

 <p style="text-align: center;">MINUTES</p>	Date:	April 17, 2008
	Time:	10:45 a.m.
	Location:	NWHU Board Room
	Chair:	Donna Cutler
	Recorder:	Teresa Larson
Type of meeting:	Rainy River District Best Start Network Meeting	
Participants:	Judith Lindholm, Donna Cutler, Teresa Larson, Ann Anderson, Leanne Minneault, Kim Gardiman, Kim Anderson, Sharon Preston (member EFTO)	
Guests:		
Regrets:	Phyllis Kellar, Anne Marie Armstrong, Carolyn Skirten, Sandra Russell	
Absent:		

- 1) Welcome and Introductions
 - Discussion about the Terms of Reference for attending meetings. The Chair will speak to members not able to attend. Maybe we should look at expanding our membership; this could be addressed in the Work Plan.
 - Kim Anderson suggested we involve the principal of St. Michael's School.
 - There is sufficient space available in the school to hold meetings.

- 2) Review of March 6, 2008 Minutes: Accepted as presented.

- 3) Approval of agenda – Additions: Update on Proposed Outreach, New School Build
 - Best Start Newsletter

- 4) Old Business:

Action items from March 6, 2008:

 - Membership for the transition planning committee: Ann Anderson reported members are: Anglea Mihicuk, Carol Derkson, Wanda Gordon. Next meeting is scheduled for Apr. 21st, they will discuss the ECE/K teacher exchange, Summer Celebration August 2007, speakers that were well received and breakout sessions with the school/daycare regarding routines. Results were the participants would like to visit each other's work spaces. ie, school/daycare. They would also like further training and definitely continue the "Summer Celebration". Best Start is looking at funding the exchange of teacher/ECE staff. Ann went to her Director of the RRDSB and he has agreed to support this initiative. St. Michael's Elementary School will not be able to participate in the exchange this year due to staffing issues.
 - Ann will speak to the JK/SK teachers if they are interested they would apply to volunteer to work with the ECE workers, hopefully this happens before the end of school in June. This will be reviewed at the Summer Celebration in August 2008, hoping to make this a seamless entry/transition from daycare to school. This request for the exchange was from the JK/SK Teachers and the ECE workers

- to help with the child's transition.
- Kim notified us that regarding the capital dollars deadline the extension date is now March 31, 2009.

Committee Reports:

Recruiting Partners: Ann Anderson

- Ann has made quite a few contacts. On the April 21st meeting it is anticipated that there will be 8-10 people attending.
- Invites will go out to Principal's to attend the Summer Celebration.
- Sandra Russell from the Ministry indicated there is a new document on ECE Curriculum.
- "Schools Cool" program works with Daycares/EC educators, it is a transition program. Train people on the "Schools Cools Program". One day training workshops, ie: involving the uninformed parent. No cost to come and talk about the program. There would be a cost for a ½ day workshop. Booklet "Schools Cool Outcomes & Kindergarten Expectations". Workshop geared for children ages 3-5. Info. is available on the website: www.schoolscool.org
- Committee is looking at 3 different workshops. They also will be talking about the ECE/K teacher exchange for the summer celebration.
- Donna C. indicated that nurses are trained in working with the hard to reach families and the information would be ready for the Summer Celebration.

Communication: Leanne Mineault

- The press release was well recd. by the HUB Co-ord and also appeared in the local newspapers.
- There have been some delays in the Signage. We have been working with different companies and we are ready to place the order next week. It takes up to 10 days to process. Also looking at making sure the true colours are coming out for the logo. The signage is not costing as much as anticipated. Two different sizes of signs for the building outside are available. 12 x 8 or 18 x 24... Corragated plastic signs will be made for indoor use.

ACTION: Judith L. to speak to her executive director regarding the signage if it should be in Ojibway or Cree.

- Banners are also available in 2 sizes.. 3 ft x 6ft and 3ft x 8ft.. Beststart logo on the banners.
- Lightweight sandwich boards available with the logo and dry erase boards.
- Window Clings (decals) done in white are also available in 9 x 12 or 14 x 10.
- Forms have been sent out to the HUBS as to what product they'd like to have.
- "Child Care Connection" conference to be held in Kenora, April 23-24th @ Lakeside Inn, invitees have been EC Educators, Education (Schools), Health Unit and other Community partners.

ACTION: Rainy River District Communications Committee will develop Summer Celebration ECE/K Teacher exchange information and invitations.

Financial Update: Kim Gardiman

- \$175.18 spent so far in planning dollars, financially we're okay.
- \$20,929 is our usual allocation.

ACTION: Summer Celebration – estimated costs to be submitted to the committee.

Municipal Update: Kim Gardiman

- A presentation was made, no response to date, we are looking for a representative.
- The Rainy River District Municipal Assoc. sent a letter to the Ministry to support Beststart to have annualized funding.

Ministry Update: Kim Gardiman for Sandra Russell

- Extension for Beststart HUB funding to Mar.31/09.
- Updating template, briefly comment on “challenges and best practices”.
- Charts need to be translated with our planning dollars.
- Donna C. will be attending a meeting on May 5-6/08 for Healthy Babies/Healthy Children and she bring back information to the Network regarding the MCYS provincial “vision”.
- For the sign off the network committee will pass a resolution that we agree on the update.

Hub Update: Leanne Mineault

- Atikokan opened its HUB on March 12, 2008.
- Fort Frances will be April 18, 2008 from 10 -2 with cake cutting @ 11:30.
- Emo –Apr.25th 10-noon with cake cutting @11:00.
- Aboriginal Hub and Rainy River will not be until the fall of 2008, tentative Sept.
- In service visits with the staff have been good. Staff liked hearing information on “Best Start”. Staff appreciated the promo materials.
- Staff talking to parents and asking sets of questions about the HUBS.
- Presented Mar.18/08 to Atikokan The Next Generation Community Coalition
- Presented Mar. 17/08 to Coming Together With Kids Coalition Meeting in Fort Frances.
- Feedback from the presentations thought the HUB Staff was doing screening and assessments.
- Two more community coalition meetings to be presented.
- Best Start Newsletter: Due out March 2008, will now be April. Space is left for some information on the Summer Celebration.

ACTION: Advise the Ministry of Children and Youth Services that people are experiencing difficulties in accessing the expert panel reports from the website.

- 5) Service Plan Update: Worked on 2008/09 Best Start Update
 - Table 1.2 Thematic Status: each agency to update information and forward to Leanne by May 6th, please c.c. to Kim Gardiman.
 - **General consensus that all network partners don't have any opportunity to provide feedback/updates for "key activities for 2008/09"**.

- 6) Review of NWHU Hospital Packages and Blind Low Vision Toy Kits: Donna Cutler
 - Welcome Baby, a bag of goodies for the new mom through the Hospital, included is "The Early Years Book", magnets (Healthy Babies/Healthy Children), key messages such as immunization, vision and hearing screening, and information about the services available in the community. Breastfeeding and breast milk substitute information is provided on a case-by-case basis, depending on the feeding method.
 - Blind Low Vision Toy Kit: Various toys housed in the Health Units in the communities. This kit provided to families on the BLV program, with use and recommendations guided by the Family Support Worker or Early Childhood Visions Consultant. BLV covers children from birth to school entry, whereas CNIB works with all ages.

- 7) Correspondence:
 - Ann Anderson brought up information about Dr. Charles Pascal.
 - Email from Nickel Belt DSAB/ Best Start Network requesting permission to develop communications bases on our information sheets for front line workers. Permission granted, asking them to share what they develop and recognize the source.
 - Info: Small Projects Enabling Accessibility Grant, due April 30, 2008 estimated funding for up to \$50,000.

- 8) New Business:
 - New School Build: Ann Anderson – Robert Moore School. The School Board is considering building a new school and they thought there might be funding for daycare space and it would be part of the plan. Ministry of Education said NO. Sandra Russell from the Ministry also indicated no funds were available.

ACTION: Network to send a letter to Ministry of Education and Ministry of Children and Youth Services inquiring as to whether there is any Capital Funding for child care space in the new Robert Moore School in Fort Frances. This is an opportunity for a one stop shop for parents. c.c. letters to RRDSB –Jack McMaster and Chair of the Board (Dan Belluz).

Proposed Outreach: Fort Frances Children's Complex (Best Start Hub) is pursuing space to provide outreach in an apartment on 6th and Webster in Fort Frances.

- 9) Next meeting date: June 5th at 10:30 am – NWHU Fort Frances, adjourned at 2:00 p.m.