

 <p style="text-align: center;">MINUTES</p>	Date:	October 17, 2011
	Time:	10:00 am
	Location:	NWHU-Fort Frances 396 Scott Street
	Chair:	Deb Cousineau
	Recorder	Jennifer Kivimäki
Type of meeting:	Rainy River District Best Start Network Meeting	
Participants:	Ann Anderson, Cheryl Bodnar, Deb Cousineau, Kim Anderson, Nicole Cheetham, Leanne Mineault, Angela Mihichuk, Miranda Sigurdson Via Teleconference – Heather Exley	
Regrets:	Anne-Marie Armstrong, Kim Gardiman, Kelly Massaro-Joblin, Bill Reynolds, Carolyn Skirten, Christina Maltais, Tammy Faykes	
Absent:	Margie Bettiol, Lauris Werenko	

1) Welcome/Call to Order/Introductions

Deb Cousineau called the meeting to order.

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

3) Approval of & Additions to the Agenda

Approved: Nicole Cheetham
Seconded: Ann Anderson

“That the Agenda be approved.”

All in Favour: Carried.

4) Approval of Minutes – May 19, 2011:

Approved: Nicole Cheetham
Seconded: Kim Anderson

5) RAINY RIVER DISTRICT BEST START NETWORK:

a) Network Structure & Function Template – Deb Cousineau

- Deb indicated they are holding off sending executive letters as the whole model was based on Sudbury’s and in speaking with Sudbury the Structure and Function with Executive members is not functioning well.
- Kim A. thinks we are small enough, if there was a decision that was needed from a director, it would be easy enough to seek.
- All committee members present felt at this time it is best to remove the BS Executive Committee from the Structure and Function template

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

Action: Update template with removal of Best Start Executive – Cheryl

b) Aboriginal Planning & Engagement – Deb

- \$9,700 of the Best Start Planning money was allocated to aboriginal planning.
- Leanne asked if Leesha Mainville (from 4 C's Complex) was contacted to represent the Aboriginal Engagement as she stated she would be very interested in representing. Angela said she would forward contact info for Leesha to Cheryl.
- Network is planning on having a meeting to invite all aboriginal partners to strengthen relationship for services for children with a common goal
- Healthy Baby/Healthy Children on First Nations should be invited as well as education counselors and Brent Tookenay for the First Nations Education.
- A replacement for the representative from Weechi-it-tewin should be discussed further to determine if the current rep can send someone in her place.
- Deb suggested invite all First Nations to send a representation to the meeting.
- Kim suggested contacting Brent Tookenay, as he has connections with people to strengthen relationships on how we can link our services.
- Angela offered the use of Head Start facilities to hold a meeting, and suggested Fridays would be a good day as the children do not attend on Friday.
- Discussed service mandate as the \$9,700 in funds does include all aboriginal children on/off reserve. All children enter the same school system and we do work with all children in the school system.
- Ann A. said she will bring some Aboriginal Resources to the next meeting.
- After discussion it was decided to request Leesha Mainville from the Four C's Day Care to sit on the Best Start Network for aboriginal representation.

Action: Contact Leesha Mainville & Brent Tookenay to pursue contacts for meeting.

c) Innovation Fund Project – Deb

- Request for proposals was across Ontario
- 56 proposals received, 16 accepted
- Received confirmation our network's proposal was accepted
- Plan is to create a system navigation "champion" where information on all programs is readily available.
- Develop a blog or social media for professionals to access for all services available for children and families within the District
- Blog for parents to learn of information on services, questions, upcoming workshops, etc.
- Looking at setting up a blog for information to access services.
- Social media, all services input information on services and staff
- We were allotted \$30,000 to do this project to the end of March 2012.
- Leanne suggested we need someone who has an understanding of the services/PR/ or advertising experience
- The onus would be on the service providers to make sure all the information is up to date and current
- Leanne said she is sure that once the project is all set up, Bill and Chris would be able to assist.

- Deb stated that once in place, it will be a standing agenda item at all network meetings.
- Ann A suggested that everyone go back to an IT person and ask if they know of someone who could undertake this project. She also said she would be the person who the IT person could contact if they had questions for the Network, Bill was also suggested.

Action: Deb & Cheryl agreed to work on an ad once the job description is determined.

d) Best Start Work Plan – Deb

- Include what was identified today as goals, and review at next meeting.
- All goals were accomplished
- Four major projects currently working on:
 - Innovation Fund
 - Aboriginal Planning & Engagement
 - Recruiting Partners-Summer Celebration/Block Party
 - 18 Month Well Baby

Action: Bring forward to next meeting - Deb

e) Strategic Planning- Deb

- Due to heavy commitments with projects and specifically the Aboriginal Planning dollars the Strategic Planning between Kenora and Rainy River Networks is postponed indefinitely

f) Children's Charter of Rights- Deb

Action: FIRST thing to bring forward to next meeting

g) 2011 Bursaries – Cheryl

- Six - \$300 bursaries were awarded to students pursuing a secondary studies in the field of education or early childhood.
- Once the students have confirmed second semester enrolment a cheque will be sent to them.

h) Budget Review- Cheryl

- Budget to date was reviewed
- In the 2012 budget, a specific amount will be set aside for special requests from children's services providers
- Partners will be made aware of monies available and will be awarded on first come, first served
- Community of Rainy River made a special request for Make the Connection program. \$200 was approved.

Action: Bring forward in December meeting for 2012 budget – Cheryl

i) Election of Network Co-Chairs

- Nominations for Chair and Co-Chair were held, no nominations brought forward
- Kim Anderson & Deb Cousineau agreed to continue on for another term
- Leanne & Ann Anderson said they would consider Chair for next term

6) COMMUNICATION SUB-COMMITTEE

a) Communications Update – Cheryl

- There was a Communications Meeting last week, but only Leanne & Cheryl were online for the meeting. The meeting has been rescheduled to November
- Discussion ensued on the final draft of posters, would we use surplus dollars to purchase more bases for the posters?

Action: Poster Completion - Deb

7) RECRUITING PARTNERS SUB-COMMITTEE

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

- Ann A suggested waiting until January to pursue exchange program as she feels there will be a better response in the new year

Action: Discuss at January meeting – Kim A.

b) Summer Celebration- Ann

- Positive feedback on the Ooey Gooey Lady, Lisa Murphy!
- Ann will probably just choose the same people who were on the last committee to do the next summer celebration
- Nicole suggested she would like to have her Resource Teacher, Karly to become part of the team
- The idea of having Lisa Murphy come back, and possibly have a \$20 registration fee was suggested
- Dr. Stuart Shanker was also discussed to be part of a possible 2 day session
- Kim A suggested a letter be drafted and sent to all partners to determine amount of support for the Summer Celebration

Action: Seek options and pricing for speakers for next Summer Celebration - Ann

8. EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM SUB-COMMITTEE

a) Building Our Best Future Update - Deb

- New website available
- Online collaboration - Ontario.ca/beststart
- Innovation Fund outlined
- Re-engineering speech & language services

b) Speech/Language Demo Site – Deb/Ann

- Rainy River District one of seven selected sites.
- Funding available for one year
- Deb/Lonna Oster & Ann spoke to building the best future.
- They are developing a service delivery
- Ann will be sending out a proposal for service delivery
- Lonna Oster will be the Early Learning Speech Pathologist for JK, SK, Gr.1
- Northwest Catholic School Board was asked to partner; they declined

c) District School Board Update – Ann & Kim A.

- Early Learning/FDK implemented this September at Robert Moore & North Star
- JW Walker/Donald Young in 2013
- Remaining schools will offer FDK in 2014
- Early Learning/FDK implemented this September for the Northwest Catholic Board was St. Michaels

d) ELP Working Group Update – Heather

9) SPECIALIZED SERVICES COMMITTEE

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

- Document to our knowledge has not yet been finalized for both Kenora and Rainy River Districts

Action: Deb to speak with Sarah to determine status of document

b) 18 Month Well Baby Visits & Referral Pathway – Deb

- Julia Gross called to inform there are four pilot sites in Ontario, one of them being in Thunder Bay for the enhanced 18 month well baby visit
- She offered to support a network plan to work with physicians
- Dr. Clinton is available to assist the committee in developing a workplan for roll out of 18 Month Well Baby
- Julia will inform Deb of Dr. Clinton's schedule, possibly January of 2012
- If anyone interested in sitting on the specialized services committee contact Deb
- Current members are Kim G., Deb, Kim A., Ann and Leanne

Action: Bring forward for date with Dr. Jean Clinton - Deb

10) BEST START HUB OPERATORS

a) Update – Leanne

- Face to face meeting for Best Start Hub Coordinators is scheduled for November 3 and 4th in Fort Frances
- Leanne reported no further updates on the Best Start Child and Family Centres
- Will continue to work with Hubs and move forward

11) CHILD CARE OPERATORS

a) Update – Nicole

- Nicole informed that Extended Day Program for FDK and school age children at Robert Moore and St. Michael's has been implemented
- Two groups at Robert Moore, one group of 15 and another group of 10
- One group of 10 at St. Michael's with a wait list
- Nicole also informed that due to the school age program moving to the schools the Complex is utilizing the school age room as a Resource Room
- Discussion regarding offering infant care has taken place and will be considered at a later date when need has been determined

12) COMMUNITY COALITIONS

a) Coming Together for Kinds Update – Miranda

- Miranda updated on the Passport Tour which took place in August with a total of about 25 participants involved
- Positive feedback about the tour which took place with a few suggestions from the parents
- Parents/caregiver would have liked a longer time period at each site and enjoyed viewing the sites.
- It was discussed about doing tour again next year but perhaps at an earlier date such as June to give the parents an opportunity to think over the summer their options for fall enrolment
- A meeting is going to be held next Monday to debrief from the tour.

- Miranda stated the Friendship Centre had applied for funding through the Moffit Foundation, and received money to purchase 42 car seats as well as breast pumps
- Tracy Lockman is the contact for more information
- An Ultimate Block Party in conjunction with Summer Celebration was also discussed to promote play base learning

b) Atikokan Next Generation – Tammy

- No update available at this time.

13) NORTHERN REGIONAL DAC NETWORK:

a) EDI Update – Bill

- Bill informed a meeting is scheduled next week with Health Unit to discuss planning

Action: Carry forward to next meeting - Bill

14) Ministry Update

a) MCYS – Margie

- Sandra Russell is currently working in another capacity with the Ministry of Children and Youth
- Margie Bettiol is currently replacing Sandra
- No update provided

b) MEDU- Heather

- Full day Kindergarten year 4 planning in review, and year 5 capital plan is due to Capital Branch by October 28. Year 2 implementation continues to value highly the excellent implementation pieces.
- Early learning Jim Greaves will have opportunities to visit and view the sites across Northwestern Ontario.
- Update on Laurie McNellis, lead from corporate office
- When would next meeting date be, as she would like to be involved via teleconference.
- Ann asked if there was going to be any Early Learning Training in the near future; however no training scheduled as of now, possibly in the Spring
- Discussion ensued regarding child care licensing will be transferring from MCYS to MEDU as of January 1, 2012
- Heather stated she would send a copy of the Learning Framework

16) Next Meeting Date:

- **Next meeting:**
- **Wednesday November 30th @ 8:30 A.M &**

- **Tuesday December 20th @ 8:30 AM**

17) Adjournment: Deb Cousineau adjourned the meeting @ 2:45 p.m.