

MNTRECC Planning Team Meeting Minutes
April 13 & 14, 2023
Mahnomen, MN

Started with a welcome, a Morning Blessing from Spiritual Leader Mike Swan, and Introductions.

Present: MNTRECC-Patti, Michele, Sandy & Diane. Eric Haugee DHS, Nou Thao & Matt Carlson CCA Coordinating Office (virtual), Barb Fabre, Indigenous Visioning, Gaylene Spolarich, DHS FFN Specialist (virtual), Julie Yang & Abdulkadir Awarsame - Think Small (virtual), Maria Steen -NW District/ Lakes and Prairie, Dana Patsie -Mahube-OTWA CAP. Allison Zindle -OCC (ACF) (virtual), Ciara Meyer- DHS CCAP (virtual), YWCA- Paula Landis (virtual), Chelssi Klein- Empower to Educate (virtual), Lee Turney- LL ECD (virtual), Melanie Hanson- FDL (virtual), Pat Broker- LLECD, Amy Donaldson- Shakopee, Sue Heisler, Kim Lage and some of their help staff from White Earth Child Care,

Eric Haugee- Gave an update on Ruby, she in the hospital in St. Paul, will send her a card and take a donation from anyone that wants to support her stay, Eric will go and visit her and give a card, flowers and money from donations. The address for the hospital is included if any one wants to send her anything or visit.

DHS Has been busy with preparing for the next FY which starts in July. Contracts, budgets, etc. DHS is waiting for the Legislature to wrap up by the end of May to see what changes will happen. They are working on a DEI Administrative Plan. There is a PA Equity Action Plan committee that is being formed, Patti will send out an invite to send out to your parents and providers to participate. There was some discussion around the Licensing to be counted as a One-Star. Planning Members were given an opportunity to weigh in, how do Tribal Providers and Tribal Licensers fit into this plan? more discussion to come on this.

The Hospital Ruby is staying at:

Bethesda Hospital
45 W. 10th St, Room 4104

St Paul, MN 55102 **This is a picture of the card and flowers Eric took to Ruby** 😊



Nou Thao – IDI Training is being planned, Marketing with Wayfinder/Navigators, getting Promo items, PD hired 2 new people, an ETL Position and a Workforce Advisory position. Survey around PD- 1000 + responses of data. E2E recruited 24 mentors for Mentor pilot. 204 Active participants, 224 potential participants. PA Engagement event for coaches and grant administrators in June and May will be an All Coordinator meeting in St. Cloud.

Matt Carlson – Still working on finding a way to get Data on how Native Children are being tracked. Having monthly meetings with Navigators, learning a new system to track data. A

major emphasis on outreach and recruitment. Patti asked if there is a way to track data when the PBU is being done?

Barb Fabre – Indigenous Visioning, has a grant for FFN for the state of MN, website TaylorFinn@Indigenousvisioning.com to get on the list. They have mini grants, you need to complete 7 modules of training, just finishing up the first round and had 8 grants awarded. Will be starting another cohort in April – May. They also have other brochures on ages and stages, age appropriate activities, packets to help LNL and the benefits of being licensed, Culture pieces, etc. Contact Taylor to get on the mailing list. They have had FFN Socializing events in Metro and Duluth, all caregivers are invited.

Gaylene Spolrich, DHS FFN Specialist – Started with the FFN Grant a year ago, Barb is one of their FFN Grantees, they have 18 FFN Grantees altogether. They currently have surveys that are active and have until May 31st to get the surveys completed and back. So far, they have 546 surveys returned. Hopefully the Legislature will approve to continue the FFN Grant.

Here is the link Gaylene was referring to complete the survey

[Family Friend and Neighbor Minnesota / Family Friend and Neighbor Minnesota](#)

Julie Yang and Abdulkadir Awarsame, Think Small- Language Access Line- The Language Access Line staff help with interpretations when filling out forms or to help providers through a process. They have 3 full time staff and looking to hire a few more. Listed is the contact information;

Here is the contact info for the Language Access Line Team

General LAL:
1-888-291-9811
(Metro) 651-665-0150

Outreach & Engagement Program Leader
Julie Yang
jyang@thinksmall.org

Somali LAL Specialist/LAL Team Leader:
Abdulkadir Warsame
awarsame@thinksmall.org
651-641-6673

Hmong LAL Specialist
651-366-6792

Spanish LAL Specialist:
Rocio Sosa
rsosa@thinksmall.org
651-641-6660

Maria Steen, NW District, CAPLP – The LAL Staff have been very helpful with helping some families in their area and appreciate their help. They have had 58 trainings the past couple months, NAPP Classes between Mary Aery and Sue H have been done. Trying to do more culturally appropriate sessions. Happy to have Sandy back. They still have some start up grants available and wayfinder startup vouchers. New Grant cycle will be starting in July. E2E, still working on how to include the Tribal providers and when to hand off to Michele. They have one Tribal program to re-rate for PA.

Dana Patsie, Mahube-OTWA CAP – They have 4 tribal licensed providers in cohort and will be transition to Sandy G in the July cohort. White Earth supports PA, Wayne Somes is still doing some coaching to CC programs. working on the budget and EL Scholarships. Working on a lot of spring events and networking events. Working on DEI Plan and they are adding Bilingual signage to their office.

Patti Turney, MNTRECC – Our contract is being renewed. Worked on the draft work plan with Eric. Submitted the budget and narrative for the next 2 years. Updated the Strategic Plan with the work we've done and will work on this tomorrow to include Identified Needs and Barriers based of the survey results. DHS Site visit is scheduled fore May 31st. Thuba Nguyen will be providing us a Legislature update today at 3:30. Have been busy with a lot of meetings, staff travels, TOT's being planned, Provider and Trainer Appreciation, and Adult Mod 1 & 2. Monitoring the workplan and budget.

Michele Fredrickson, Outreach/CC Startup and Retention Navigator - The Metro Work Group meeting is scheduled for next week. Facebook, still having some issues with uploading information. The next MNTRECC Newsletter will be done in July 2023. We have added more information, recipes and activities, and highlighting programs. Michele will create a short form to fill out and send it to the Planning Team members so she can update the website with the most current information. We have a total of 42 Tribal Licensed providers. 23 FCC and 17 Centers - 87 are MNTRECC Eligible. The MNTRECC All Sub-Committee met last week and went over updates. Ordered brochures with the updated information. There are 4 new Red Lake providers, sent them Wayfinder Packets and New Provider packets. Attended one outreach booth at the TWG Conference in January, looking for a few more booths in the Tribal Communities to set up with Wayfinder and information on MNTRECC. Ordered provider gifts for Provider Appreciation (book, bag and manicure set). Attending NW MN Licensor meeting and the Northland Foundation NE Coalition meeting in July. Still no calls or referrals for Wayfinder, Have one in the Case Management system. Started having Monthly Meeting with Matt, Kinutta and Patti. Have Wayfinder ads in 3 newspapers and will be getting Billboards up in the 4 licensing communities of LL, RL, WE, and FDL. Attended the Wayfinder Demo of the new case management system, have the RBPD Endorsement, will be getting the training when it is offered. Volunteered to be a "Super User" for the new case management system and will be attending the RBPD Symposium in May in Brainerd.

Diane Smith, Culture/Language Specialist – Training recruitment is slow, but kind of expected it to be. We have two NAPP TOT scheduled; The first one is scheduled on April 20 & 21, 2023 in the Prairie Island Indian Community. Partners with the Family Services program, they

provided the meeting space and will provide continental breakfast & lunch for both days. Rose Robinson will be facilitating the TOT. We need a minimum of five participants to hold this event. The second NAPP TOT will be held in Leech Lake on May 10-11, 2023. Sue Heisler & Kim Lage will be facilitating this TOT. We will be at the Cedar Lakes Casino. Shared the flyer & Native American Cultural Trainer applications in the folders. These TOT are open to the public, all participants will need to complete the application, and be screening by the Tribal Training Advisory committee prior to attending the TOT.

We will also be hosting the annual Adult Learning Modules 1 & 2 on May 4 & 5, 2023 at the Holiday Inn Express in Baxter. This training opportunity is a trainer support activity, this Adult Learning Modules training as required Professional Development training to maintain the Native American Cultural Trainer type.

On May 16 & 17, 2023 we are hosting the Ojibwe & Dakota Language Training of Trainer event in Shakopee at the Link's event center. Nyleta will be facilitating this TOT.

Updated the Native American Cultural Trainer application clarifying the criteria and requirements better on the 2nd page

The TTAC committee meet in February, reviewed the roles and responsibilities, reviewed the interview process, changed the name to screening instead of interview, went over the questions and made some minor changes to the questions. Screening will be scheduled one hour in length, this will allow time for the question portion, allow time for the applicant to set up their mock training and the presentation will be stopped at 12 minutes, and have time for the committee to discuss the applicant and make a recommendation to MNTRECC.

Ojibwe Audio – had the entire project set up with an Ojibwe Language speaker from Red Lake and an independent Indigenous owned and operated sound/entertainment business that fell through within the past few days. Now working with KOBJ to produce the recording and CD and sending out the RFP seeking an Ojibwe Speaker to do the recording. Hopefully will have that work complete by May 30, 2023.

Sandra Gehrke, Professional Development Advisor – Trainers and RPB Conference in Baxter on May 5-7th Rutgers Lodge. We have two trainers who will be attending to gain support I will be with Diane at the TOTS to offer support for trainers this includes May 4, 5th. Adult 1 & 2 courses to become an approved trainer in Baxter MN
Ojibwe/Dakota Language TOT May 16th & 17th, at Prior Lake, Links Event Center
Native American Parenting Program, Sue and Kim at Cass Lake, Cedar Lakes Casino/Hotel May 10-11.

I am working with 4 Child care Providers in Red Lake area to provide coaching support for their CDA

If you have someone who needs support reach out and I will get you going.

We need more PD Specialists for the Verification Visit to complete the CDA Process and we have a flier about this in the packet.

Also, we are encouraging tribal and non-tribal to look at the High School CDA model and see what we can do to support high schools to make early childhood career pathways possible.

I have become approved to be a RPBD specialist again so I am approved to work with those getting a rating in Parent Aware and assist with PD in that area.

I am taking a course writer and online course class to be able to enter MNTRECC cultural classes in to the Develop/Achieve system and hope to start doing that in May.

We are hoping to put the at least one of the NAPPS Native American Parenting Program into an online class so others who do not have access can get this training.

Also working on Cultural trainings with SNAP ED to learn about cultural foods and seasonal foods If you have someone in your area who would like to teach or assist in development of this curriculum please reach out would love to have more input and resources to share.

The Survey will be coming soon I have it ready to go out. Be sure to fill it out and enter in for the drawing to win a gift card. This is what we share with training delivery districts and trainers to get training out to the communities.

Allison Zindle, OCC Region V Office – Have the CCDF Plans, there is support if you need to make updates, they have a TA support to help with the plans. Some have increases or decreases depending on your child count in your area. You should have received your approved letter, if not it should be there soon. ACF 700 Report July 18th webinar, will help count children in your program. May be getting contacted on out standing reports, they will go back 3 years and will have technical support available. April 19th @ 1:00 Central there is a strength-based webinar on substance abuse with Head Start. April 27th at 1:00 a webinar on Management for Tribal Administrators/Admin Team. May 4th at 12:00 webinar on Health Literacy with Head Start programs and outcomes for families. Funding opportunities on the American Rescue Plan, there is a Free Lead Program through grants and is on the Office of Development. There is a Doctoral for Head Start and Child Care Research, new pot of money (Grant) to do research for a one- or two-year program

Pat Broker, LL ECD – Will be have their FA1 Monitoring from the OHS the end of April. Will be having the 2nd annual learning academy 2 weeks in August for teachers for PD. They will be doing field trips, fishing, netting cooking outdoors, etc. Lots of cultural activities. Kids need to be outdoors even in the winter. They are developing a plan with programming to address the under-enrollment funding, asking staff to do more with less staff support. They pan on opening the Inger Center next year. They have a partnership with LL Tribal College for the CDA with Monique Paulson (Wasae), They are also working on a High-Quality Indigenous EC Certificate that would be about 9-10 credits when completed. White Earth and Fond du lac, has this type of certificate. They are part of the Young Athletes Program, they have really done a lot with the LLEC program, will be back again with training during pre-service. LLEC is now part of a Pilot and will be presenting in LL the week of Aug 31st. (Don't tell Lee, LOL) He was on virtual and Pat was busted, too funny!! 😊

Lee Turney, ECD Director – Busy spending the ARPA funds the deadline was March 31st. spent all funds, helped with the infrastructure of the maintenance of our buildings. There has been a lot of money dumped into the system and has created great opportunities. We still have the challenges, can't build our workforce. Will be doing a visioning session with the EC Team

planning what our communities need, thinks this will do well, take a look at who we are as tribal programs. Becky has been working on the stabilization grants, capacity building and creative on capacity building efforts.

Ciara Meyers, DHS, CCAP – Legislative updates, looking at paying for closures with weather, the affordable care/Great Start. Families will pay no more than 7% of their income to child care. There is a Grant RFP for Homelessness, there are one-year amendments for a few programs with some allowable uses (strollers, diapers, shoes, highchairs, etc.) can also use funds to pay the co-pays. Ciara will send us the link.

Amy Donaldson Play Works Center Director (Shakopee) – They have been working with Lindsay and Special Olympics, she does the set up and provides material. Going great. Has workforce issues like everyone else, some of the classrooms are closed since Covid, they have the students but not the teachers. They have closed their Montessori classroom; the teacher is ready to retire and no one to replace her. The building is going to be demolished, they are not opening the drop off center since the pandemic, hoping to build a new child development center, in process of what's next. Health and Wellness is her new boss. The therapeutic classrooms is still going great. They have a smaller ratio child/teacher for this, this program offers, mental health, special needs. There is a waiting list, they have funding to provide services for more families. They have 3 fluent Dakota speakers and are working with teachers; the elders only speak Dakota to them. Summer Camp they have 200 students, the ratios may be looking different. They have a new EC Manager about 6 months ago, she will bring her to the Planning Team soon. Conscious Discipline will be held in St. Cloud the end of June for a week if you are wanting to become a certified trainer.

Connie Kaldor NDSU – presented what their college has to offer, they have an EC Online degree, they have BA and Master Degrees and are part of the NDU system. They have free applications by available until the end of April.

Sue Heisler, White Earth Child Care Director – Glad to host, staff have been filling in the centers when staff are out, they have a strong team and work well together and collaborate. The OCC approved their new building, it is near a wooded area and will be breaking ground in May. They financed 16 FCC playgrounds or fencing in their communities. The Stabilization Grants gave them a great opportunity to enhance CC's. They have 20 Child Cares that are PA Rated, one not in PA. The Library they have been collaborating with Head Start, they bus the kids to go visit and have story time. They have waiting lists, Child Care recruitment advertisement, they also provide Ojibwe language person going in to the child cares. They close for one day a month to do trainings, speakers, offers meals, cultural training and a time to be together. They have a Circus theme for the Week of the Young Child and has been a great collaboration. They will be having a Fatherhood Festival on a Saturday in May. EC Scholarships budget has been submitted. Kim CO-partners in licensing. They are bringing back the 20th Annual Brain Conference and have asked Barb Fabre to do the opening. There will be a zoom call on May 2 for the planning committee. They have been using the covid dollars to provide bonuses for staff and covering co-pays for families. They will be paying for summer youth to work in child care classrooms. Pre-Print is done and crossed Allison's desk. The Homelessness Program spend

down the grant, apply for the next one. Trauma Informed Care – Aces Training for all staff. Quality – fences, other services and health and safety.

Kim Lage – Appreciate all the staff, MNTRECC, CCA, Regional staff and how we all work well together. **Casey** commented that there has been a lot of collaboration with the casino and the event planning.

Melanie Hanson, Child Care Licensor, Fond du Lac – There has been some changes, they under the Human Services Division, Wylma is back. Tawny Savage left her position. They had a Child Abuse Prevention Week, there is a lack of staff, staying on top of CC for younger children. No School age care on the reservation, not enough resources, wondering what families will do during the summer. Updating ordinance and Policies. Final Draft for the Child Care Capacity Building with First Children/First Nation. Commented on how resilient the child care people are, they are always figuring it out. We have the money but no staff for the support.

We were not able to connect with Thuba Nguyen for a Legislative Update. Hopefully next meeting in July she can provide an update for the Planning Team.

April 14, 2023 Day 2

Patti Turney – Reviewed the Strategic Plan and the work we have done so far, then went into the Identified Needs and Barriers survey that was conducted and had the members review the survey so we could add to our goals to address this. One area we thought we could add some language was to add to Goal 1. B. to focus on Higher Education. Of course, add the Capacity Building efforts. We didn't have enough time to go through the whole thing so Patti will add to the areas and send it out as a Draft and get feedback to the group. This will be sent to DHS by the end of April.

Paula Landis, YWCA CDA – Paula shared a power point and showed the progress of the CDA Students and reviewed the schedule. The program requirements, they get a \$70.00 card a month for gas, additional support, help with resumes, clothing or housing, mental health computer literacy training, pass assessment, take teachers where they are at in the field. Great support. For more info contact Paula at Plandis@ywcampls.org They have just finished their 40th cohort and is free to eligible participants.

Chelssi Klein, Empower to Educate - Shared an overview of the program and slides. There is a mentorship program and full for this first one, but will be offering another mentorship program every 6 month. The mentors help make the connection with Teach, CDA, etc., they can meet in person, online or hybrid to connect with a workforce advisor, they do check in monthly. Sue has a few that she thinks would be great mentors. The flyer is in the MNTRECC Packets and will share the link to apply.

Sandy will be probably be picking up some work to do some Work Force Advising in her PDA role. We will set up a meeting around this.

Chelssi attached 2 documents overviewing the Empower to Educate Mentorship Program. One for mentors and one for mentees. The Empower to Educate flyer gives a very brief overview and connects to the website which I also linked below. The E2E brief provides some wonderful testimonials from current participants on the second page.

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

Please let me know if anything else would be helpful! I look forward to connecting with you on the best way for our programs to connect and support early childhood educators and providers.

This concludes the MNTRECC Planning Team Meeting. Patti will be reaching out to find a host for the July meeting. Will reach out to the Dakota Tribes, we have had the last few meetings in the northern part of the state.

Chi-Miigwech to Sue, Kim and Casey for the great hospitality they provided for our meeting, the Planning, the event staff and the food was great. It was wonderful to explore the White Earth Career Fair ☺ We appreciate all that you have done.

I apologize if I left out any information in the meeting minutes, busy listening and not writing...

~Patti~