

	Date:	September 3, 2009
	Time:	10:00 am
	Location:	NWHU
	Chair:	Carolyn Skirten
	Recorder	Kim Gardiman
	:	
Type of meeting:	Rainy River District Best Start Network Meeting	
Participants:	Carolyn Skirten, Kim Gardiman, Ann Anderson, Mildred Beck, Nicole Cheetam, Deb Cousineau, Judy Lindholm, Leanne Mineault, (t/c)	
Regrets:	Kim Anderson, Tammy Faykes, Anne Marie Armstrong	
Absent:		

1) Welcome/Call to Order/Introductions

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

3) Approval of & Additions to the Agenda

- Additions:** h) Caring and Sharing
i) Correspondence

4) Review of Minutes:

Motion: Deb – “To accept the minutes from our meeting for June 4th, 2009”
Second: Ann Anderson
Moved: All in agreement

5) Ongoing Business:

a. Update – Action items

Ann mentioned that the RRDSB has engaged an outside contractor to deliver ABLLS and other supports including assessments, follow-up, provide teacher strategies, autism supports etc. The contractor is Jamie and Serpa Sterling. An invitation is extended to service providers to engage Jamie and Serpa Sterling and if interested, please contact Ann Anderson for more information.

b. Committee Reports

Communication Committee – Deb reviewed the Activity Plan developed by the Committee.

Caring & Sharing/Summer Celebration: Suggestion came from the Network that it may be a good idea to offer the Summer Celebration event every second year and alternate with the Kenora Best Start Network's Caring & Sharing event.

Action: Communication committee members bring the request/suggestion to the Kenora Best Start Network to consider alternating the Caring and Sharing event with the Summer Celebration and allow for participation from both Districts.

Development of Key Messages: Leanne reviewed the key messages developed by the communication committee for consideration:

1. Best Start is about community... Making Northwestern Ontario a great place to raise a child!
2. Best Start is about children... Helping them be the best they can be!
3. Best Start is about families... Parents are the first and most important teacher in a child's life!
4. Best Start is about connections... We are all in this together!

The Network supported and agreed with the above to be adapted as the RR Districts Best Start Network key messages.

Key messages are being brought to the Kenora District Network to see if they will adapt them and will allow for consistency throughout both Districts.

National Child Day Poster Project: Network has changed the age group from JK – 8 to ages 0 – 6 years.

Ann Anderson will lead for the RR District and Deb will participate on the team.

National Day of the Child – radio campaign: Communication committee will be the lead.

Action: Ann will check with Darlene Madill to see if she wants to be on the team.

Book Coupons:

Action: Leanne will work with Anne Ainsworth and Chris Maltais to develop an implementation team for the Book Coupon activity.

Leanne asked if there was a budget for completing tasks identified in the Activity Plan.

Network approved \$7000 for planning and agreed that this can be revisited on an on-going basis if needed.

Action: Team leads are responsible for bringing a projected budget for individual activities to the Best Start Communications Committee as soon as possible.

Early Learning Conference:

Action: Leanne will work with Wanda Gordon to develop a planning team for this event.

Children’s Services Fair: Planning team for this event will be Network and Coalition members.

Action: Coalition member representatives on the Best Start Network are asked to bring information regarding the Children’s Services Fair to their respective Coalitions and ask for support on the planning team.

Newspaper/Flyer Inserts and Doctor Promotion: No specific dates selected for these events, however, will await more information regarding Dr. Pascal’s report and keep the activities on the radar for the future.

(See attached Activity Plan)

- c. **Financial Update:** Mildred Beck provided a financial update, reminding the Network that we have spent limited dollars to date. The Network outlined projected costs for activities for the remainder of the year.

Expenditures for 2009 are as follows and were approved by the Network:

	2009 Budget	2009 YTD
	\$20,900.00	\$20,900.00
Meeting Exp. (incl. teleconf.)	\$ 2,900.00	\$ 500.43
Web Site Development	\$ 2,000.00	-
Best Start Communications Plan <i>supports for implementation of 2009/10 Activity Plan including advertising, poster campaign book coupons, children's services fair, etc.</i>	\$ 7,000.00	-
Best Start Regional	\$	\$

Conference <i>(end of October/09 in Sudbury/TO)</i>	6,000.00	-
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	\$	\$
EDI Conference - Wpg. <i>(275.00 reg. by Oct 3/09 plus hotel, travel for Nov 16 to 18th/09)</i>	3,000.00	-
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YTD Surplus (Deficit)	\$0.00	\$20,399.57

*See attached RR District Best Start Network Planning & Development Year-to-Date Report.

d. Ministry Update: Not available.

e. Coalition Updates/Reports: Not available.

6) New Business

a. SWOT Analysis – Response to Sandra Russell: SWOT analysis has been completed per MCYS request. Ministry has also requested response from the Child Care Supervisor’s Network. Leanne mentioned that Sarah S. has begun to gather the information request from her Child Care Supervisors.

Action: Mildred will connect with Supervisors in the RR District to gather information by the end of the month.

b. Implementation of the Pascal Recommendations: The Network as a whole is not comfortable moving forward with the request until we receive direction from MCYS and assurance that all applicable ministries are informed and on board. At this time we feel we do not have all the information required. Although we support concepts of Dr. Pascal’s report we do have questions and require clarification and direction.

Action: Deb will draft a letter to Sandra Russell to be submitted with the SWOT analysis which will outline the above discussions. Network members will receive a copy prior to submission to MCYS.

c. Best Start Hub Updates: Leanne reported that the Rainy River Best Start Hub/Learn, Laugh and Play Children’s Centre held its grand opening in August. Mildred stated that the event was very well attended by the community. The facility is beautiful and enrollment has already increased since the new site has opened.

d. UEY Presentations to Coalitions: Leanne mentioned that the DAC's would like to present the UEY to the coalitions and share the data in regards to how communities are doing. The DAC's would also like to meet with the Network to review the EDI results in November and will take approximately 45 minutes.

Action: Chair will place the EDI results on the agenda for the meeting scheduled for November, 2009.

e. Ministry of Education planning for all day JK learning: Ann Anderson spoke with Jack McMaster, Director of Education for the RRDSB regarding full day JK. At this time, Jack has not received any direction from the Ministry of Education. Ann stated that a meeting is scheduled for kindergarten and early years leaders within education at the end of October to speak about capacity building. Ann will learn more about this meeting at the end of September.

The Network spoke of the lack of funding for capital development of Child Care in Schools. Mildred mentioned that the DSSAB approached MCYS to inquire about capital infrastructure dollars for Robert Moore and was told by Sandra Russell that there are no dollars available. Ann stated that the RRDSB requested funding as well for child care in the new school build at Robert Moore and were refused. The Network expressed frustration in the lack of resources available to support requests from School Boards to develop child care in their schools.

f) Assets in Action: 40 Developmental Assets

Action: Kim will provided information at the meeting in November.

g) Transition Plan – Ann asked if preschool programs are on board with how they are transitioning children to school from their agencies. It was identified that members have a varying level of participation at this time. Some programs have been a bit derailed once the Report on Early Learning was provided and will be looking at the transition piece now for implementation in the near future.

h) Caring and Sharing: Kenora District is holding their Caring and Sharing event on October 3rd. Invitations were provided to the Network and discussions were held regarding costs to attend.

The Network agreed that mileage will be provided to partners in need at the rate of \$ 0.45 per km.

Action: Mildred will send out mileage claim forms to be submitted to the DSSAB for reimbursement through RR Best Start Network planning dollars.

***Please strongly encourage ride sharing!**

i) Correspondence: Ann as the EID person for the RRDSB was approached by the Peel School Board and was provided the Toronto First Duty, 2006-2008

Report. She also received another document which outlines how other countries have implemented early years.

Action: Ann will send the above documents to the Network Members.

Letters from MCYS and the Offord Centre for Child Studies regarding the Enhanced 18 Month Well-Baby visit were reviewed by the Network. At this time the Network will not be submitting proposals, however, it was recommended that our role will be to develop an Early Child Development and Parenting Resource System referral pathway illustrating the organization of local early child development and parenting resources currently functioning in our community/District.

Action: Carolyn will send a letter to the Family Health Team asking for a representative to attend the Network Meeting November 5th/09

Action: Deb and Kim will work on a draft referral pathway for the Rainy River District to be reviewed at our November meeting.

7. Other Business – N/A

8. Next Meeting Date – November 5th, 2009 (10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the NWHU)

9. Meeting Adjournment