

MNTRECC NEWS

June 2021 Edition 17

MISSION STATEMENT

MNTRECC provides statewide leadership by creating partnerships, resources and supports that serve to connect and strengthen early care and education for American Indian children and their families within the State of Minnesota.

VISION STATEMENT

Healthy, Thriving American Indian Children and Families.



*Minnesota Tribal Resources for
Early Childhood Care*

MNTRECC PROGRAM MANAGER – PATTI TURNEY

Patti's Hi-Lite!!

Greetings, summer has begun and is definitely showing itself. I am not complaining. We always wait so long for summer and before we know it, it will be gone. I hope you are all making some family plans this summer, now that the state is opening back up and it is safe to do so.

We have a big family vacation planned for the first week in July. We will be traveling to Jackson, Wyoming, touring Glacier National Park, Yellow Stone and all of the beautiful surroundings. We're looking forward to a much needed "road trip".

We have been very busy the past quarter with ordering material and filling Family, Friend, & Neighbor (FFN) kits. Each of the 11 Tribes received 10 kits to distribute to FFN's in their communities. We will be creating many more kits and will be available for distribution as the requests come in. The funding for these were awarded from DHS through Cares dollars. If you know of any Family, Friend, or Neighbor that is providing care for children while their parents are going to school or working and not licensed or receiving CCAP assistance, send them our way. We have some really great kits that can support them as they care for our most precious gift "Our Children".

Our next MNTRECC Planning Team meeting is scheduled for July 14 -16, 2021 with Red Lake Nation hosting our meeting. We have added an extra day so we can work on our 5-year Strategic Plan. This has been the first time we can meet face-to-face since the Covid-19 Pandemic hit us. I am looking forward to seeing all of the planning team members, and getting caught up on how we all still managed to keep connected with all of you the Tribal Providers.

If you have not received an Ojibwe or Dakota Curriculum kit, please reach out to Diane Smith, the Culture/Language Coordinator. We have revised the Ojibwe kit this past year and it is ready for purchase. We will be focusing on the Dakota Language Curriculum kit this coming year, along with working on some audio pieces. Stay tuned for more development©.

The MNTRECC staff are also planning some Curriculum training events and Native American Parenting Program TOT's, formally known as the Positive Indian Parenting. Stay tuned for announcements coming in the very near future. Until next quarter, get out and enjoy some of your summer, hit a few pow-wow's and have a great time!!

Patti

GRANTS & OUTREACH – MICHELE FREDRICKSON

Greetings! I am so happy to the weather is warm again. We have been out on the lake a few times and everything is greening up so nice. We have been busy the past few days as we were blessed with grandchild #4 last week, a beautiful little boy. I love my role of Grandma 😊

We will be returning to the office full time as of July 1, 2021. Here is to hoping the worst of the pandemic is behind us.

Regional Grants will be open September 1 – 25. The Child Care Aware Regional grants award funds to child care programs for supplies, equipment, and professional development. If you are thinking about applying for a Regional Grant in September, now is the time to make sure your Organization Profile is set up on Develop. Applications must be completed online through Develop this year. **MNTRECC eligible providers are dual eligible to apply for Regional Grants through their District as well as through MNTRECC.** To be eligible for our services you must fall into one of these categories – be licensed or funded by a Tribal Government OR be an enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe OR are a first or second generation descendent of an enrolled member OR 50% of children in care are of American Indian descent.

We recently finished packing and distributing FFN kits to all the 11 tribal child care programs throughout the State of Minnesota. We are excited to get some feedback from the providers who received these kits. We will be doing similar kits again before the end of the year. The kits had some really great items in them. There were two different kits created for ages 0 – 3 and 3 – 8. We are starting to get some feedback on the kits, from FFN providers. This morning I received a “thank you” and three pictures of some kiddos playing with the toys and games. That is great!

Our Metro Work Group met via zoom in June. Some programs are working remotely, some coaching virtually, others are gearing up for summer programs and some are slowly returning to normal. We haven't met in person since January of 2020 so we are hoping that will change in the near future.

Our website isn't up yet, still waiting on a few details before it is up and operational. If you haven't yet “liked” us on Facebook, please do so. Until next time – Michele 😊



Metro Work Group Mission Statement

To strengthen the cultural heritage of American Indian children residing in the metro area by promoting and supporting early childhood services that foster skills for school and life success

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – JANEL O'BRIEN

Hello everyone!

Can you believe it's already summer?! I hope you are enjoying the heat but also staying cool on those hot summer days.

The past few months have been busy. I am close to obtaining my RBPB credential and I have also recently become a CDA PD Specialist for Preschool Center-Based. I can now conduct verification visits for CDA candidates, who are working in the preschool setting. However, I am also waiting to get approved for Infant-Toddler setting, as well.

We recently had our annual Trainer's Gathering on June 9th, virtually this year, in which we had a great turnout. We went with a mental health training through Ellison Center, called "Holding the Holders: Finding Balance in Times of Uncertainty" with Tracy Shreifels. Each one of our cultural trainer's also received an incentive for attendance and we had a lot of great feedback after the training was completed.

It's also that time of year where I get ready to send out the Training Needs survey to our centers and providers. This survey will indicate training needs that may not have been completed during the pandemic which can help us prioritize trainings and assist in planning. Training surveys will get sent out next month, in July.

Also, stay tuned for more information on trainer recruitment and the newly revised Native American Parenting Program (NAPP) curriculum. And like our Facebook page for more updates ☺

Best,
Janel O'Brien, MNTRECC Professional Development Coordinator

Resources:

<https://www.childcareawaremn.org/providers/professional-development/>

<https://www.childcareawaremn.org/providers/parent-aware/>

<https://www.childcareawaremn.org/providers/grants-and-scholarships/>

CULTURE AND LANGUAGE – DIANA SMITH

Just think, people were complaining about the cold and the snow, six months ago, and wishing for the warmer weather. Yup that was me too, and last week I was complaining about the heat and mosquitos, knowing that I would remember and wish for this day in six months' time. Oh well, the joy of living in northern Minnesota.

Our first round of FFN kits are out the door and gone. My focus was on Native American Children's Authors and Native American Publishing companies. Building connections with people whose inspiration and passion to share their knowledge of culture & language through books definitely was a learning curve and rewarding experience and I hope the families and children enjoy the books.

I've been busy working on formatting the Native American Parenting Program Trainer's manual and Practitioner's guidebook, formally known as the Positive Indian Parenting Manual. MNTRECC contracted Sue Heisler with her expertise we are about half way through each of the eight lessons. We

decided to keep the practitioner’s guidebook to be used as a resource filled with idea’s and tips for trainers. We will have a complete manual by the end of June.

Early this month, Janel and I coordinated a virtual trainer’s gathering. We pulled out the dusty trainer’s list and Janel made contact with the trainers, introducing herself and inviting them to our virtual gathering. It’s been a while since we coordinating a trainers gathering and I forgot how much I like coordinating these events. We had a successful event and Janel was able to dip into the ‘MNTRECC Trainer’s’ world.

With everything ‘opening’ back up and we are feeling safe to gather again, my focus will shift to Trainer Recruitment, Statewide Tribal Trainer Advisory (TTAC) work, recruiting local TTAC’s in each reservation, building up the Culture & Language sub-committee and planning the Train the Trainer (TOT) events. With the overhaul of the Native American Parenting Program, we plan to schedule a TOT for approved MN PIP trainers this fall. More information about these activities will be emailed out in the coming months. Well until next time, be safe, take care and enjoy the warm weather.



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