

 <p style="text-align: center;">MINUTES</p>	Date:	May 19,2011
	Time:	10:00 am
	Location:	NWHU-Fort Frances 396 Scott Street
	Chair:	Kim Anderson
	Recorder	Jennifer Kivimäki
Type of meeting:	Rainy River District Best Start Network Meeting	
Participants:	Cheryl Bodnar, Deb Cousineau, Kim Anderson, Bill Reynolds, Nicole Cheetham, Carolyn Skirten, Leanne Mineault, Christina Maltais, Angela Mihichuk, Miranda Sigurdson Via Teleconference – Tammy Faykes	
Regrets:	Anne-Marie Armstrong, Ann Anderson, Kim Gardiman, Kelly Massaro-Joblin, Heather Exley	
Absent:	Sandra Russell, Lauris Werenko	

1) Welcome/Call to Order/Introductions

Kim Anderson called the meeting to order and introduced members in attendance.

2) Our Vision: “The Best Start for ALL Children”

Kim Anderson read the vision statement.

3) Approval of & Additions to the Agenda

Approved: Nicole Cheetham

Seconded: Deb Cousineau

“That the Agenda be approved.”

All in Favour: Carried.

4) Approval of Minutes – February 17, 2011:

Approved: Kim Anderson

Seconded: Carolyn Skirten

5) RAINY RIVER DISTRICT BEST START NETWORK:

a) Network Structure & Function Template – Deb Cousineau

Action: Awaiting Response from letter Kelly W. sent to potential executives

- Deb indicated she is unsure if a letter was sent out to all executives inviting them to sit on our Best Start Executive.

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

- Deb will discuss and finalize the letter with Kelly at Co-chair meeting next week.
- With expected release of the framework, who sits on the Executive Committee could be impacted.

Action: Follow-up with Kelly re: letter to Executive members – Deb

b) Best Start Work Plan – Deb

- Deb has not had any confirmation from Sandra regarding our updated Work Plan.

Action: Confirm with Sandra Russell, Work Plan approval – Deb.

c) Strategic Planning – Deb

- The Strategic Planning for both the Kenora and Rainy River Networks has been postponed. Will reschedule in the Fall to allow time to seek a facilitator.

d) Children's Charter of Rights – Deb

- Deb shared information she received from Kamloops
- Kamloops Charter is all in the words of children
- Brought into classrooms as part of curriculum where the children would write or draw pictures
- Presented to municipal councils in their area
- Included children and youth to know what their rights were
- Want the community to know that our children are important and the children need to know they are important
- When decisions are being made children need to be in the fore front of decision making and how that decision will affect children
- Initial community meeting and where to go with the Children's Charter
- Started an advisory group and then collected the voices of children
- Launched their Charter on International Children's Day in November and had a huge celebration
- Children's Rights are always mentioned at council meetings
- Process – sent out to all schools explaining that they were working on a Children and Youth Charter
- Part of curriculum "Every Child Has a Right to....." and draw a picture
- Network's Next Steps:
- Meet with all of those who we wish to have endorse the Charter of Rights
- Municipalities
- Chiefs of 10 First Nations
- Politicians
- School Councils
- OPP
- Safety Coalition
- Nurse Practitioners

- Atikokan Woman's Shelter
- Coalitions
- Send letter to all identified parties and invite them to a meeting to explain the process and timelines

Action: Bring forward to next meeting to begin planning process - Deb

e) 2011 Bursaries – Cheryl

Members agreed to award 4x \$300 bursaries for students pursuing a secondary education in the field of education or early childhood.

- To date, one application has been received, with a deadline of June 4th.
- Members discussed the possibility of putting an ad in the papers: Westend Weekly, Rainy River Record, Atikokan, and FF Times.
- In 2010, 3 - \$400 bursaries were awarded and to date one recipient has not confirmed second semester.

Action: Kim will do ad for paper & Cheryl will email list of contacts to Kim

6) COMMUNICATION SUB-COMMITTEE

a) Communications Update – Cheryl

- Best Start Network Logo- Sarah Stevenson has contacted Dennis from the “Bit Better Corporation” regarding licensing for the Screen Bean aft. Dennis has informed for each time the Screen Bean art is printed over 50 times, we must pay \$150.
- Leanne is going to go back to company and ask screen beans to be removed. Everyone was in agreement to remove them.
- To date, Dryden Children’s Services Fair has 15 booths signed up for participation on June 18th.

7) RECRUITING PARTNERS SUB-COMMITTEE

- Angela Mihichuk will replace Judith Lindholm on this Sub-Committee

a) ECE/Teacher Exchange Program – Ann & Kim A.

- To date, Kim has had no response to an email sent to individuals to participate in an exchange between Day Care, Kindergarten Teachers and Child Development. Will revisit in the Fall.

Action: Discuss at a later date – Kim A.

b) Summer Celebration

- Discussed the upcoming Summer Celebration with Lisa Murphy
- Nothing finalized on where the workshop will be held, Sunny Cove is booked, suggested possible locations, Robert Moore School or Auditorium
- Ann Anderson has sent out save the date flyers
- Possible \$75 early bird registration until end of June, \$100 thereafter
- Was discussed if there should be a registration fee, and what would it take for it to be free?
- Everyone was in favor of NOT having a registration fee and open to the public to attend
- Suggestions and questions will be brought back to the Recruiting Committee

Action: Kim A. to forward questions to Ann

8. EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION SUB-COMMITTEE

a) District School Boards Update – Kim A.

- Kim A stated that the Catholic Board is close to completing a 3rd party agreement with the Town of Fort Frances for the ELP- Extended Day.
- Nicole informs that the Town of Fort Frances is in negotiation with both District School Boards to provide child care services for Before and After School.

b) ELP Working Group – Heather

- No report available.

9) SPECIALIZED SERVICES COMMITTEE

a) Review Special needs Transition to School document - Deb & Ann

- Final copy with revisions has not yet been received from Janet Patterson

Action: Deb to speak with Janet regarding final version – Deb

b) 18 Month Well Baby Visits & Referral Pathway – Kim G.

- Members to review draft, Kim absent
- Defer to next meeting.

Action: Review draft document – Kim G.

10) BEST START HUB OPERATORS

a) Update – Leanne

- DACS, Bill & Chris have distributed a parent/caregiver survey to all Hubs
- Survey derived utilizing a sample from Sudbury and the FRP
- Deadline of June 30th and Thank You Gifts (Beach Ball) upon completion
- All sites were given a target based on their stats
- June 9th & 10th will be a face-to-face Hub Coordinator meeting in Dryden
- Letters to school principals have been sent out for potential partnership/outreach within the schools
- Hubs are currently updating protocols with such partners as Northwords and NWHU

11) CHILD CARE OPERATORS

a) Update – Nicole

- Nicole stated a meeting was held with both District School Boards to discuss site selection for the remaining implementation for the Early Learning Program
- As of April 1st, 2011. Kelly Massaro-Joblin, MEDU is responsible for all Child Care Centres on First Nations.

12) COMMUNITY COALITIONS

a) Update – Anne Marie

- Anne Marie was unable to attend. She will provide an update at the next meeting.
- Miranda Sigurdson has expressed an interest to sit on the Network as a rep for the coalition.

b) Atikokan Next Generation – Tammy

- Hop-a-thon last month which raised over a \$1000 for local foodbank
- The food bank identified a need for more diapers and the money raised will buy diapers
- Coalition will be discussing Safe Kids Week, child passenger safety has been identified and will be completing more child seat safety inspections in the Fall
- Programming together in the community to deliver the Rock and Read session and Rhyme Time, working with BS Hub Coordinator
- Concerns have been raised regarding Hub and outreach hours
- Outreach hours and Hub hours are both great but difficult for staff to do both
- Want to ensure the needs of the community are being met

c) Make the Connection – Leanne

- Training was held in Dryden last week.
- Minimum group of 16 for babies, 22 signed up two day training
- Toddler session, 28 signed up with prior training in baby segment
- Lots of enthusiasm to move forward.
- Training made possible by Best Start money from both District Networks
- BSN provide funding for training, working together instead of in competition
- Leanne is going to prepare a report on how the money was spent
- Deb brought up a concern from a source regarding no financial support for video cameras.
- Hubs are receiving enhancement dollars which could be utilized for such items
- Leanne will speak to Nikki and get back to Deb
- Discussion ensued whether the Network should or could support such requests, more discussion

Action: Discuss budgeting an amount for such requests - Deb

13) NORTHERN REGIONAL DAC NETWORK:

a) EDI Update – Bill

- Held off sharing EDI pending release of framework and strategic planning
- In process of distributing report to key partners in community: Ministry of Health, Family & Children's Services, all Principals with memo to offer presentation to staff.
- Strategic planning will discuss the role of the coalitions with regard as to how the information will be utilized, as well as the local planning organizations
- This will now be discussed in the Fall
- Education sector not well represented at coalition tables
- Both Networks received reports early
- Awaiting 2006 census data from the Ministry.
- Parent survey data will be analyzed and information will be distributed in the Fall

14) Ministry Update

a) MCYS – Sandra Russell

- Unavailable

b) MEDU- Heather/Kelly

- **March 28 & 29th Leadership and Partnership Meeting** – excellent participation; days did provide the time for relationship building – building shared understandings; the venue provided some time for establishing some 'on the ground commitment's to move the work together forward.

- the 3 follow up summary notes and slide decks were distributed; guest facilitators – Dr. Pascal and Jim Grieve and Dr. Stuart Shanker all extremely well received; next steps are in-process for future follow up with participants – Fall 2011

Full-Day Early Kindergarten Program Update

- **IMPLEMENTATION** – visits to programs continue by EO and CCA (Heather and Kelly) to all areas of the region to visit child care; BS Hubs and FDK; on-going support and resource regarding the FDELKP to board teams and sites
- **Evaluation of the FDELKP** – a comprehensive evaluation process, to be led by a team from Queen's University of early indicators of effective practice for the full-day kindergarten program, with a particular focus on student achievement and overall child development. The results of the evaluation will help improve the delivery of full-day kindergarten and refine the approach to implementation – underway this month in FDK classes with RR DSB and NWC DSB in Atikokan
- **Corporate Visits** – continue including recent visits in the Kenora area with ADM Jim Grieve
- **TRAINING** - Training for FDELKP teams occurred April 3, 4, 5, 2011 in Thunder Bay
- **Year 4 and 5 FDK site selection** – boards have submitted proposed sites and review process underway
- **Northern Rural Working Group** – first meeting held in March in Toronto; diverse membership of delegates including 3 Directors of Education from Thunder Bay region and also delegates from for example ROMA, NOSDA, CODE, OMSSA and additional delegates; to discuss issues and work collaboratively towards solutions

EY Sub-Committee – Sylvia Parker, RRDSB, will convene a June meeting. Work plan continues to on school / child care / BS Hub relationships and possible resources to support these important relationships within schools and communities.

Child Care Update:

Budget Submissions & Service Contracts due May 24th for all DSSAB's.

CCA will be attending a meeting with child care operators in Fort Frances the date not confirmed but tentatively for Monday, June 27th.

A teleconference was held with CCA and DSSAB Managers from Rainy River, Kenora and Thunder Bay. A lot of good information was shared around quality assurance,

website register and integrated services, some really wonderful things happening out in the region. Our hope is to have joint teleconference seasonally or more if needed.

15) Amalgamation with Kenora Best Start Network:

- Discussion ensued regarding possible amalgamation with the Kenora BSN and our options as a Network.
- Discussed any pros and cons to amalgamating and if this decision should be postponed until the new framework is released.
- Many pros to amalgamating such as many members sit on same Committees, many components are the same at both Network meetings, could share updates that are pertinent to each District, meet on a district level and have joint meetings quarterly.
- Some issues could be pertinent to specific district and would only be dealt with at a local level.
- Would like most meeting to be face-to-face or teleconferencing
- Priorize criteria between two networks, ie., pool finances, needs to be across both districts and vote should be based on common criteria
- Discuss partial amalgamation or full
- The partnership between both Best Start Networks is excellent and how, or if this could be affected if we come together as a whole
- Discussion to postpone until framework is released however, framework will not indicate whether it is a benefit or not to amalgamate but will give direction
- Due to more questions than answers, the members felt that at this time to postpone a vote on amalgamation
- Kim and Deb to speak with Kelly and Lynn to inform of members' decision

16) Next Meeting Date:

- **Next meeting to be held June 22, 2011 and bi-monthly thereafter**

17) Adjournment: Kim Anderson adjourned the meeting @ 2:45 p.m.