

Opportunities for Collaboration – updated 9/21/09

1. **Top challenges currently faced by Collaborative partners** that we can work on together?
2. How to **pool resources** for program funding, particularly for ideal early childhood programs?
3. **Blending and integration of programs** – particularly at the early childhood level and for families of children with special needs. Some districts have successfully integrated early childhood services, and other agencies should consider this model. However, existing facilities still create on-going space issues which will also need to be addressed.
4. The Village Family Service Center has openings for members to serve on their Board of Directors. For more information contact Jane Patrick and she will connect you with the board chair.
5. Children’s Services funding is available for children with special medical necessities which are not covered by other sources. For more information contact Shannon Erickson at 218-998-0935 or contact the school nurse in any one of the eight school districts.
6. Kristin Erickson from OTC Public Health shared information with the group regarding the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). Kristin explained that this is a \$1.4 Million dollar regional grant project aimed at improving the health of children and families. This new initiative involves several partners around the Collaborative table, and a program will be piloted in the Perham Schools during the current school year. Once a sound process is established, other schools will be invited to participate in order to grow the program throughout Otter Tail County.
7. Mary Phillipe shared information about the Volunteer Solutions program offered through United Way. Individuals interested in volunteering or those programs that need volunteers can contact United Way for more details at 736-5147.
8. The group discussed the request of the Planning and Evaluation Work Group to share information about American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) dollars which are being disbursed throughout the County. A suggestion was made that partners share information about resources that may be available to assist families in need. The following ARRA programs were reported:

Otter Tail County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in Pertussis immunizations (Public Health) • Emergency assistance for utilities (Human Services) • Highway improvements (Highway Dept)
Schools	Are getting some ARRA dollars but are using most to backfill cuts to general and special education funding
Ottertail-Wadena Community Action Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rent assistance for single adults • Weatherization, training and employment grants available for low-income families that apply for energy assistance
Salvation Army, CEP and Employment agencies	Programs available but need to contact for specific information