

## Otter Tail Family Services Collaborative

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### Early Childhood Work Group/IEIC Meeting

10-Noon July 7, 2010

Phelps Mill Room- Government Service Center, Fergus Falls

**Attendance:** Marion Kershner (OTC Public Health); Angie Rusch (The Arc-120); Brad Vold (OTC Human Services); LuAnn Harris (Child Care Resource and Referral-3); Stacy Haugen-McAllister (Fergus Falls Area Special Education Cooperative-5); Beth Achter (Lakes Country Service Cooperative-3) Karen Hanan (FF ECFE – 2); Sue Ewy (MCSHN-4); Angie Rusch (Parent Support Consultant-120); Mary Phillipe (OTC United Way-3); Patty Deery & Amber Rosue (Head Start-2); and Jane Patrick (Collaborative Coordinator).

1. Stacy McAllister began the meeting and requested a round of introductions.
2. Stacy called for a review of the minutes of the May meeting. **MOTION:** Approval of the minutes as corrected with the inclusion of School Readiness. (LuAnn/Karen/consensus)
3. A discussion was held on how to get school census information when Public Health is no longer doing as many post partum visits. A suggestion was made ask the hospital to have parents fill this form out when the babies are born. Maybe we need to talk to the OB department at the hospitals to try and address this issue. Thoughts about asking this information at the 2 week check, prior to delivery, talking to the doctors, etc. Another idea was to have Kellie/Jane look up all the school census information on-line. In order for Jane to do this, Jane will talk to Marian Wasvick to see how this information can be collected.
4. LuAnn Harris provided an update on the Child Care Provider visits. At this point she has enrolled 17 providers in FY10 and will finish up with the final three by this fall. Only 14 will be served during FY11. LuAnn reported that two providers that started this year have already closed their doors. The group discussed the issues that may be affecting this and it was shared that there is less need and that more and more families are using family, friend and neighbor care versus licensed care. LuAnn will pull out the data and update the spreadsheet showing how many providers are still in care and compare it to previous years' data. Jane shared information about the oral health dollars still available. The group liked the idea of hosting one oral health event in each school district. They also suggested asking Becky Lommen do these sessions using existing ECFE, Head Start, ECSE and Public Health classes that will be scheduled this fall. A comment was made that it would be more impactful if it were offered through home visits. The group discussed using a combination of both ideas. The group would like Becky Lommen to come and visit with the home visitors again, and also with children and with parents. Also incorporate more into the February Oral Health awareness through our home visitors. Jane to put together an outline on how to use the monies. Trainings with parents would be most effective in September/October. Liked the idea of purchasing advertising with the monies including radio advertising. Also invite local newspapers to attend the parent meetings and fall events. **MOTION:** Brad/Marion to accept the WCI funds.
5. The group okayed purchasing three gift card as an incentive to filling out the on-line survey. Continue to have a hard copy put in the files so those participants that want to send in a hard copy can do so. The group would also like to do this for the child care provider visits.
6. Budget reports were shared.
7. Parent focus group sessions –
  - Who is the target audience – parents that have accepted and parents that haven't accepted to get a good rounded audience. Really want the focus to be on parents that declined one or more of the

visits. It was discussed that it might be more helpful to have families answer a telephone survey to find out the exact reasons why people are declining. Jane noted that we do have information about the declined visits from the declined visit forms. This information can be incorporated into the focus group sessions. Sue and Marion agreed they would be willing to lead the focus group sessions for parents. The group would like to do three sessions in Henning, Fergus Falls & Perham with a meal offered at the start of the sessions. Based on the results of the focus group sessions, the ECWG will develop a program improvement plan. Target dates of September & October will be attempted for the sessions, with the information shared with home visitors in January.

8. IECI business

- Do the two groups want to continue to be combined? Is it okay and are we meeting the needs of the IEIC? At this point we are because IEICs are not very active right now. ECWG feels like it is a much more well rounded group with front line staff and decision makers at the table.
- This year's budget will likely be similar to last year's but the state hasn't made any decisions as of yet.
- IRT was discussed and how the service is evaluated. Stacy followed-up and learned that this information is already submitted. Stacy will check with Sandy Kitzman to see if an evaluation summary is available. Stacy will work on providing a general summary about the special education services that families receive.
- Lyn and Joann did connect about the issues they were having on referrals and have worked out the bugs.

9. Nurse Family Partnership updates - Marion indicated that there currently is no family satisfaction survey for the NFP visits. Marion mentioned a parent response survey of which they have a few responses from parents. Marion indicated they do have a report on outcomes and she will provide this at the next work group meeting for review. The group discussed whether or not it was important to do a parent satisfaction survey. They determined that at this time it would make sense for Marion to check out what options are available for NFP surveys. Marion reminded the nurses to do follow-up on referring families to Head Start and ECFE.

10. Training:

- Thursday, September 2 the special ed coop in the morning- Patty to check on this and let me know if this will work and what time. Jane will present a shortened version of the Fatherhood PowerPoint.
- October 6 & 7 at Deanna McMahon at the Broen Home – this will be a required Caring Connections training and the program will pay the registration fees for staff attending.
- January 6 or 7 – presenters have a two day certification on positive discipline – Jane Nelson's work with ½ day on introduction and ½ day on experiential learning. Beth is working on getting the fees down to an affordable cost. Stacy offered that IEIC budgets maybe able to help with training costs. A decision was made that the IEIC would designate \$200 for this cost. Jane will check to see if the LAC and Service Coordination groups might also contribute \$200 with the understanding that some parents would be allowed to attend for free.
- Follow-up discussion on inviting Nancy Jost from West Central Initiative to join this group. LuAnn will follow-up with Nancy to see if she is interested.

11. The meeting was adjourned by consensus. The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 1, 2010 from 10AM – Noon** in the Phelps Mill Room at the Government Service Center in Fergus Falls.