

**Healthy North Dakota Early Childhood Alliance (HNDECA)
Stakeholder Committee Meeting
October 6 – 7, 2008**

Draft Meeting Summary

Proposed Meeting Goals:

- To receive information regarding HNDECA funded initiatives;
- To receive updates on the status of the ECCS grant;
- To receive information about project evaluation;
- To recognize and celebrate the successes of the project and its partners;
- To agree on the development of a single initiative for the grant period;
- To review the grant guidance for the competitive round and identify HNDECA strengths and weaknesses in relation to the guidance;
- To review and discuss outcomes and next steps relative to the Frameworks Institute training;
- To review proposed legislation and the status of budgetary OAR's; and
- To identify next steps in planning.

Meeting Participants: Earleen Friez, Jody Huber, Cyndee McLeod, Pam Sagness, Sue Offut, Linda Jagielo, Linda Elstad, Ann Ellefson, Barb Masset, Deb Paaverud, Matt Proulx, Beth Schildroth, Linda Lembke, Linda Rorman, Vanessa Hoines, Missi Baranko, Julie Quamme, Michelle Schmitz-Bohrer, Allison Dybing-Dreissen, Cheryl Eckblad, Richard Rathge, Helen Danielson, Sarah Myers, Bobbe Shreve, Cheryl Masset-Martz, Constance Keller, Heather Steffl, Linda Reinicke, Donene Feist, Carlotta McCleary, Kim Senn, Kimberlie Yineman, Roxane Romanick and Tim Hathaway.

Facilitated by: The Consensus Council

Welcome, Introductions and Process Review: Participants were welcomed to the meeting and provided self-introductions. Participants reviewed and affirmed the use of consensus as the rule of decision and reaffirmed the ground rules for discussion as follows:

1. It's our show.
2. Everyone is equal.
3. No relevant topic is excluded.
4. No discussion is ended.
5. Respect opinions.
6. Respect the time.
7. Silence is agreement.
8. Non-attribution.
9. Keep the facilitator accurate.

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10. Have fun!

Participants were directed to the Steering and Stakeholder Committee meeting summaries from April 22-23, 2008 and were asked to provide any revisions or corrections to Cheryle or Rose. Participants reviewed the proposed agenda and meeting materials and no changes were recommended.

ECCS Grantee Panel Presentation: Grantees in attendance provided the Stakeholders with a final report on their ECCS funded initiatives, as follows:

- *NDSU Extension Bright Beginnings:* Vanessa Hoines
- *Department of Human Services Early Learning Guidelines and Quality Rating and Improvement System:* Linda Jagielo
- *Family Voices of North Dakota Family Leadership Institute:* Donene Feist
- *Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health:* Carlotta McCleary
- *UND Center for Rural Health Family to Family Medical Home:* Cheryle Masset-Martz for Pat Conway

State ECCS Update: Cheryle provided the Stakeholders with an update regarding the ECCS grant, on a state and federal level, as well as information about the upcoming proposal for continued funding. Cheryle reported that the grant would not be competitive as previously thought. Thus, the ND Department of Health (NDDoH) is the only entity eligible in the state to apply for and potentially receive the ECCS funding. The federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has provided extension funding to ND in the amount of \$105,000 to utilize through May 2009. In addition, there is funding in the amount of approximately \$5,900 remaining for carryover from unspent grant funds, fringe benefits, printing and travel.

Cheryle reviewed preliminary follow-up information from the August Frameworks Institute training. Nine co-sponsoring organizations were able to provide sixty-three (63) participants with training and travel expense reimbursement. There remains approximately \$3,200 in carryover funds from the sponsor contributions. Participants have been sent a training evaluation electronically through Survey Monkey and have until October 10 to complete it.

Cheryle reported that the ECCS HNDECA website (www.ndhealth.gov/eccs) has been updated to include all of the agency and information links provided to her. The website also has the Dismissal Study (Rathge) available and will have more information posted in the future.

Cheryle indicated that the Stakeholder Group has important work to do including the development of a sub-committee meeting schedule, determinations on program and funding priorities and development of a grant writing team for the next

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proposal. The Stakeholder Group will likely not meet again, in this fashion, until spring of 2009.

Evaluation Presentation: Dr. Richard Rathge, ECCS project evaluator, provided participants with an overview of the HRSA grant guidelines highlighting the elements that the proposal “must” have including:

- A system-building macro approach
- A multi-agency collaboration that addresses the 5 core areas of ECCS priority
- An evident, intentional coordination that mirrors the federal partnerships

Dr. Rathge also detailed the need for development of a logic model and theory of change (causal model) and provided participants with tools for development of each. He then provided a comprehensive review of the various forms of evaluation including:

- Needs Assessment
- Process Evaluation
- Outcome Evaluation
- Impact Evaluation

Dr. Rathge will remain available to the HNDECA Stakeholders as they begin meeting in their sub-committees to assist in the development of these evaluative measures. Dr. Rathge’s Power Point presentation will be distributed to all participants and posted on the ECCS website soon.

Recognition of Project and People Successes: To close the meeting for the day, Cheryle thanked all HNDECA partners for their efforts at collaborative system building. She provided celebratory recognition for HNDECA sub-committee chairs, the HNDECA facilitator and for Donene Feist, Family Voices of ND, who recently received a national health award from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The meeting was adjourned for Day 1.

Frameworks Institute Training Follow-up Discussion: Participants discussed the training and the ways they have utilized it in their work since, as follows:

- Kids Count has used the messaging techniques to prepare a publication that is now receiving national attention.
- Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) has been keeping the talk alive in their work, in the work of Lutheran Social Services (LSS) and within the ND Association for the Education of Young Children (NDAEYC).
- The Oral Health Coalition will be using it to draft legislative messages and proposals.
- The FACES program has used it in brochure development.

- A participant used it to prepare for a media interview.

Participants shared these additional observations regarding the training:

- There was some disappointment with the quality of the training/delivery; maybe we got the “B” game.
- There was not enough time to process all of the material covered (could have used an extra day) or to try it on for size with real messages.
- There was not a specific product or unifying message developed for HNDECA.
- A smaller group of trainees may have been better able to reach agreements and get further in the messaging.
- The trainee audience was large, diverse and with broad interests.
- The messaging is values-based, outcome-based, tested and road ready.
- It would be helpful to have peer reviewers (within HNDECA) to provide critique and guidance.
- People with a marketing background are particularly helpful in this area.
- We still need to determine what we want to say, and to whom.
- We need to make the distinction between lobbying and educating when it comes to message creation and delivery.
- We need to assure that our messages meet the needs of all partners, including children with special health care needs, mental health disorders, etc.

Participants discussed where they would like to take the frameworks concepts into the future and agreed to the following:

- We want to provide policy makers with solutions.
- David Edie from WI might be able to help HNDECA with this initiative.
- We want to have a common message, a tag line and one values statement to which we can all commit (Every Child Matters, Step Up for Kids).
- We need to use collective, collaborative strategies and repetitive key words/concepts.
- We need to develop a “platform” of issues for HNDECA.
- There is a need to arrange a separate, smaller meeting to develop such messages and frames for review by the larger group.

Potential policy issues/draft legislative initiatives that can be covered by the smaller group include:

- Revision of ND Century Code (NDCC) regarding early childhood
- Mandatory background checks for childcare workers
- Self-certification/declaration legislation
- Medicaid waiver for autism; birth to age 5
- Mandatory newborn hearing screenings

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- Appropriation support for free dental clinics in four communities in ND
- Dental loan repayment program
- Increase in donated dental services availability
- “Care-mobile” services for prevention and treatment in rural areas
- Increased Medicaid reimbursement for dentists
- Adding funding to beef up the QRIS
- Tie all of the efforts into mental health
- Ten (10) Pre-K pilot sites for 4 year olds
- Development of a State Advisory Council on Early Education, appointed and convened by the Governor

The following were agreed to as next steps in implementing the Frameworks Institute training for the benefit of HNDECA:

- Each of the nine (9) co-sponsors will be asked to select two (2) members to serve on this ad hoc committee.
- Each sub-committee chair will be asked to serve as well.
- The list of these participants will be compared to the HNDECA Steering Committee composition to assure that there are no significant gaps.
- Some of the work can be done via webinar (www.dimdim.com) prior to getting the group together.
- Cheryle will send information regarding available dates in October to convene the group (NOT October 23, 24, 28 or 29) for a meeting that will be roughly from 10:00 to 3:00 in length.
- It is imperative that this work be done as soon as possible in preparation for the 2009 legislative session.

The remaining funding in the Frameworks Institute “account” can be utilized to support convening of this meeting, having messages formally reviewed and critiqued and potentially for other implementation ideas. It was also suggested that funds are needed to support an event with Dr. Bruce Perry scheduled for 3/2/09. Dr. Jean Clinton was also mentioned as a good speaker resource for non-rhetorical comments regarding the importance of early childhood development.

Beth Schildroth provided participants with an overview of an Iowa best practice on the data collection method used in the public school system. Participants were encouraged to contact Beth if they desired more information about this method that monitors academic progress for each student by assigning them a numerical designation that follows them throughout their K-12 education.

Overview of 2009 ECCS Grant Guidance: Cheryle reviewed information regarding the early, draft grant guidance and reiterated that the grant is not competitive. The final grant guidance will be released on December 18, 2008 with a due date for the proposal of February 12, 2009. Cheryle requested advice and ideas for preparing the proposal. The following agreements were reached:

- Cheryle will email the excerpted grant guidance document (also distributed previously and in hard copy at the meeting) to all participants.
- Participants are asked to fill in data, answers or suggestions to any of the questions posed, with specific emphasis on the “response” section.
- All responses should be sent back to Cheryle by 11/15/08.
- Cheryle will arrange a conference call with the sub-committee Chairs to get their specific assistance on the “response” section of the proposal.

A “Grant Writing” team was also requested to assist in the direct development and review of the proposal and the following HNDECA members volunteered to serve in that capacity:

1. Linda Jagielo
2. Linda Reinicke
3. Vanessa Hoines
4. Donene Feist
5. Kids Count representative
6. Linda Rorman as a reviewer
7. Sue Offut as a reviewer

Discussion of Single Systemic Issue: There was lengthy discussion regarding working on a single systemic issue in the area of mental health as had been previously agreed. There is approximately \$36,000 in funding to utilize between now and May 31, 2009 for such an effort or efforts. After much discussion, the agreement to proceed is as follows:

- There is agreement on the premise that there has been no attempt at comprehensively gathering and analyzing all of the available data.
- There is a need to have someone identify the gaps in data and to make recommendations regarding priorities for early childhood work, based on the data.
- Dr. Rathge will be contacted to determine whether he can fill the role of an epidemiologist to conduct such work; if he can, his contract will be amended.
- If he cannot, he will be asked to provide advice on potential options among his contacts.
- The epidemiologist will be expected to review existing data, develop an executive summary with recommendations and, if not Dr. Rathge, to work with Dr. Rathge closely for consistency.

The ultimate outcome will be to identify the priority needs and gaps in early childhood in North Dakota. The inputs include the HNDECA sub-committees and the ECCS grant funds to support the work. While the outcome is not specific to mental health, it is not inconsistent with any one-core area of the HNDECA vision and mission.

With respect to the HNDECA sub-committees, it was agreed that:

- The sub-committees would be reconvened this fall for one meeting of 4-6 hours in length
- They will work together to fill in blank spaces on the work plan
- They will work together to identify data sources for the Epidemiological study
- They will develop ideas for public policy initiatives

Then, at some point in the future, the stakeholder group will be reconvened to conduct a new strategic planning session. To that end then, this will mark the completion of the prior work plan efforts.

Review of Proposed Legislation and OAR Status: Participants discussed state agency budget requests, including optional appropriation requests of which they are aware to date, including:

- The NDDoH budget has been submitted to the Governor
- The Department of Human Services (DHS) budget will be submitted to the Governor on 10/15/08
- The NDDoH budget contains an OAR for school nursing and early childhood support
- The DHS budget contains an OAR for safety services that will provide wrap-around programs for children to prevent out-of-home placement
- The DHS budget contains an OAR for support of Parent Resource Centers
- The DHS budget includes an OAR for salary equity for Infant Development staff

Identification of Next Steps in Planning and Implementation: Cheryle will contact HNDECA members with proposed sub-committee meeting dates. Any members who have not served on a sub-committee are asked to become involved in the group of their choice.

Summary Comments: Participants were asked to make a positive summary comment or phrase regarding the meeting progress or outcomes. The comments are as follows:

- This is important work that benefits all of North Dakota
- Cheryle has a big job
- Knowledge and experience
- Staying connected
- Outcomes even beyond our reach
- Ever changing
- Data analysis is a huge step forward for us

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- Decisions were made
- The regrouping feels good
- We have one common goal and that's very important
- Rejoining
- We continue to be able to work well together despite some areas of disagreement
- Ditto
- A new direction and a fresh start
- We are doing an exceptional job, more than the status quo, which paves the way to making the hard decisions
- We have multiple priorities, they are all important but we can still work as one
- Initiated an integrated approach to systems building
- Homework
- Amazing, committed people
- Collaborating effectively
- A new beginning with data
- Thanks to all!

Participants were thanked for their ideas and attendance and the meeting was adjourned by consensus of the group.