

## Otter Tail Family Services Collaborative

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### Early Childhood Work Group/IEIC Meeting

9 – 11 AM January 7, 2010

Dead Lake Room- Government Service Center, Fergus Falls

**Attendance:** Beth Achter (LCSC-3); Marion Kershner (OTC Public Health); Stacy Haugen-McAllister (Fergus Falls Area Special Education Cooperative- 5); Patty Deery (Head Start-2); Angie Rush (Parent Support Specialist-40); Karen Hanan (FF ECFE – 2); Sue Ewy (MCSHN-5); and Jane Patrick (Collaborative Coordinator).

1. Stacy McAllister welcomed the group.
2. Stacy called for a review of the minutes of the December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. **MOTION:** To approve the minutes of the December 3 meeting and the Agenda for today's meeting. (P. Deery/B. Achter/Carried) A clarification was made on the data collection discussion from the last meeting. It was confirmed that NFP visits will be tracked and compiled with all the other postpartum visits and won't be separate like the 1, 5 & 12 month visits. It was noted that we need to include a column for number of NFP postpartum home visits so that we know how many are being served by NFP and can deduct that from the number of families eligible for Caring Connections on-going visits.
3. The group held a discussion on the dates for future meetings because Marion and Brad have a standing conflict with Thursday mornings. It was determined that the next meetings will be: February 9, March 9 (tentative pending what happens at March 1 CEO), April 13, and May 11 at 9AM. Patty will check with Jan to see if there are any major conflicts for her on these dates.
4. Follow Along Program – Given over 8000 H1N1 vaccines have been given by Public Health since December, there hasn't been a lot of time to look at other information. However, Marion noted that the Follow Along Program is having about a 38% return rate. They are still sending them to people even if they don't respond to previous surveys. Usually people are still reading them and will return them if there IS a concern down the road. Public Health received a hearing impairment grant and they are attempting to weave that into the FAP.
5. Nurse Family Program continues to serve right around 60 families. They just graduated the first family from NFP in mid-December, and a second family will graduate in February. Families appear to be very grateful for the program. There is a loss of relationship for the nurse and the mother so this is a tough part of closing the program. It is presumed that the nurse and mother will continue to have a relationship and this could prove to be challenging for time on the nurses schedule as they add new families to their caseload.
6. Jane Patrick presented the bills which were paid on behalf of the program on January 4, 2010 in the amount of \$2,971.09. **MOTION:** To approve the bills paid January 4, 2010, in the amount of \$2,971.09. (B. Achter/K. Hanan/carried)
7. Customer satisfaction surveys were discussed. A decision was made that effective immediately we will reinstate using the previous evaluation form at the 12 month visits. Marion will ask

Diane about Public Health compiling the returned surveys. The group requested that we take out the word "youth" in question #6.

8. Data review from 2004-2008 program- how can we use this data to show our program is valuable? The group worked together to pull out objective data to show the areas where this program has made a difference. Jane will prepare a report for the March 1 CEO Group meeting with 6-7 key areas of impact. This information will be presented along with the budget request for FY11. Jane needs to clarify the data on how often families are reading to their children at 12 months. Areas for improvement might include the need to increase the number of fathers attending home visits. Each work group member will look to see if they can track down statewide or national data on the keys areas we will be reporting on to the CEO Group. We know that only 1% of children ages 0-12 months are referred for special ed assessments.  
Summary:
  - Prepare a summary for the CEO Group highlighting the outcomes. WG members will get information to me on statewide and national averages.
  - Improvements – father's involvement – need to look more closely at this at the next meeting. Check with Marion to see if we can find out how many dads are present at the postpartum home visits.
9. FY11 increase – what is the group's position with regard to salary increases for program staff. 1-3% increases were provided for other agencies last year when no increase was given to the Caring Connections program staff. Public health, the special ed coop and Head Start received staff increases in 2009. Jane will prepare a draft budget for next time including 1-3% increases for staff.
10. Updates on Battle Lake and Fergus Falls early childhood integration of services. Battle Lake is in the process of restructuring. In Fergus is trying to do some coordination to have a combined classroom, but it is too difficult to try and change mid-year and have a fully integrated classroom for this year. However, planning for full integration by next fall is the main goal.
11. Diane Kittelson and Angie Rusch will present at the January 29<sup>th</sup> team meeting. Angie will present and introduce who she is and her experiences in the early years with her children with disabilities. Precede Angie's session with information about how great we are doing with making early referrals for special ed screening within the Caring Connections program. Angie will then go into describing her position as the parent support consultant for Otter Tail County and will encourage home visitors to refer families with young children to Angie as a resource. She will bring information about her position with the ARC. Jane will send Angie the 12 month resource guide that we use for the Caring Connections program.
12. IEIC business- no changes from last month – still need a bill from Public Health.
13. Training for spring – what is already going on? Each agency at the table agreed to go back and check to see what trainings are already going to be planned that we can try to piggy back on what is already taking place. One suggestions is to sent all home visitors to the February 26<sup>th</sup> Brain Gym program at LCSC. Beth indicated it may also be offered on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Jane will ask the home visitors what training they want and if they are interested in going to the Brain Gym program. A suggestion was made to look at a father/male role involvement speaker.
14. The meeting was adjourned by consensus. The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 8 from 9:00 – 11:00 AM in the Dead Lake Room** at the Government Service Center in Fergus Falls.