after school programs to support the viability of the full day program.
- The child care operators and school board reps discussed the benefits and challenges of partnering and sharing space in schools to provide before and after school care as well as the benefits and challenges of having exclusive space in the schools. Some schools do not have space that can be designated for the exclusive use of another program. Further work will need to take place in developing these partnerships.

Sandra Russell excused herself at 10:55 am

- All partners at the table discussed the scenarios and impact ELP will have on before and after school care services. Everyone agreed that the development of the new program for four and five year olds would pull from current programs. Further collaboration between School Boards and Child Care Operators is essential to the development of programs that are best for families and ensures that before and after school programs are successful whoever the operator is.
- Al asked Lynn if an impact would be felt at the St. Joseph's Best Start if an Early Learning Program was provided there. Lynn stated she does not think that it would have a huge impact on her program and they would offer child care service to pre-school age children.
- Sarah explained that the Ministry has assured the DSSAB they will receive funding to assist Child Care Operators in transitioning their program to provide service to a younger age group the amount has not been confirmed.
- Donna shared her experience on a First Duty tour she had attended. She commented on the collaborative approach she witnessed between the ECE and Teacher. The Principal's leadership and belief in the overall concept is critical to the successful implementation of the program.

- It was commented that as the relationships around the Network table grows; relationships between individual programs will grow also.
- The Early Learning Leads for each school board were identified as follows:

Keewatin Patricia District School Board	Caryl Hron
Northwest Catholic District School Board	Al Cesuinas
Kenora Catholic District Scholl Board	Murray Delorme

5. Unfinished Business

5.1. Setting meeting dates for 2010

- The Network agreed to meet the third Wednesday of the month and return to monthly meetings with the exception of June, July and December, considering the changes that would be occurring over the next year. The meeting dates are set as follows:

January 20, 2010
February 17, 2010
March 17, 2010
April 21, 2010
May 19, 2010
June 16, 2010
September 15, 2010
October 20, 2010
November 17, 2010

The following members excused themselves at 11:50: Dean Carrie, Caryl Hron, Murray Delorme, Carol-Lynne Oldale and Al Cesiunas.

5.2. Protocol Development between Early learning and Care Programs and Child Welfare

- Sarah and Patricia Neira from Kenora-Patricia Child and Family Services have developed a protocol.
- Sarah has shared the document with Dianne Apland, Director of Ontario Works and Child Care and will be sharing it with the Child Care Operators in the Kenora District for further feed back.
- Sarah and Patricia will meet in the New Year to finalize and then all Operators will sign off on the protocol.

ACTION: Sarah will share this document with all the agencies when it has been completed.

6. Business

6.2 “WOBFM” Dr. Pascal’s Report SWOT Analysis

- A copy has been shared with Senior Administration of the School Board and their input has been provided and added to the document.
- A copy has been forwarded to the Ministry of Children and Youth
- The revised copy will be added to these minutes as an attachment

6.3 Regional Best Start Meetings in Sault Ste Marie March 3 and 4.

- An agenda has not been received.
- The meeting on March 4th will be for the Best Start Hub Coordinators. A suggestion was made to inquire if the Coordinators could meet via video conference.
- It was asked if Child Care Operators will be invited to attend.

ACTION: Sarah will contact Sandra Russell and investigate this further.

6.5 Update from the French Language Network – None forward for this meeting

6.6 FASD Update Kenora/Sioux Lookout (Janet Paterson)

- The project has received additional funding for six months.
- Workshops are being planned. The first one was held in Dryden on November 26/09 “Building Bridges: Creating an inclusive approach to FASD that incorporates the needs of women”.
- There has been a lot of training for front line staff.
- Anyone wanting further information can contact Janet and she can assist in connecting organizations with FASD support.

6.7 Sub-committee Updates:

6.7.1 Communication (Barb Jackson & Sarah Stevenson)

- Communication committee will meet again December 9th.
- Book Coupon roll out will begin in January.
- A Best Start Radio Campaign will begin in January.
- A Best Start Poster Contest will take place in January.
- The leads from the Communication Work Plan 2009-2010 are to have their financial requests ready for the December 9th meeting.

6.7.2. Parenting Programs and Universal Screening (Barb Jackson)

- Leanne is preparing a package for the parenting program meeting that may be scheduled for January.
- Sarah has received the information from the Sudbury Best Start Network on the work that they did investigating parenting programs.

ACTION: Sarah will set up a Doodle calendar to schedule a meeting.

6.7.3. Transition to School for Children with Special Needs (Kelly Williams)

- Representation from Child Care Resource Teachers, School Boards, Healthy Babies, Healthy Children, Lake of the Woods Child Development Center, Kenora Association for Community Living, Patricia Center For Children and Youth and the Kenora District Services Board met in Vermilion Bay on November 4.
- The group chose to amend and make additions to the document shared by the Rainy River Best Start Network.
- Sarah has emailed a draft copy of the plan to everyone on the committee and is receiving further suggestions and comments.

- The group will meet again on December 1, via teleconference and make revisions.

ACTION: Each partner will share with the organization they represent for further feedback and endorsement.

The committee will present to the Network at the next meeting.

6.8 Best Start Partners Update

6.8.1. Community Coalitions

Healthy Generations Coalition – Sent Regrets

Kenora Family Connection Coalition (Kelly Williams)

- The request from the Network for someone to take the lead of the Children's Services Fair that was included in the Communication Work Plan was discussed. The coalition members feel that variations of a Children's Services Fair already exist and that the coordination of such an event in Kenora is a huge undertaking for someone to take the lead.
- The coalition facilitated a toy drive which was very successful.
- Bill Reynolds will be presenting the EDI findings at their next meeting

Child and Family Health Network (Janet Paterson)

- Karin Laviolette sent a letter of resignation to the Network.
- Janet commented that service providers had noted there has been a decrease in attendance for all the programs due to H1N1.
- She explained that Sioux Mountain School was hosting a community coffee house that all service providers were being invited to attend and participate in .

ACTION: The Network accepted Karin's resignation.

Sarah will draft a letter on behalf of the Chairs requesting a new representative be designated.

Red Lake Area Reproductive Health Network –absent

- Members discussed the absence of representation and perspective from Red Lake and surrounding area.

ACTION: Sarah will discuss the commitment with April and inquire if she is able to continue. Donna will inquire if there is someone from the Health Unit in Red Lake that would be able to commit to attending the Network Meetings

6.8.2. Best Start Hubs (Barb Jackson)

- The Ontario Early Years Unit is planning an interactive video workshop on the ELECT for all Early Years Professionals.
- Hubs will be invited to participate in ELECT training being arranged.
- Protocol Development with community partners continues to move forward.

6.8.3 Early Learning and Care (Lynn Carlson)

- Child Care Operators have met to discuss implications of the ELP Program on the viability of child care.
- The Child Care Sector across the province feels that they are not being kept informed regarding the Early Learning Program. Lynn believes that information will be shared in the coming months.
- It is very important that the Network support our ECE’s through the transition of the Early Learning Program process recognizing their expertise and experience in:
 - Child Development
 - Parent Engagement
 - Early Years Curriculum

6.8.4 Local Service System Management Table (Donna Cutler)

- None forward for this meeting

6.8.5 North Words (Donna Cutler)

- Most services have been suspended due to H1N1
- Programs are slowly getting back to normal

6.8.6 North Western Health Unit (Donna Cutler)

- Most services have been suspended due to H1N1
- Programs are slowly getting back to normal
- A dental proposal is being created for non-emergency services for 0-17 years.
- Health nurses have been busy with vaccinations

6.8.7 Ontario Works (Sarah Stevenson)

- Ontario Works Case Managers received Duty to Report training and are also looking to develop a protocol with Kenora-Patricia Child and Family Services

6.8.8 Infant Development Programs (Kelly Williams)

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

7. Best Start Network Financial Report (Sarah Stevenson)

2009 Best Start Network Financial Report November 25, 2009

Total 2009 Budget	\$31,492
Best Start administration cost to Kenora District Services Board	\$10,000
Best Start Network Meetings	1,004
Tele-conferences	607
Caring and Sharing committee Allotment 7,000	
Caring and Sharing Transition	4,297
Newsletter	270
Caring and Sharing Committee Actual Total	413
Best Start Communication	4,980
	7,000
	23,591
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Remaining Balance	\$7,901
to spend out in 2009	

Sarah asked the Network for suggestions as how the year end funds should be spent.

- Preschool Screening booklets
- Child Care pamphlets
- Pre paid air fare for Regional Meeting, S.S. Marie.
- Best Start SWAG

8. New Business

8.1. Development of a meeting summary

- Partners remaining at the meeting identified the key points for the summary.
- Sarah will develop the meeting summary that is to be shared by the Network Members with their various organizations.

9. Next Meeting

The January 20, 2010 Best Start Network meeting will be held in Dryden at the Kenora District Services Board office.

10. Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Minutes Approved: January 20, 2010

Kelly Williams, Co-Chair