

MNTRECC Planning Team
October 12-13, 2023
Shakopee – Mystic Lake – Playworks

Present: Amy Donaldson, Bailey Shanley (Shakopee), Rebecca Littlewolf, Becca Tibbetts (Leech Lake CC Services), Lee Turney LL ECD (Virtual), Ruby Gurneau, Shannon Thunder and Vena Cobenais (Red Lake), Kim Lage, Wayne Somes Tribal Liaison & (Melissa Amundson-Virtual) (White Earth), Patti Turney, Diane Smith, Sandy Gehrke MNTRECC & Michele Fredrickson (Virtual), Doreen Lanoue (Indigenous Visioning), Nou Thao CC Aware CO), Eric Haugee, DHS, Astra Lowery, Think Small, Erin Young, CCA Coordinating Office, Allison Zindle (virtual) OCC, Ciara Meyers DHS. Gaylene Spolarich, DHS FFN Specialist

Prayer & Welcome; Margo – Blessing in Dakota language & welcome from Bill – Tribal Council Administrator.

Nou Thao, CCA of MN coordinating Office

Coordinators meeting DEI work, in person in St. Cloud and Eric will be with them. Webinar for people to come in to ask questions. Quality trainers – Nikki going on leave until week after Thanksgiving. Market rate survey will be starting, transferred everything to new system PD – starting Alex Jacques will be interim to continue the work in the system. Refer to him and cc Nou Thao. Empower to education up and running – building different relations, mentor and mentor ship going well.

Doreen - Indigenous Visioning: learning the ropes, working with support resources for the FFN providers, meeting with them monthly including virtual meetings, Facebook, reaching out and seeking new people

Wayne: presenting tribal language resource, finishing up with PA coaching, will be attending the Native American Parenting program TOT, working with Red Lake, 60 FFN providers in Mahube, looking for many openings for preschool & family child care have the space for someone to take over, kid's plus new program. Medicine garden four sacred items, waiting on a sign for this, closed our first cultural cohort, learned more about cultural and language. Every Tuesday have a language table, receiving certificate, does storytelling. Poverty simulation - October 25 from 1 – 4 pm, contact him to registration.

Astra – work at Think Small, submitted for rating. We have large cases works the five large counties in the metro area. Curriculum night was a good turnout. Have a library on site and pulled resources from there and happy to be at the meeting.

Erin Young – new initiative for EC – new people in the EC field to learn and grow as a teacher. Apprenticeship program – designed to be a hands-on learning experience. Has five components, Apprenticeship will seek a degree, paid position, those already working in Early Childhood, earning money while growing their skills, will be working full time, have to have a HS diploma or GED, because they have to go to college, on the job training (working in a classroom) work toward a AA or master, not a requirement but has to at least take 9 credits in a

two-year period. They will work directly with a mentor, who will support and build the foundation, have 13 applicants working through this process right now. 6 hours of paid release time, this is flexible for the employer. Working with all colleges with an Early Childhood Program

Teach Apprenticeship is a pilot project, this is new to the state and new to apprenticeship in general this is open and accessible to everyone. This is very similar to TEACH. We reimburse the program for supporting their employers. Those programs that support an apprenticeship will be a stipend for this program to cover cost to support staff through this program. This is available statewide. Get college paid for, get at least a \$1 raise after a year, employer will pay up to 5% of tuition.

Mentors – ideally working within a classroom, but if there isn't anyone available on site, this could be a director. Mentor can be the director if classroom staff are not available. Setting goals and training. Mentors needs a college degree, any college degree not just Early childhood. Mentor will have extra tools for support and understand the process of attending college. Also, a professional development opportunity for the mentor. They get \$2000.00 stipend
Need to clear with the federal labor on rules & regulations for tribal nations.

Family Childcare – do not have an employer, working on this process and brainstorming, open the opportunity for MNTRECC Planning Team to be a partner on developing this process. Share Erin Youngs email to the planning team members. Next mentorship will start early 2024.
Eriny@childcareawaremn.org

Patti update, went through what's in the packet. RFP for community connectors in the packets, flyer on childcare regulations, MN story connection, gathering information to update the MNTRECC website, send to Michele or hand to one of the staffs. A lot of meeting and changes or approved through legislation. Try to attend all the staff meetings to support the staff

Michele update – currently at 41 family and center base providers. Received more updates prior to the meeting so those numbers. 88 MNTRECC eligible providers, marketing subcommittee meeting, sent website for the updates, will include note for those who does not submit the update. Getting together with the 4 tribes that does licensing, meeting quarterly a few before the planning team meeting.

Sandy – Busy with E2E, currently has 36 participants. have been visiting the Tribal programs and getting them connected. Doing a lot of CDA Support for E2E. went up to Grand Portage last month and will be visiting Boise Forte the end of the month. The training surveys have been sent and starting to get some of these back in. there will be 2 \$50 gift cards drawing for these. I am on the WE Brain Conference committee and the Together We Grow conference committee.

Diane: Audio for the Ojibwe Language kits are complete, we have 100 CD's recorded. Dakota Language Kits, we have 5 revised on hand. Will be working on the audio for the Dakota kits next. We are in the process of updating the Language TOT with Achieve. NAPP TOT next week, Screening 8 new potential trainers within the next 2 weeks. And we have Adult 1 & 2 training in Baxter next month in November.

Allison update: active request for information (ARFI), open to all tribal CCDF administration, and anyone that has ties or communication with childcare. If you wish to comment it is open until Jan 2, 2024. Hosting listening sessions 10/25 8:00pm virtual session Tribal consultation Nov 17th to register by, can use CCDF funds to travel for this. Is in Albuquerque NM Nov 29 & 30. Everyone's fiscal waivers are all approved, Sept 29th approval letters were sent out. Construction set a side request, all approved, reach out to your program specialist. ACF 700 – Program Data due 12/31/23. ACF 696T – Fiscal report due 12/29/23

CARSS Website- open for updating contact information, staffing changes Gina Miller and Carl have taken a different position within the organization. LL, WE GP & RL will have Allison. ML UP, LS and FDL will have Deanna and BF will have Zena.

Webinar 10/27 How to tell the story of language revitalization, how to incorporate data. Tribal Administrative Call 10/19 at 1:00 is now the 3rd Thursday of the month.

Amy: Renovating the back playground, they have a large family waiting list for the therapeutic classroom, they are now up to 4 classrooms and cover Occupational Therapy and Speech. We will leave at 2:45 to the Cultural Center.

Fire trucks are visiting for Fire Prevention for the program.

White Earth (Kim): Brain conference in 2024 – committee is working on the assigned tasks, looking for keynote speakers. Summer youth helpers, hope to see them back next summer, ages from 14 – 17 years, paid internship through the summer, that was above minimum wage. Building is coming along, trying to get as much done as possible, decline, one FFC closed, we were contacted by a former foster care provider wanting to open back up, in White Earth can't be dual licensed. Melissa added her input, she is doing the newsletter. We had two trainers that are language speakers, we wanted to offer more Ojibwe Languages in sentences, and labels and buttons, recording statements on this device so they can hear the language in addition to seeing the language with the labeling.

Ruby – Announced she will be retiring in Dec 2023. Shannon and Vena will be covering her position. Has been out of work a lot due to illness. They ordered new flooring for their playground, no kids in the scholarship program. Their center is full and they have 150 children on the waiting list, busy with revising and updating applications. New center opens in Ponemah with 20 child capacity.

Leech Lake update (Becky and Becca) – introduced Becca as the new licensors. Currently looking for center manager and team leaders, hired Michael Smith as the cultural coordinator. Infant Toddler event held in October, working on construction, wellness Wednesday bring teaching staff together, coordinated training event with Head Start to have safety training, collaborating with boys and girls club for boo-bash, we have 9 licensed providers and 9 FFN approved providers. Language activities, created rez dog book. Working on bringing back the language, provider language resources kit for providers. Waking up language speakers, offering resources/binder and continue to offer resources to build that binder. Retention grant, quarterly grant funding for keeping their employer. ELS offering online application, submitted our quarterly report, have providers across the state, some changes to duties as we have grown and changes, working on our end of the year reports. Working with Amity graphic recreating the

binder so that they are more user friendly. Resource will be available to 'our providers' in the future hoping to be able to offer other people.

Lee: 115 staff totals. Lack of resources in the classrooms, beginning in July have been able to build capacity. A lot of young people both male and females. Got to buy 44 amazon gift cards. Going to continue to acknowledge the continuity and consistence (Director challenge) and bring this back in November. We have closed two centers' completely, don't have the 3 to 5-year-old in those communities. Open a partnership with Deer River.

Programming re design at CCS & Head Start. Serving a 112 of 190 kids, dropping enrollment to 157 child slots, adjusting wages for staff, addressing wage equity hope to balance, stabilizing and reducing turnover. Completely a major renovation at AOB, we will have to close for the summer to complete the project. Applying for an EHS expansion.

Ciara – CCAP, RFP Engagement 2024-2027, Market Rate Survey done every 3 years, this will end Feb 2, 2024. child care access grants, supplies, workers, cellphones, transportation and co-payments. Current engagement plans and goals. You can contact Amanda.ward@state.mn.us with questions. Creating a review system with the input of community voices. The power Point is attached.

Day Two – 10/13/2023

Elizabeth Aadland – systems transformation presentation. Shared a Power Point, this is in the attachments. Create a seamless, tailored and intuitive experience that inspires confidence and boosts satisfaction.

Nolan – Tribal Child Care licenses and stabilization grants. Questions numbers seem low, these number reflect those that applied for this grant. Not everyone participant. Legally non-licenses provider will get a one-time payment of \$500.00 and no longer eligible for monthly payments. Legal non-license providers can apply for license on this hub.

New pieces that providers will need to tract and submit, daily attendance recorders, once information is entered into the hub, provider will start submitting daily attendance. Program requirements are similar to stabilization base grant but there are some different. A lot of questions regarding daily attendance.

There was plenty of question on the process and concerns from the tribes. We (MNTRECC) will need to process this longer, review the power point and get back together with DHS and clarify how this works with tribal programs. This meeting could be the next Planning Team meeting, or a separate sub-meeting with DHS. Please reach out and share what your thoughts are on the Transformation system, especially with the tracking of our Tribal Providers.

Nadine – Wayfinder; In 2021 legislation one stop assistance – build license CC – discussion to support FFN providers – find areas were CC is needed. Struggling with contact their navigator to establish goals to achieve what they are seeking. A lot of outreach and recruitment, starting to get to know their community –

Eric DHS – legislation on automatic one star. All state license CC will be a one-star rating. One effort we are offering is signing bonus starting July 2024 co-hort. Will start marketing so they have time to prep and join. Consult with tribes we will dive into those details in January or April. When the providers come up for the renewal can they opt out? Yes. Is \$500.00 the magic number for signing bonus. Need to build some function in develop.

Parent aware rated and who isn't. coaches will continue to work to determine that information. What are some of the reasons why cc providers are moving away from the rating system? Ton of engagement to address of the issues that are being raised, looking at each of the modules.

States are in the process of writing their plans and engagement, sometime in April we will want to have those talking points. Tribes request key points to review and reflect before the April meetings. Concerns of creating some access issues, parents may not want to provide consent to share information such as attendance.

Tribal summit last week. Council from the bigger reservations attended.

Lara update - Build Initiatives just here to listen and don't have an agenda.

Gaylene Spolarich update – FFN - 4/2022 18-month grant period and ended in September 2023. DHS was able to look at gaps, FFN work will continue but fiscal doesn't start until June 24 – DHS will support Oct 1, 2023 to June 24 – will continue to serve without gaps. Gaylene also shared a Power Point and is attached in the email. She is looking for more folks to join the FFN Advisory Committee. Gaylene Spolarich update – FFN - 4/2022 18-month grant period and ended in September 2023. DHS was able to fund the gap for nine months with CCDF, FFN work will continue but state general fund doesn't take effect until July 1, 2023. Gaylene also shared a Power Point and is attached in the email. She is looking for more Tribal folks to join the FFN Advisory Committee.

This concludes the meeting.

Thank you, Amy and the Shakopee council, for hosting our meeting, the location, food and accommodation of the staff there are the best.

Our next meeting will be January 11, 2024 and will be virtual.