

MNTRECC Planning Team Meeting Minutes
October 14 & 15, 2021

Present: Lee T, Eric H, Pat B, Becky L, Jessica J, Kim L, Ruby G, Shannon C, Amy D, Janel O, Diane S, Patti T, Kelly M & Katie H., Special Guest: Matt Kane, Brandon Royce-Diop & Maya Soriano

Morning Prayer Offered by: Janice, started us off with our meeting in a good way!!

Patti -went over Folder, can pull down or remove mask down while speaking, when you move around the room, you should use your face cover. Refer to Covid-19 guidelines established by Play Works. Three people won't make it, new ML Director Brittany Clausell/New employee, Gaylene S/Bereavement & Melanie Hanson/New Grandma (FLD). Did not hear from any others.

Eric Update:

Federal government passed ARPA funding, put guidance around spending those dollars. Child Care stabilization funds. Should be applying and application should be fairly easy. Request when doing update would like to know what tribes are doing with ARPA dollars. Dollar toward work force development project. Workgroup set up to come up with recommendation. Focus is entering childcare work force. Workgroup on licensing, Becky sitting on the One Stop Assistance Network Workgroup.

First Children Finance got funding to improve CC setting, CCA got additional funding for training, FFN grant RFP is available, link posted yesterday will pass along information to Patti. CCAP funding foster care children for CC. Hiring several positions with the new initiatives. Just concluded grants letters will be going out. MNTRECC RFP will be posting in January, still working on the process, beginning contract with July 2022, only Tribal Nations will be available to apply for the RFP. Shared services – pod module that information will be out in the next couple week.

Kim Stone (DHS) has changed her position. DHS hiring other positions to help with all the new work.

Kelly M update:

Becky L. term is coming to end, information in packet recruiting a new member for a new CCA board member. Possibly there are two positions. This information is included in your folder. Has a one-on-one with MNTRECC every quarter for a check-in.

Still working remotely, hiring staff, capacity building work across the state, grants, start-up grants, PA, Marketing & communication. Struggles to centers, continue to provider waivers. Cohort for PA has been a struggle due to staffing. Katie Hoffman will be state contact for Parent Aware, she has been with Quality Improvement for 6 years.

Katie Hoffman: Parent Aware recruiters, newly licensed providers take part in capacity building. She has done a lot of the work we just made it official. Rating services is a separate contract.

Patti Update: FFN kits, all the dollars are spoken for, waiting for approval statues, filling more kits but smaller tots, didn't do the PPE items this time; Hatch tablets, with subscription and hot spots. MNTRECC will bring kits to events as incentive for attending events. Requesting tribes to provide update on how those kits distributed. Only 5 surveys have been returned for the 110 kits distributed early this year.

Patti will be submitting a report in December on FFN.

NWIDC, LL, WE & RL would like to partner with MNTRECC to host an FFN event in the Bemidji area. Those tribal providers in Bemidji can be reimbursed by LL not sure about how the other reservations support tribal members in Bemidji.

Amy received FFN kits for the Dakota tribes to help distribute. Michele has a metro workgroup next week and will provide this information to the group. Indigenous Vision will cover the Metro and Duluth areas with FFN. Amy offered to provide zoom for metro workgroup. Had the Strategic Plan meeting in Red Lake, we have the last draft we need to review and send off to DHS. Reviewing applications for the Task Force. Attending a lot of meetings virtual. Attend all district meeting, try to share information to the planning team members. Keep everyone informed as much as possible, participated on the NAPP sub-committee, attending PIP TOT in past years. NAPP needs to be renewed in Achieve by Dec 2021. Doing face to face TOT in the future. Will be working on the audio piece for the Ojibwe & Dakota curriculum, review and revise the Dakota kits to make into one kit.

Patti for Michele-

Grants available on-line in develop, didn't like it at first but it's going ok – 14 eligible but received 22 highest number ever. Did one new packet to WE, first face to face Metro workgroup. Everyone is done with virtual and looking forward to face to face. Got our Facebook up and going, and website. Discussion of media platform want to know if the tribe are finding this useful, will kept it going and check back with you. Discussion of what tribes can post of fb (they can send material to Michele to share), staff will continue to post something new every week.

Janel: Finish Relationship-Based PD certificate, did Trainer's gathering, 11 trainers attending with a 100-dollar incentive, CDA Specialist in Infant-Toddler and Preschool Center base, PD advising assigned 5 providers for reviewing, one provider closed, and one center (NW) closed down. FFN adding professional development & Eager to Learn, also ordering 150 tablets and hot spots to the FFN Kits, fall training (109) trainer needs surveys went out, there will be 2 \$50.00 gift card drawings for returned surveys, attending EDY training with Dr. Dan Needham.

Kelly – Teach and Retain with dates available will increase availability or more opportunities to get it out there. They have three years to spend these dollars, doing a slow wrap up. How do you become a trainer, build a capacity of trainers in LL. Patti will share information on how to become a Tribal Trainer to all planning team members, 2 CCA Board position open are open, please let Kelly or Patti know if you would like to represent the tribes on this board?

Amy D-

Shared the Pilot program around therapeutic program. They partner with Health and Wellness programs. Opened first classroom with 9 kids, challenging each and every day but improvements in children & the challenges. Therapy individual and families weekly and collaborated with other programs to offer services throughout the day. Tribe is very supported with services. Booming with infants, need more space. Day treatment and other supports are provided with the staff to help with their mental health. Business Tribal Council provided goody bags for everyone. **Thank you!!** The council has agreed to close the "Big Fun Room". It is too hard to keep sanitary from Covid. FFN kits were provided to some grandparents and foster care parents through the Education Department. CCDF available to use funds for care in Scott's County and surrounding area.

Ruby G / Shannon C –

New building, finally done and already outgrew it, using a pole barn for storing supplies, garage turned into the indoor play area. Playground not fenced yet, promised but still waiting, supplies are ordered and be set up in this spring, all rubber mat on the ground. Late July 5 kids off the waiting list, 7 more taken off the list (one baby) and a lot of staff turnover. Office staff is helping to ensure we are staying within ratio. Planning to decorate with each holiday. FFN totes are all spoken for and will be delivered if

not picked up. PL-1077 different way of filtering funding to CC programs. Have 70 LNL providers, only 4 providers are licensed. 36 credited training hours to maintain licensing which can be a challenge in recruiting new providers. About 130 families are being served. Opening up another CC in Ponemah they are going to be their own little spot with their own management staff.

Kim L/Jessica J –

FFN – do have some kits to be picked up still, will follow up with those who have picked up to get the survey back to us. CC world, there is interest in becoming licensed CC. Seeing more younger families who are needing care. Lost a couple providers, taking on new career and another starting their own family. Provider struggle are day to day, work through the wait list and now recruiting open slots on social media, including infant spots. CC provider seeking assistance with homeowner insurance, because they are currently on the reservation. Having to re-visit the whole issue again, provider got their insurance back after seeking legal representation. Committee member/great task force, question if she down loaded the correct application, will bring to meeting tomorrow to make sure she's using the correct application. New environmental specials, updated policy and procedure. For Vaccination in providers, its about 50%. WE non-vaccinated individual who quarantine is at their own expense, vaccinated employees get leave with pay.

Paid out 6 months stabilization grant, can use health and Safety updates to Boys and Girls club, once all tribal members are served, then they offer the neighboring programs a 6-month stabilization grant. Pulling out of Head Start and using grant to build a new building for CC staff, tribe must match grant and apply for CCDF building/construction approval. Discuss collaboration with Essentia Health to give some suggestions for mental health concerns for young children. Backpack giveaway this fall for children 0-12, WE Housing pitched in for School-Age children. WE CC using CCDF \$ for the backpack giveaway. ARPA dollars. Funding is filtered through education than into the finance, we must follow spending policy, can't just give \$\$ to staff. Allocated funding for licensed providers to all large outdoor playground equipment, rubber grounding and including fencing. WE are fully staff, but had to fight to bring key staff back in, no staff were paid out any benefits during shut down. Going through Covid fatigue.

Becky L:

Boys & Girls club is provided care for school-age children when covid started. Deer River, Walker, Onigum & CL using ARPA \$\$\$. Looking for land to build a School Age Child Care in Cass Lake Area, using ARPA dollars full time care in the summertime. Ribbon cutting for new building, had to take back our space for new staff. Have team lead and two teachers, need to hire staff and get them trained before we can open up application. After ribbon cutting seen an increase of interest in staff. Seen some licensed providers closed but still some are maintaining. All kits were distributed, everyone liked them. Capacity building focusing on High School, workforce programs. Training coming up this week, looking at outdoor activities. LL hasn't had to us the band for funding for new building and collaborated with other funding sources and able to build partnerships through this project. All we had to do was keep costs in line and keep council informed of this project.

Pat B-

Looking at job flexibility, more staff with flexible hours. Opened September 7th resumed HS focus and back to scheduling for EHS/HS focus due to staff shortage unable to meet the needs for families. Wellness issue within community, families, children. Mental Health New position but she is going out on Maternity leave. Talked about the culture activities, new position Culture/Lang focusing on language revitalization. Did interview and waiting on recommendation to be approved. Vaccinating rate is roughly 60%. There is a mandate coming from the Office of Head Start, anyone receiving federal funding has to

be vaccinated. No comingling of children. Classrooms have to close when they don't have the staff to cover these.

Had a lot of deaths in the community. A lot of renovation happening. ARPA funding: didn't focus on PPE, looked at staffing. Floated incentive to supervisor. CDL drivers received a \$5.00 wage increase to cover the loss of capacity during bus driving hours. 'facelift' on playgrounds, plans include land scaping (when Ruby releases them from RL) LOL. and waiting on playground equipment. A lot of outdoor learning happening earlier this year. Lee "our challenge is what we did in CL needs to also be happening in those outlying communities.

Lee-

Shared how LL uses ARPA funds, Incentive for CDL drivers, waiting on playgrounds to get completed. Building capacity have to pull together as a team in the tribes with child care and Head Start, have a vision of what we want and how to do this. Would like to see the same opportunities in the outer communities as Cass Lake gets everything. CCA Board position, great opportunity to support the tribes as a representative.

Patti-

Strategic Plan Review: Discussion on 'welcome pack' for MNTRECC Planning Team members, something similar to the 'new staff orientation and/or exiting review' there is a new MNTRECC orientation included with the coordinating office, 2-hour orientation video that includes a small portion about MNTRECC. Discussion on asking Planning Team members to market or keep the tribal council/stakeholder letter of who MNTRECC is and what we do. Each tribal community operates differently, and planning team members may not meet directly with the council. Discussion included info packet to include brochure. Communication is a Facebook a good social platform for all tribes? Someone asked if the Metro workgroup had their own FB?

TTAC: Market to planning team members, share info on Facebook and other social media platforms.

Becky asked for a flyer to build it or market it better;

Building Trainer/training capacity: recruiting but stopping when it has to be approved. Form to say what 'community something more specific' include with the brochure and application.

Parent aware discussion of what are the challenges/struggles, what are the benefits? Kelly will send the Parent Aware numbers for Tribal Providers.

District meetings will bring Janel into this meeting to share information. Barriers/challenges could be the funding levels/star rating.

Matt Kane, Sr. Management Consultant, Management Analyst & Development-

Did a Question session with the group on how states govern tribal child care Programs? Went through a series of questions. The Planning Team Members had time to give their input.

The Group had some discussion on where to have our Quarterly meetings for 2022.

January 13 & 14 Host by White Earth

April 21 & 22 Host by Leech Lake

July 14 & 15 Host by Red Lake

October 13 & 14 Host by Bois Forte (Patti will reach out to Christine and Vondalee)

Friday, we Listened to a presentation from Brandon and Maya on the Montessori School through Wildflower. There are opportunities to become Montessori, support for training, but need to attend this in Minneapolis right now.

Made some changes to the Letter to Tribal Council and Stakeholders, Patti will be creating a "Orientation Packet" of what MNTRECC is and the Resources we provide. The brochure will also be a part of this. The Planning Team Members will sign the letter for each of their tribes and provide the packet to share our information.

Follow up-

If you are interested in sitting on the Child Care Aware Board, please let me or Kelly Monson know, or if you have any questions about the role, we can help you.

Patti will revise the Strategic Plan and get it back out to the group with more measurable details.

This was a long meeting, but so glad we were able to meet in person. Thank you all for participating and **THANK YOU AMY** for hosting this meeting and keeping us all safe with your Safety Protocol!!

Take Care All,

Patti