

 <p>MINUTES</p>	Date:	March 11, 2010
	Time:	10:00 am
	Location:	RRDSSAB – 450 Scott St.
	Chair:	Kim Anderson
	Recorder	Mildred Beck
Type of meeting:	Rainy River District Best Start Network Meeting	
Participants:	Ann Anderson, Mildred Beck, Phyllis Kellar, Deb Cousineau, Judy Lindholm, Kim Gardiman, Kim Anderson, Carolyn Skirten – Via teleconference -Leanne Mineault, Tammy Faykes	
Regrets:	Anne-Marie Armstrong, Sandra Russell, Carol-Lynne Oldale, Donna Cutler	
Absent:	Lauris Werenko	

1) Welcome/Call to Order/Introductions

Kim Anderson called the meeting to order.

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

Phyllis Kellar read the vision statement.

3) Approval of & Additions to the Agenda

Ann Anderson requested that we move Item #5 - Approval of Minutes, ahead of Item #4 - Presentations and Delegations.

Moved by: Donna Cutler

Seconded by: Kim Gardiman

“That the Agenda be approved as amended.”

All in Favour: Carried.

4) Approval of Minutes:

February 18, 2010 Minutes – Kim Gardiman advised that Item 6, Action B should be revised to include “Assets in Action is not a Health Unit Document but we will ascertain if the document is something that can be shared.”

Action: Donna Cutler will contact the site and confirm if we can include this information on our website.

Moved by: Deb Cousineau

Seconded by: Judith Lindholm

“To accept the minutes from the meeting of February 18/10 as amended.”

All in Favour: Carried.

5) Presentations/Delegations:

EDI Conference Material - Deb, Leanne & Ann presented the information from the November 16-18, 2009, EDI Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The presentations were done via web-site and projector to the members present. All presentations can be accessed from the website address noted below.

<http://www.councilecd.ca/?q=presentations>

Ann presented the information from a session on Community Innovations – Marsha Cann, presenter, which focused on the school readiness in Simcoe County and the use of EDI material and Data Analysis Coordinators (DACs) in planning. Planning was enhanced via the DACs working more closely with the school boards and municipalities as data was brought down to a neighborhood level.

Deb attended the Australian EDI session presented by Sally Brinkman which gave an over view of their EDI and how it is being used to target areas of lower school readiness, address transportation and attendance issues at early learning sites, etc. Deb also reported that Australia has programs in place for their indigenous populations. The Australian website can be accessed at www.rch.org.au/aedi .

Leanne reported that the sessions were very informative and gave good planning information for future use of the DAC for the Kenora/Rainy River District for planning with the local school boards etc. She also reported that Bill Reynolds, DAC, will be presenting information to the Atikokan Next Generation Coalition and Atikokan Non Profit Day Care in the near future.

Deb advised that presenting at the Coalitions were good, but that to have an impact, the presentations need to go further in presenting to the individual members/boards represented at the Coalitions.

Kim Anderson advised that Bill has presented to their school board, however, after the presentation there is no follow-up planning. Education needs more information for planning and ideally a team should be put together including the DACs to facilitate this process.

Ann posed the following questions:

Does our Data Analysis Coordinator have the expertise to move beyond Data collection and presentation to work with Network partners for planning, and;

Will Bill and Chris be able to go beyond the presentations and move to more direct participation in planning groups within the Network?

Leanne stated that Bill and Chris can work with groups for planning. Coordination of services will need to be established to accommodate planning and to ensure that existing workloads of Bill and Chris are also considered.

Action: The Best Start Network will work with the CDC/OEYC and DACs to establish planning utilizing the information that is collected by DACs.

6) Business Arising From Minutes:

- a. **Action: 18 Month Well Baby Visits** – Donna reported that the Kenora Best Start Network has developed a Committee to work on the 18 Month Well Baby Visits and that they will be trying to work with local physicians to get them engaged. It was suggested that the Rainy River Best Start Network work in partnership with the Kenora. A sub-committee could be developed for a broader working group on this project which would encompass the Kenora and Rainy River Districts.

Goals and objectives were discussed and prepared by the existing sub-committee, chaired by Donna Cutler. Donna will forward a copy to Mildred for attachment to minutes and send out an invitation for the Rainy River District Best Start Network to join this committee via Deb Cousineau and Kim Gardiman.

- b. **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. Present at the May Network meeting.

7) Committee Reports

i. Communications:

Children's Services Fair Update – Kim had forwarded information to Tammy Faykes for a budget re a fair in Atikokan. Planning for a Children's Services Fair in other communities in the District is still underway.

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 – Radio spots are running in both Districts noting the website address. An advertisement for the Website may be placed once updates are completed to increase public awareness.

Action: Mildred – continue to update Website per Network direction, confirm placement of ad once complete.

Poster Contest Finalists – Ann will have the posters from our contest displayed in the window at Betty's and had on hand the display board that she had prepared for members to view.

Decals and Partners - Partners in our District have applied for decals and all have been distributed per requests. We will re-visit the application process and re-invite partners to apply for additional decals for use on vehicles, portfolios, resource materials, etc. We will have Community Coalition Best Start Network reps forward this information at their coalition meetings for partners to apply for more decals.

Action: Mildred will send out an e-mail to current partners for the purpose of requesting additional decals per the above.

Communications Sub-Committee – the Rainy River District Best Start Network requires a couple more members for the sub-committee. Communications Committee members don't have to be a voting Network Member.

Action: Network Members will put out a call to their organizations for persons to represent Rainy River on the joint Communications Committee.

There was a request by Sandra Russell to have the Rainy River and Kenora District Best Start Networks present at the Regional Meeting on March 23 to 25th. Deb Cousineau volunteered to present with Sarah Stevenson for this meeting.

An updated Action Plan will be presented at the May/10 meeting.

ii. Recruiting Partners:

Development of Continuing Education Program – Kim A. & Ann will prepare an application for sponsorship/bursaries for graduating students for those enrolling in Post Secondary programs for ECE or Elementary Teaching fields.

Moved by: Ann Anderson

Seconded by: Deb Cousineau

“That dollars for the Continuing Education Program be utilized for provision of Bursaries for Students entering Early Childhood Education or Elementary Education courses, pending available funding.”

All in Favour: Carried.

Action: Kim A. and Ann will draft an application form to distribute to the High Schools and other education venues.

Summer Celebration/ Teacher ECE Training

Ann contacted Lori Gray, Early Learning Leader for the Bruce School pilot site for integration of ECE/Teachers for Toronto First Duty regarding a possible presentation/training session on implementation and “Best Practices”. Ann was advised that this is a very common request from a number of schools and that she will contact Ann if there is anything that could be presented/made available for training this fall.

There are also other training resources available at the Canadian Association of Resource Centres at www.welcomehere.ca that can be accessed. We will provide this link on our web-site.

Action: Ann will remain in contact with Lori Gray for potential training session this fall.

8) Financial Update:

Mildred presented a YTD financial report as at March 11, 2010.

Moved by: Phyllis Kellar

Seconded by: Judith Lindholm

“To accept the current Year-to-Date financial report.”

All in Favour: Carried

9) Ministry Update – Sandra Russell:

Sandra was not able to be present at this meeting. Deb advised that she had sent in a request to Sandra on what we would like to see presented at the Regional Meeting and was advised that an Agenda is not yet finalized. It was noted by Network Members present that not having an Agenda compromised who could attend. Tammy Faykes and Deb Cousineau will attend on behalf of our Network.

10) Coalition Update – Coming Together for Kids

Deb reported that she is on the Agenda for the April 12th Coming Together for Kids to request a new representative on the Best Start Network.

Action: Confirm new representation.

Atikokan Next Generation – Tammy reported that the next coalition meeting will be held on March 24th with an EDI presentation being made. The Service Fair for Atikokan will be moved to September 2010. They are establishing a committee on Baby Delivery in Atikokan in response to the announcement that there will no longer be service for delivery of babies at the Atikokan General Hospital. Transportation issues were also discussed with coupons for transportation running out.

11) Best Start Hub Update: There was no update at this time due to the March Hub meeting being cancelled.

12) Website Update: A new “Members Only” section will be added for use in April/May.

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 – Deb confirmed with Sandra that we are required to update our Service Plan for 2010/11. We will have this item on our agenda for the next meeting and a copy of the last Service Plan will be attached for members to review.

Action – Attach a copy of most recent Best Start Service Plan to agenda for next meeting for review.

14) Best Start Terms of Reference

The current Best Start Terms of Reference (last updated March/08) was reviewed by members present for updates.

Action: Mildred will revise the Best Start Terms of Reference and present a draft to members for our next meeting.

15) Full Day Learning Update – Mildred advised the group that a meeting has been set with our local school boards for April 9th to discuss planning and

the school site selection for Year 2 of the ELP implementation that is due to the Ministry of Education on April 16th.

16) New Business: DACs working with Research and Outcome Measurement Branch of the MCYS – Leanne Mineault

Leanne reported the DACS in Ontario are starting to work more closely with the Research & Outcome Measurement Branch (ROMB) of the MCYS. Earlier this month the DACS meet in Toronto to continue their work on provincial projects and to receive further training. Leanne spoke about two of the provincial work groups. For the Early Development work group ROMB would like to increase standardization of EDI reporting at the local level to facilitate easier understanding and wider uptake of the information by diverse audiences. For the Community Profile work group ROMB has the group developing a brief community profile template that will be completed by all DACS. Customized Statistics Canada will be provided to DACS to populate the template. This will help build up the provision of community-level information about population characteristics and program use. Each of the work groups has representation from the Northern DAC Consortium. From our area Bill Reynolds is a part of the Community Profile work group.

Leanne also indicate the Northern DAC Consortium is now reaching a point in their work that it would be helpful for DACS to meet with their respective Best Start Networks for some direction and feedback. Leanne requested that Bill Reynolds and Chris Maltais have time on the agenda for the next meeting.

Action: Invite Bill Reynolds and Chris Maltais to be present at our next meeting to discuss further their work as defined above and consult with the Best Start Network for ongoing planning (See Item #5 – Presentations and Delegations).

As part of the process outlined above it was mentioned that the DACs would be “evaluating” Best Start Networks. Kim G. suggested that perhaps it would be more appropriate to have the Network do a self-evaluation and include in it a process that would be include what we would like to have the DACs do for the Network Members.

17) Informational Items – None

18) Next Meeting Date:

April 8, 2010 – RRDSSAB Board Room 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. – Cancelled Pending April 9th meeting with School Boards and Year 2 School Site Selections.

Next Meeting: May 20th, 2010 - RRDSSAB Board Room 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

19) Adjournment: Kim A. adjourned the meeting @ 1:45 p.m.