

 <p>The Best Start for All Children</p> <p>APPROVED MINUTES</p>	Date:	January 25, 2012
	Time:	9:00 am
	Location:	NWHU-Fort Frances 396 Scott Street
	Chair:	Kim Anderson
	Recorder	Cheryl Bodnar
Type of meeting:	Rainy River District Best Start Network Meeting	
Participants:	Deb Cousineau, Kim Anderson, Nicole Cheetham, Bill Reynolds, Kim Gardiman, Ann Anderson, Margie Bettiol, Angela Mihichuk. Conference: Kelly Massaro-Joblin, Tammy Faykes & Heather Exley	
Regrets:	Leanne Mineault & Leisha Mainville, Carolyn Skirten	
Absent:	Lauris Werenko, Miranda Sigurdson & Anne-Marie Armstrong	

1) Welcome/Call to Order/Introductions

Kim A. called the meeting to order. Kim welcomed and introduced Magie Bettoil, Program Supervisor, Children's Services with the Ministry of Children & Youth. Margie informed members of her current and past portfolios with the Ministry. Best Start members introduced themselves and gave some background information on the Agency/Services they are representing.

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

Kim read our Vision Statement.

3) Approval of & Additions to the Agenda

Motion: Carolyn Skirten
Seconded: Nicole Cheetham
 "That the Agenda be approved."
All in Favour: Carried.

4) Approval of Minutes – November 30, 2011

Motion: Angela Mihichuk
Seconded: Kim Gardiman
 "That the November 30, 2011 draft minutes be approved."
All in Favour: Carried.

Approval of Minutes - December 20, 2011

Heather Exley requested that under **7 b) ELP Working Group Update**, her name be removed and Kim A. & Ann A. will provide the network with an update.

Motion: Kim Gardiman

Seconded: Angela Mihichuk

“That the December 20, 2011 revised draft minutes be approved as per Heather’s amendment.”

All in Favour: Carried.

5) RAINY RIVER DISTRICT BEST START NETWORK:

a) Aboriginal Planning & Engagement – Deb

- members discussed the need for more aboriginal reps at the Network table
- rep from Weechi-it-te-win Services, Lauris Werenko needs to be contacted to determine interest of continuing on the BSN
- other suggested reps were Tanya Jones from Red Gut Bay Child Care
- Ashley Grimard from the Access Centre
- a deeper connection is needed with First Nation re: child care & children’s services
- require key players from First Nations to discuss who their reps are and bring them together to discuss with the Network how we can assist to streamline and enhance services for children
- the aboriginal enhancement dollars were discussed and the need to spend these dollars by the end of March
- members suggested some names to contact to assist in bringing members together
- Wanda Gordon, Child Care Resource & Training Coordinator
- Aboriginal Healthy Babies, Healthy Children
- Brian Smith, Seven Generations, Cultural Awareness
- discussed hiring a consultant to gather information from First Nations to determine needs for the 0 – 6 age group and focus on what we/they are doing
- a clear goal is required when hiring a consultant
- Louise Percy of Thunder Bay has completed similar work in the Kenora area
- Jordan Forbes of Saulteaux Consulting will also be approached to determine the depth of consultation they have completed with First Nations
- the suggestion of speaking with an Elder was discussed to initiate the process
- a written request would be required for an Elder’s assistance as well as the offering of tobacco

Action: Angela will approach Elder to seek assistance

Action: Ann will draft letter and info package to send to First Nation key reps

Action: Working group will discuss further prior to Innovation Project meeting with Jordan Forbes of Saulteaux Consulting

Action: Cheryl to contact Weechi rep Lauris Werenko to determine membership

b) Innovation Fund Project – Deb

- Jordan Forbes of Saulteaux Consulting & Engineering joined our meeting to discuss the proposal submitted for our Innovation Project
- the design and development of an intranet website, including training and aftercare was discussed with Jordan
- Word Press was recommended as the program to design and implement our project
- Word Press is very user friendly, easy and quick to edit text, easy to organize and would work well for blogging and is an easy platform for everyone to use
- Drupel is another software option available which is possibly what our web was designed with, however Jordan feels it is not as user friendly
- it is very possible to combine our BSN website and the new site being developed to streamline both sites and have all information on one site
- initially the site will be available for all network partners and eventual membership of many referral sources/professionals
- “sell” to other resources/partners via media outlet and presentation
- link with SPA, LSSMT all MCSS/MCYS funded agencies possible
- partners would have access to update their information on a regular basis
- Jordan is willing to train and develop a common system for gathering consistent information
- all members felt it is paramount that eventually this site be shared with parents
- members discussed the tight timelines and how innovation money needs to be expended by the end of March 2012
- all members were very impressed with Jordan and his presentation and all felt that Saulteaux Consulting would be a very good fit to develop our innovation project
- everyone agreed that marketing and promotion is vital to our new site being successful
- demonstration will also be help with corporate to highlight our project and how this could possibly link with SIMMS in a Best Start Hub and how it could link with other software programs
- a small working group will be developed to meet once again with Jordan to explore many options for the development and possible combination of both sites
- Kim Anderson, Angela Mihichuk, Ann Anderson, Deb Cousineau and Cheryl Bodnar will meet with Jordan to discuss further
- Kim will contact Jordan to determine availability of next meeting date
- Innovation Fund Project scheduled to launch on February 29, 2012 at the Royal Canadian Legion
- It is now felt that the launch will occur over lunch rather than breakfast and perhaps the Legion was not the venue, cancel Legion
- Will check with La Place Rendez-vous for date and hold session from 10 – 2, half of the ballroom
- Invitations could be printed at Good Impressions
- PR will be an important aspect and members thought that PR items such as travel mugs, water bottles and hand out bags with information on website would spread awareness

- Positive Promotions website/catalogue for promotional materials will be explored
- discussed playing a game with potential partners to use as a baseline for knowledge, or lack of knowledge, regarding services within the district
- Ann to contact John Gibson for more information on game
- A key note speaker would also be an asset to have promote our site, Lynne Livingstone was suggested to speak on the importance of partnerships
- Jordan will be present to speak of the site and navigate
- Giving away an iPad as a door prize was also suggested

Action: Kim A & Kim G to complete invitations

Action: Ann to contact Lynne Livingstone for key note speaker

Action: Nicole to look at promotional items through Positive Promotions

Action: Angela to look at prices for an iPad2

c) Children's Charter of Rights – Deb

- Deb spoke of our initiative of the Children's Charter of Rights
- It was agreed by all members that we have many projects on the go with very tight timelines
- Deb asked members if we should continue to work on the Children's Charter but make the deadline a year later than anticipated due to our time constraints
- Everyone was in agreement that the Aboriginal Engagement and Innovation Project is high priority at this time
- **Motion was made by Kim Gardiman to postpone the Children's Charter at this time until after the Innovation Project has been launched.**
- **All were in favour.**

d) Budget Review – Cheryl

- Cheryl reviewed the 2011 financial status
- Year End surplus totals \$31 311.85 which include Innovation Project funding & Aboriginal Engagement funding
- A request will be sent to MCYS to request carry-over of funds which will be required to be spent before the end of March 2012
- Margie will forward to financial department and amend budget

e) Upcoming Events – Cheryl

- Leadership and Partnership Meeting, Thunder Bay on March 28, 29, 2012
- Attending will be Best Start Chairs plus 4 members, DSSAB CAO, Child Care Manager & Directors of Board of Education
- Each Network will have 10 minutes to showcase a project

- Angela mentioned a one day workshop on Cultural Teachings on February 22, 2012, from 9 – 3, lunch included
- Information will be forwarded to network members
- Save the Date, April 17 & 18, 2012, Play to Learn, Learn to Play Connection Event, Firefly, Best Western Lakeside Inn, Kenora
- Keynote address with Susan Stacey, Author of Emergent Curriculum and Jim Grieve, ADM, MEDU

6) RECRUITING PARTNERS SUB-COMMITTEE

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

- Continue to bring forward to meetings
- Ann will email to ascertain if anyone interested in participating
- Angela expressed an interest in assisting with organizing this event

b) Summer Celebration- Ann

- Members discussed partnering with Kids Coalition and determine a date to hold a conference with Stuart Shanker & Charles Pascal
- Week of October 21, 2012 or week of November 5th
- Block Party will be held in June 2012 and would do separate from conference

Action: Ann will contact both Dr. Pascal & Shanker to determine dates of availability for conference

7) EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM SUB-COMMITTEE

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

- Early Learning team consisting of four schools
- collaborative, working on inquiry questions, numeracy & literacy
- Robert Moore, 1 Kindergarten teacher & 3 ECEs
- prep time together for teachers and ECEs
- Separate School Board Third Party Agreement with Sacred Heart and Child Care are in place
- JK/SK registration currently taking place for next school year
- 34 FDEL students registered for St. Michael's
- February 6th week is registration with both Boards of Education holding Open House for Early Learning Full Day

b) ELP Working Group Update – Kim A./Ann A.

- To date no meeting has been scheduled
- Sylvia Parker is scheduling next meeting

- Kim/Ann to keep us updated

8) SPECIALIZED SERVICES COMMITTEE

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

- Deb informs that Dr. Jean Clinton will be attending a meeting in the very near future
- Bring forward to next meeting

9) BEST START HUB OPERATORS

a) Update – Leanne

- Hubs have now all submitted their 2012 work plans. Cheryl and Leanne will respond to the Hubs on them once they get together to review them.
- Bill provided Hubs with an annual review of the Hub data elements & stat collection.
- Started preliminary discussions with Hubs on the use of social media such as Facebook. For Hubs interested to go this route, we'll develop guidelines around this as a group.
- We are currently looking into arranging Infant Massage Instructor training for Hub staff possibly as early as March.
- **Professional Development**
- Information was circulated to members on two upcoming professional development opportunities being provided by FIREFLY. The workshops are the 2nd part of training being provided on emergent curriculum. The 1st part provided an overview of emergent curriculum. This 2nd part will provide cover observation and documentation as a part of emergent curriculum. The workshops are open to early childhood educators/child care staff and JK/SK teachers and there is no fee.
- April 17 & 18, 2012, Play to Learn, Learn to Play Conference.
- There are also no fees for the conference except for delegates that may attend from outside the Kenora and Rainy River Districts. There will be a keynote address and many of the workshops provided will be on the premise of emergent curriculum building upon the training that will be provided prior to the conference.
- Jim Grieve will also be making a breakfast presentation during the 2nd day of the conference. The target audience for the conference is early childhood educators and other child care staff however we welcome people interested from other sectors to attend as well. In the past we have had attend, JK/SK teachers, staff from HBHC, child development, children's mental health, friendship programs etc.

10) CHILD CARE OPERATORS

a) Update – Nicole/Leisha

- Nicole informs the next Child Care Supervisor's meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2012 in Dryden
- Nicole will send updates to Child Care providers after each Network meeting

11) COMMUNITY COALITIONS

a) Coming Together for Kids Update – Miranda

- Network members were informed that Miranda Sigurdson will no longer report on Coalition updates
- Angela Mihichuk will replace Miranda
- Angela stated the Coalition met recently and had a presentation from Peggy Loyie of the Victims Services Program
- They also have had presentations by Marilyn Allan of the Methodone Clinic
- Kids Coalition would also like to help with the Summer Celebration Block Party

b) Atikokan Next Generation – Tammy

- Tammy informs ANG has winter programs running, specifically early literacy programs
- Car seat coupon program is popular and ANG are going to solicit for more funds
- In 2008, the Municipality of Atikokan gave \$1,000 to address transportation for vulnerable families
- ANG has completed a letter seeking more funding to look at different options in all communities to resolve transportation issues

12) NORTHERN REGIONAL DAC NETWORK:

- Bill states the research sub-committee, is arranging a conference call to collaborate on data sharing and accessing data at a local level.

13) Ministry Update

a) MCYS – Margie

- Margie discussed with network members of the upcoming Parntership Meeting being held in Thunder Bay on March 28 & 29, 2012

b) MEDU- Update – Early Learning and Child Care Implementation - Heather

- Premier's Awards for Teaching Excellence www.edu.on.ca/teachingawards - two new categories this year – ECE of the year – licensed child care and FDK Team of the Year – submissions due by Feb. 6th
- FDK Year 5 Capital – in-process with EDU Capital Branch
- CAPB FDK Videos – Making Thinking and Learning Visible Through...
 - Play-based Learning
 - Inquiry Learning
 - Learning Environment

- Literacy through Play
- Numeracy through Play
- Observation and Documentation
- Planning Flow of the Day
- Supporting Self-regulation
- the videos will be posted to eduGAINS.com
- Before and After Programs – Year 1 to 3 FDK schools – boards gathering interest through parent surveys for planning for 2012-2013 – reference memos are EL4 and EL12 available at: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/kindergarten/memosummary.html>

MEDU Update – Kelly

- 2012 Contracts for Child Care have gone out and due back for January 27th, 2012 and an extension has been allowed till Feb. 9th for DSSAB's that are waiting for Board approval on their budgets. All the Guidelines have gone out for 2012 as well.
 - Health and Safety funding has gone out to the first nation child care programs who submitted proposals
 - December 15th – MEDU, ELD held a session in Toronto with CMSM/DSSAB's and the purpose of the event was to engage with service system managers to draw on their skills and knowledge to support child care modernization – Jim Grieve our ADM and Pam Musson the Director of the ELICCD were there to provide an overview of the day as well as a presentation from the Director of Finance – Andrew Davis on Data and Trends, Rupert Gordon, Director of ELCCPPB presented a policy context as well. Small and large group discussions were held with Minister Broten having closing remarks and talking about next steps. The day was very successful and will help with future planning and direction.
 - Upcoming Conference in Thunder Bay – “Cherish the Children, Cherish the Thought” – Feb. 9th – Feb. 11th
 - really promoting the two day institute as it is an opportunity for educators to use a thinking lens to reflect on their work, to enhance the joy and intellectual engagement in their work as well as studying the foundational elements of reflective practice.
 - Upcoming Leadership and Partnership Meeting – March 28th & 29th in Thunder Bay – (information sent out to Best Start Chairs, EY Leads for school boards & DSSAB's)
 - Play to Learn, Learn to Play Conference- Kenora – April 17th and April 18th, 2012
- 14) Next Meeting Dates: Thursday, February 16, 2012 @ 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, March 7, 2012 @ 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, April 11, 2012 @ 10:00 a.m.
Thursday, May 17, 2012 @ 10:00 a.m.
- 15) Adjournment: Kim adjourned the meeting @ 2:20 p.m.