

NE WECCP Retreat Notes June 3, 2008
Heidel House Resort – Green Lake, WI

Present: Ruth Chvojicek, Erin Mancoske-Anderson, Bridget Cullen, Kath McGurk, Arlene Wright (afternoon only), Eleanor Dockry, Chris Breunig, Mary Jo Tittl, Collette Ross, Judy Olson, Mary Sue Voights, Karen Apitz, Kate Hildebrandt, Pam Grube, Vikki Kuntsman, & Wendi Schreiter

1. Organizations gave updates and shared challenges that are currently being experienced by the people that are supported by the organization. Following is a list of the challenges identified:
 - a. Special needs children – how to serve and how to collaborate with ecse (also – for ecse – how to work itinerantly). (Mentioned by 3 people)
 - b. Start up funds
 - c. Child Find – identification of children with special needs (screening, etc).
 - d. \$ to support staff
 - e. Supporting family child care in WMELS including specifically follow-up in assessment (3 people mentioned); implementation of dap (mentioned by 2 people).
 - f. Families with children with disabilities – how to work “the system” e.g. how to get involved with the child’s iep, medical home, autism, etc.
 - g. Physicians – training in identification or typical / atypical development
 - h. Quality improvement in child care
 - i. Accurate perspective of quality child care (e.g. getting the right message conveyed through the media and not the negative message that is currently being conveyed in the NE part of the state due to negative events in the child care arena).
 - j. Relationship building between collaborative teams (building respect)
 - k. Strength-based perspective in working with anyone

2. The following ideas were generated through conversations throughout the day as possible uses of the 2008-2009 regional mini-grant funds:
 - a. Creation of a WMELS picture flyer of typical development
 - b. Purchase WMELS books for trainings or other partners/organizations within the region (physicians offices, etc)
 - c. ASQ kits to physicians
 - d. Support to collaborative programs in doing ECERS
 - e. Sending additional regional teams to be trained in ECERS
 - f. Teams to attend Western Region Poverty Summit in Eau Claire
 - g. \$ to support Fond du Lac Social-Emotional Summit
 - h. Poverty awareness in NE region
 - i. Meeting costs for coming year
 - j. Mileage for staff to attend meetings

Afternoon Discussion related to use of the WMELS with parents. Discussion began with a vision of what it might look like in the ideal if parents/families were using WMELS.

The following points were generated in small group discussion:

- Parents networking and talking with other parents
- Enjoying childhood – how to play and make choices
- Parent uses what’s in their environment to engage child
- Parents ask questions related to child, with common answers given within community by a variety of partners
- Advocate for their child
- Parents/children are relating to each other
- Identifying resources – and communities create resources for families with your children
- Identify their own support system
- Common language among providers
- Set routines
- Developmentally appropriate expectations
- Families / parents would talk/share with others about the standards
- Team approach to child care & education (understand how others use the standards)
- Cultural differences, values are respected
- Recognize parents as a values professional role (parents take lead as facilitators)
- Keep child-centered focus
- Determine quality in child care setting / program
- Increase knowledge with regards to child development
- Wide and varied resources – parents and caregivers are made aware
- Parents and early care & education providers work closely, collaboratively, build trust
- Parents gain confidence & become better teachers to their children, encouraging confidence in their children
- Educated about community needs, awareness and options in early childhood
- Empowered for advocacy
- Common language!
- Raises expectations of parents which therefore changes expectations of system (appropriate expectations/resources)
- On-going partnerships across sectors (Ecological approach)
- Community Togetherness
- EAP – Parents as Leaders / Parents improve mental health
- S/E Development strengthened
- Children learn through play
- DAP / Environments improved in homes of parents and child care providers

IDEAS FOR POTENTIAL ACTION STEPS TO ACHIEVE THE VISION

- Activities that involve parents talking to other parents (FAST / MELD)
- Short / Good marketing strategy
- Web-based strategy
- Little piece of “thing” that could be given to parents e.g. growth chart also web-based
- Video & training with people doing the work (“how to play/interact with child)

- Everyday photos of children doing the “work” of childhood – photos of examples in the sample behavior of children column in developmental continuum

NEXT STEPS

1. Ruth creating regional resource book for regional partners – everyone should send flyer or brochure of their organization if available and Ruth will put in books for each regional leadership team member
2. Conference Call will be set up via meeting wizard to discuss use of mini-grant funds when information on the grant becomes available
3. Ruth will find out if the inclusion course can be taught as a T the T
4. Meeting schedule for the coming year:
 - Tuesday, September 9, 2008; 9:30 – 3:30; Appleton CCR&R
 - Tuesday, November 11, 2008; 9:30 – 3:30; Lakeshore Technical College, Cleveland
 - Tuesday, February 10, 2009; 9:30 – 3:30; CESA 7, Green Bay
 - Tuesday, June 9, 2009; Heidel House Resort – Green Lake (Retreat)