

 <p><b>MINUTES</b></p>	<b>Date:</b>	February 18, 2010
	<b>Time:</b>	10:00 am
	<b>Location:</b>	RRDSSAB Ambulance Base
	<b>Chair:</b>	Deb Cousineau
	<b>Recorder:</b>	Cheryl Bodnar
<b>Type of meeting:</b>	<b>Rainy River District Best Start Network Meeting</b>	
<b>Participants:</b>	Ann Anderson, Mildred Beck, Phyllis Kellar, Deb Cousineau, Judy Lindholm, Leanne Mineault, Kim Gardiman, Kim Anderson, Tammy Faykes (teleconference)	
<b>Regrets:</b>	Carolyn Skirten, Sandra Russell, Carol-Lynne Oldale	
<b>Absent:</b>	Anne Marie Armstrong, Donna Cutler, Lauris Werenko	

### 1) Welcome/Call to Order/Introductions

Deb Cousineau called the meeting to order.

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

Ann Anderson read the vision statement.

### 3) Approval of & Additions to the Agenda

Add under 16) New Business:

Kim Gardiman to report on the January 19, 2010 Meeting with the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) and the Association of Local Public Health Authorities (ALPHA).

**Moved by:** Mildred Beck

**Seconded by:** Ann Anderson

“That the Agenda be approved with additions as noted.”

**All in Favour:** Carried.

### 4) Presentations/Delegation:

EDI Conference Material - Deb, Leanne & Ann – **Move to March Meeting**

### 5) Approval of Minutes:

January 14, 2010 Minutes - Page 2, Item 3) Coordination of ELECT Training,

Paragraph 3 noted that “Sandra Russell advised that Dr. Pascal is in the process of combining the ELECT and current JK/SK curriculum.....”,

Ann Anderson advised that it is the “Ministry of Education that is in the process.....”

Mildred advised that as Sandra had said Dr. Pascal rather than the Ministry of Education, minutes will be left as recorded with Ann’s clarification noted.

**Moved by:** Kim Anderson

**Seconded by:** Judy Lindholm

“To accept the minutes from the meeting of January 14/10 as presented.”

**All in Favour:** Carried.

## 6) Business Arising From Minutes:

### a) Action: 18 Month Well Baby Visits – Donna – Move to March Meeting

b) **Action: Assets in Action** – Donna – Kim reported on Donna’s behalf and gave a handout to members regarding the Assets in Action distributed by Search Institute, which discusses the Five Action Strategies. Search Institute has identified building blocks of healthy development for young people. There are 40 Developmental Assets defined as External and Internal Categories. The report also explains the 40 Developmental Assets for Toddlers, Middle Childhood and Adolescents.

Discussion ensued as to whether to share this document on the website for the public or not. It was felt that the document is more centre based and will not be shared at this time with the public. The Ministry of Education will be presenting the Assets in Action document and will be holding workshops in the near future within the two districts. Kim Gardiman advised that “Assets in Action” is not a Health Unit Document but we will ascertain if the document is something that can be shared. Leanne will discuss further with Kim G. prior to sharing this document with the Best Start Hubs.

c) **Action: EDI Data Report** – Leanne - Bill and Chris currently working on draft report and completing community profiles that will be included. The report should be available to distribute in April.

## 7) Committee Reports

### i. Communications:

**Children’s Services Fair Update** – Kim G & Deb

Kim has met with Coming Together for Kids to discuss the Children's Services Fair. Each coalition will determine when to hold the fair in their community. Rainy River, Emo, and Fort Frances will each hold a fair, there have been dollars allocated for advertising, food, and each community will hold a raffle. Kim will send out document on what has been approved to date.

**Action:** Kim to update on what has been approved for the Children's Services Fair across the District at the next meeting.

**Radio Ads and Website** – Deb advised that four different radio ads have been finalized to begin airing February 22<sup>nd</sup> to relay the Best Start Network Key messages and services. Radio stations in the north will be tagged for the Kenora District and stations in Fort Frances and Atikokan for the Rainy River District. Ads will also be run in the local papers, announcing the launch of the two websites for both Districts.

**Action:** Mildred - Samples of the Radio Ads to be presented at the next Network meeting for members to hear. Advertisements to be placed in local papers re the website.

#### **Poster Contest Finalists** – Ann

Ann reported the poster contest, "Things I Do With My Family," received 193 entrants with 91 entries from Grade 1 children. The top five from the three categories have determined and the Network members will vote on the finalists to determine the placings. Ann has purchased a number of books, games and movies as the prizes were advertised as family theme night packages. Ann will put the top entrants and pictures in the paper providing there is money to do so within the Communications budget.

The winning posters will be on display at the Early Learning and Child Care connection Conference in April. The possibility of having the winning posters made into placemats as discussed in prior Communications meetings was discussed and referred to the 2010 Communications Planning.

**Action:** Ann will award prizes to the top entrants and place advertisement of in local paper if funding allows in the budget of \$500.00 for the poster contest. Communications Committee will determine if making of placemats will be feasible in the 2010 Planning Budget.

**Decals and Partners** - Mildred reports there are a large number of decals remaining and that we need to have a broader call. To continue promoting the Best Start Hubs a second call for decal applications was discussed. Leanne stated she reminded Best Start Hubs to submit applications but the request may have been overlooked with others. Leanne reported CDC ordered decals for their entrances but also for different spaces where families receive services i.e. speech services etc. All partners

should be included however no hospitals, medical or mental health clinics applied. Some ideas for better distribution were:

- posting the application on our website;
- all services for children 0 – 6 be sent a decal, regardless of application
- Send doctors more info such as decals and prescription pads
- 18 month well baby visit
- Need to have some champion doctors who will do 18 month baby visits and direct the family to BS hubs
- Many members feel that due to doctor shortage that Best Start is not on their radar and therefore hard to get on board
- Send letter to doctors with decal and explain why we feel they are champions
- Dr. Jean Clinton has agreed to meet with doctors who have an interest in child services
- A Vermilion Bay doctor has written prescriptions to parents to read to their child and to visit the Best Start Hub
- Send information on a monthly basis and be strategic in planning for the year ahead
- We need different strategies for each community

**Action:** This item will be brought back to the Communications Committee in March for further discussion.

## ii. Recruiting Partners:

**Development of Continuing Education Program – Kim A. & Ann – Deferred to March meeting to allow members time to meet.**

**Summer Celebration** - development has not started due to the Early Learning Program being implemented in the fall, as training will be happening for ELP.

Members felt it is important that the Network write to both school boards and extend our assistance with both Atikokan schools for ELP training. Ann reports that the Principals of both Atikokan schools have been asked to provide a 1.5 hour session on the first day back to school for the JK/SK teachers. Heather Campbell has asked Ann to bring this info to the Network table to discuss if the Best Start initiative can assist with training. The Network team felt that it would be great if they could provide a webinar session to bring all the schools and teachers/ECEs together to discuss the upcoming year and curriculum. It was felt that Toronto First Duty could assist in sharing their experiences and the benefits of the program.

As “Self Regulation” is a current area of concern with Child Care Providers and Teachers, it was suggested that perhaps a Webinar on that topic would be very beneficial to JK/SK teachers and ECEs.

**Action:** Ann will speak to her contacts at Toronto First Duty to see if there are any training that could be available for a 1.5 hour session at the start of the first day of school in September 2010 with the JK/SK Teachers and ECEs.

## 8) Financial Update:

Mildred presented a revised 2010 Budget and YTD financial report. The Budget revision was due to a calculation error in the original Jan 14 Budget as presented.

**Moved by:** Ann Anderson

**Seconded by:** Judy Lindholm

“To accept the revised 2010 Rainy River Best Start Network Budget and current Year-to-Date report.”

**All in Favour:** Carried

Leanne advised that from the Kenora Best Start Network has requested that the Communications Committee update the activity plan to define dollars required for the coming budget year. If necessary due to funding dollars available for communications, the activity plan would be redefined to be accommodated by the 2010 Planning Budgets.

**Action:** Planning Committee - Activity Plan to be updated with estimated costs for 2010 to be presented at the next Network Meeting.

## 9) Ministry Update – Sandra Russell:

**Action:** Regional Best Start Network Meeting, March 23-25, 2010, Sault Ste. Marie – Delegates

**Regional Meeting** - has been confirmed for the above noted dates. March 23<sup>rd</sup> is for Child Care Managers, 24<sup>th</sup> for Best Start Networks, Child Care Managers, and Best Start Hub leads; and the 25<sup>th</sup> is for Best Start Hub lead meeting. Sandra is looking for agenda items and is open for ideas on discussions for the meeting. Some ideas were:

- speak to how our Communications Committee is planning
- discussion with the Ministry of their intentions of what they are proposing to implement from Dr. Pascal's report and timeframes
- display booth of Best Start Kenora/Rainy River District and how the Districts are working together

- request an update from the three Best Start pilot project sites, specifically Timiskaming as this location best mirrors our district. We need to ensure the Ministry takes our small communities into consideration, hubs in all schools not a viable option due to geographic and population. Satellite options are more feasible.

**Action:** Network Chairs to submit to Sandra our suggestions for the Regional meeting per our discussions above.

Best Start Hub leads should be Mildred, Sarah and Leanne to attend as the OEYC rep. Leanne will be attending on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> and will be using her program budget. Deb will attend on the 24<sup>th</sup> as Chair for the Best Start Network. It was noted that Kenora would be sending their Chair and Co-Chair. Tammy Faykes will be asked to attend as Atikokan will be the ELP site and will attend jointly as a Network Member and Chair of the Atikokan Non Profit Day Care. Deb will send her the information and she will let the Network know her availability next week. Phyllis will also consider attending as a Network Member and Best Start Hub representative once she has checked her calendar.

**Action:** Finalize who will be attending March 23 to 25<sup>th</sup> conference from the Rainy River District Best Start Network.

## **10) Coalition Update – Coming Together for Kids & Atikokan Next Generation:**

**Action:** Request to Coming Together for Kids re: BSN Rep–Deb - Move to March meeting.

**Atikokan Next Generation** – Tammy reports Board meeting next week. Issues up for discussion will be the transportation money received from the municipality for vouchers is running out.

There are proposed changes to the DNA that will affect ECE's. Mildred informed that all proposed changes to the DNA have been sent to the Child Care Managers for their perusal/comments and a combined response will be sent to the Ministry. Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care website has many discussions on the proposed changes.

Following up on the safety for families who are traveling out of town to have their baby delivered will be discussed further.

DACS have set a date of March 22<sup>nd</sup> to present the EDI data to Coming Together for Kids and Atikokan Next Generation on March 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **11) Best Start Hub Update: Leanne**

Leanne and Deb reported that at the last Best Start Hub Coordinators meeting the service protocols between the Preschool Speech & Hearing, Blind/Low Vision, HBHC, had been reviewed and mailed for signatures.

Leanne reported that next on the list is the Ontario Works Protocols.

Josh Valley with Independent Living Resource Centre attended the Hub Coordinators meeting via teleconference to discuss the Canadian Education Savings Program. Canada Learning Bonds provide free money to parents for their children. Discussion ensued regarding Josh attending Best Start Hubs to inform parents of the Bonds available. Josh could speak to parents after a scheduled program.

All book coupons have been distributed by the Early Literacy Specialists to service providers that made request. Hubs should now start to receive coupons from families to redeem for a childrens book. Coupons will be valid until the end of April.

Deb advised that coupons were given to all children on her caseload.

## 12) Website Update:

**Action: Video/Slideshow** – It was decided to refer back to the Communications Committee to determine if First Duty has already produced a video we could use, We should not re-invent the wheel if resources are available. A slide show is less time consuming and pictures of families utilizing our local, JK/SK, child care and hub services would be as effective. It is unknown at this time if the Ministry plans to develop a video for the implementation of the Early Learning Program.

The Best Start website is being updated and members were asked to email any links to partners they may wish to have placed on the website. Send the link to the info email address for Best Start Network and the link will be posted.

Discussion ensued as to what the Members Section will include on the website. Ann suggested EDI information, Ministry documents, anything in draft format waiting for approval and/or input from members only. The Network will use discretion as to what should be shared with partners and what should be shared with public. Timelines should be determined when placing information on the Members Only section so they do not get lost or section becomes congested. It was decided to post all documents under the Members Only section and at each monthly Network meeting decide what should stay in Members Only section and what can be shared with all.

**Action:** RRDSSAB will continue to update website per Network direction above and the Video/Slideshow for the site will be referred to the Communications Committee.

## 13) Best Start Service Plan



**Action** – Confirm dates/requirements for update – Deb  
Move to March meeting.

#### **14) Best Start Terms of Reference**

**Action** – Current Terms of Reference – Mildred

Sandra had advised Mildred that the Terms of Reference required revision with ELP moving forward. Mildred did review and noted that at this time, the partner section requires updating to reflect amalgamation of School Boards in 2009. All members were asked to review and bring any other items for potential revision to the March meeting.

**Action:** All Network Partners are to review the Terms of Reference for revisions and bring to the March meeting.

#### **15) Full Day Learning Update**

Mildred advised that the DSSAB has begun Phase II of the impact analysis on the child care sites affected in Atikokan. The analysis includes a general survey of current enrolment and the number of children leaving child care. The DSSAB will be planning with the Ministry on how to deal with the impact of the number of children leaving child care.

Ann was in Thunder Bay for a meeting to look at developing curriculum for ELP implementation. The Ministry of Education is developing a new curriculum which will combine the Kindergarten curriculum with the ELECT. Phyllis Kellar, Nicole Cheetham and Susan Halasz also attending this meeting as participating ECEs.

Discussion ensued regarding the implementation of the ELP in September of 2010. Some issues identified were:

- Nutritional programs
- Before and After School programs
- PD days and School Break coverage
- Income testing for subsidy
- Care for siblings who are older and require before and after school care

Members thought it would be very beneficial to contact First Duty to discuss their experiences.

#### **16) New Business:**

Kim reported on the OMSSA & ALPHA Forum held on January 19, 2010. A group of health and child care professionals were brought together to discuss Dr. Pascal's report and what ELP would look like fully implemented. A copy of Kim's report is attached for information.



**17) Informational Items – None**

**18) Next Meeting Date:**

March 11, 2010 – RRDSSAB Board Room 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**19) Adjournment:** Deb adjourned the meeting @ 2 p.m.