

MNTRECC NEWS

March 2021 Edition 16

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, Ani-ziigwan aangwaamas! Happy spring!! You will hear no complaints from me on this beautiful weather we have had. Even if we still get snow, I know it's not going to last. The trees are already being tapped in our area and the gathering of maple sap has started.

We have been very busy at the MNTRECC office. We received an award from DHS through Cares dollars to support Family, Friend, & Neighbors (FFN) and it was decided through a questionnaire that was provided to the Planning Team members on ideas and supports that would be beneficial to the FFN providers. We are creating kits to distribute to the tribal FFN providers throughout the state. Each tribe will receive ten kits to be provided to tribal FFN providers in their community. There are 2 different kits being created 0 –to age 3, and 3 – to age 8. These kits should be ready by the middle of April.

The FFN kits cover everything from School Readiness, Health, Safety, Nutrition, Sanitation, First Aid, Language and Culture, Professional Development Opportunities, Resources etc.

Our Goal is to provide quality enhancements to as many Tribal FFN providers that are taking care of our most precious gift "Our Children".

You are considered a FFN provider if you are providing care for children while the parents are going to school or working and you are not licensed or receiving CCAP assistance.

Please contact the Child Care Director in your tribal community or contact us here at MNTRECC to get on a list to receive these wonderful kits. You will just be asked to complete a simple survey when you receive the kit and mail back to us. Your feedback is very important to us and will help us create the next set of kits according to your answers.

2021 Advocacy for Children Day is scheduled for April 14. It is a virtual Rally. Over 35,000 children in the state of MN still don't have access to quality early care, education, and other supports. You can visit the Advocacy for Children Day webpage for more information.

MNTRECC PLANNING TEAM MEETING

The next quarterly MNTRECC Planning Team Meeting is being planned for April 8th and is being hosted by Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, Amy Donaldson Play Works Director. We have not met in person since the Pandemic hit a year ago. We are still in the planning stages. If we don't have enough members that are unable to travel or just not feeling safe as of yet, then we will meet virtually once again.

This meeting will be spent reviewing the FFN progress & scheduling the delivery of the kits. Planning our next 5-year Strategic Planning process, which consist of developing a detailed plan of action for our future work. Some special guests will be invited to provide updates as well.

OJIBWE & DAKOTA LANGUAGE KITS

The most recent order for the revised Ojibwe Language Kits have arrived in our office and we also have the Dakota Language Kits on hand. If you are interested in purchasing a kit please contact Diane smith Diana.smith@llojibwe.net once payment is received, Diane will reach out to make arrangements for delivery. We try to arrange delivery so there is no cost for shipping. MNTRECC does not make a profit on these kits and are sold at the cost of printing for the benefit of tribal early care and education programs.

Until summer, keep smiling!! ~Patti Turney~

GRANTS & OUTREACH – MICHELE FREDRICKSON

Greetings! I am so happy Spring is just around the corner. I can't wait to camp, fish, pick berries and hang out with my grandbabies in the coming months. We seem to be getting busier every week. Although we aren't back in the office full time, we still manage to keep our projects going forward.

Regional Grants are almost wrapped up. I have two programs left to closeout grants and six have received their reimbursement. Grant administrators have been busy making updates to the process by getting forms, manuals, applications and instructions updated. September will be here before we know it and another grant round will be upon us. As Patti mentioned, we are working on kits to be distributed within the tribal communities to FFN providers who have stepped in to take care of the little ones. I have also been helping to keep our lists current for providers who are still open and providing care so they can receive the latest rounds of grants from the state.

Our Facebook page is finally done! Check us out, like our page and keep up to date on our program. We will keep updated on provider support (grants, training in curriculum, purchase Ojibwe & Dakota Language Kits, getting rated in the Parent Aware Quality Rating System) trainer support (TA to those applying for trainer status, Trainer Mentoring, curriculum & connecting to programs) as well as community support (collects statistical data of tribally licensed childcare providers, technical assistance and support to tribal early childhood programs, networking, liaison between tribal child care and state policy stakeholders, promote partnerships between programs and the Child Care Aware of MN, increase the number of Native American trainers throughout the state) just to name a few. Our Early Childhood Development website is under construction and once it's complete, we will be able to share that with everyone as well. The MNTRECC Marketing Team met many times, prior to 2020, so we are happy that our projects are coming together in 2021.

I was able to help CCA by calling providers statewide to get their Provider Business Update/Market Rate Survey updated. I have been able to connect with providers, tribal and non-tribal, to get their information current. I also maintain the list of Tribal Licensed Providers for Minnesota. If providers aren't licensed by a tribal government, they may still be eligible for our services if they fall into one of these categories – are an enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe OR are a first or second generation descendent of an enrolled member OR are licensed or funded by a Tribal Government OR 50% of children in care are of American Indian descent.

The MNTRECC Metro Work Group met via ZOOM in February. It was a nice change to exchange program updates and see where everyone is in their work. Since we are still not meeting face to face, the group will hopefully be able to gather in person before the year is over.

Until next time, stay safe!



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!

I would like to take this opportunity of introducing myself as the new Professional Development Advisor. My name is Janel O'Brien and I joined the MNTRECC team in the beginning of February. I was recently the Professional Development Coordinator for Leech Lake Early Childhood for the past couple of years and before that I worked in the classroom for a little over ten years. I also earned my bachelor's degree in Educational Studies from Southwest Minnesota State University, last spring. I'm from a small town and reside in Bemidji, MN. At home, I am a mother to three wonderful children. I have a daughter and two boys who keep me very busy! We love to go hiking, skiing, swimming, watching movies, travel, and visit other family members.

Although some things have been familiar, I have already learned so much in my new position so far. I'm currently working towards my RBPD credential and becoming a PD Specialist. I'm also happy to say that I've had the pleasure of working closely with Sandy in the past couple of years and I wish her all the best on her new journey.

I look forward to meeting everyone, hopefully face-to-face soon, and getting to know you all. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

The REETAIN Bonus application for **center-based educators** will soon be available! Applications will be accepted through April 1st – May 31st, 2021. REETAIN Bonuses reward early childhood educators who have demonstrated a commitment to the field by continuing their education and professional development. REETAIN Bonuses can be used for program supplies, training, or personal expenses. Bonuses are awarded annually and range from \$1,000 - \$3,500 depending on degree or credential. For more information, visit the link below.

CDA Awards help providers pay for the required training, application, and renewal of the nationally recognized Child Development Associate credential (CDA). Applications for scholarship and reimbursement awards are accepted at any time. Awards are distributed in February, May, August, and November. The next application round ends April 30th with an award date of May 10th. For more information, visit the link below.

Resources:

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

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

Eager-to-Learn <https://www.eagertolearn.org/course-list/>

National CDA –

The nationally recognized Child Development Associate (CDA) credential offers recognition for valuable knowledge about working with children and helping them reach their full potential. It is often a first step into a career educating young children. Visit Child Care Aware of Minnesota’s National CDA page to learn more about the benefits of obtaining your CDA.

CULTURE AND LANGUAGE – DIANA SMITH

The Ojibwe Language kit consolidation is officially done. The final edits are complete on the Ojibwe Curriculum guidebook and aligned with the ECIPS. This was a long and slow process, I’m so happy it’s complete and I’m able to move on to the next project.

I’ve been busy working with the PD sub-committee, along with Janel and Patti as we update the Positive Indian Parenting trainer’s manual. This sub-committee meets virtually on a weekly basis. So far, we updated the background information, the significance of Values and Attitudes, the overview of the developmental contact of parenting, and working on updating each of the eight lesson to include an agenda, course detail, course description, power point and various updated handouts, supplement materials/activities to enhance each training module.

The overhaul of this trainer’s manual seemed overwhelming in the very beginning, put on hold due to the pandemic, we struggled through those first couple meetings but once we got the process in place, we have been moving along. Sue Heisler chair’s the PD Sub-committee and with her expertise we should have a final product complete by this spring. After some discussion and a consensus of the group, we changed the name of this manual to the Native American Parenting Program. So you will no longer hear us as the PIP training we will be saying NAPP training.

We are not scheduling any face to face training, trainer’s gathering or train the trainers at this time. Hopefully we can start planning these events sometimes this summer or early fall. I will continue to recruit new trainers and support our culture trainer’s, with the goal to have all participants of these TOT already through the trainer approval process.

It has been a very long circle around the sun, with hopes we can take this next curve safely and be able to gather together again in the future. Until then be safe, take care and enjoy this beautiful springtime.

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