



IEIC Region 8 Meeting Minutes  
Pizza Ranch Slayton, MN  
04/23/2024  
12:00 – 2:00 pm

Members Present: Kelly Konechne, Shari Dean, Hollie Pater, Elvia Brinks, Sara Zins, Channing VanOverbeke, Michelle Niehus, Anne Shelton, Ashley Tharp, Ramy Vandendriessche, Cody Rofshus, Rachel Sefcik, Jackie Fishers (for Jackie Heibert), Jennifer Zollner, Tiffany Teske, Heather Rinke, Sally Gniffke, Elizabeth Hessler

Agenda Approval: M- VanOverbeke/S- Niehus /P- All in Favor.

Minutes Approval from 03/12/2024: M- S.Dean/S- VanOverbeke/P- All in Favor. No changes or discussions.

Member Introductions and Sharing: Welcome to the new members subs! We appreciate everyone taking the time to attend and spreading the word about HMG. Several new faces in person this time.

State Updates:

*March (MOM) 2024*– Shawn Holmes with Help Me Connect presented on their website and services. There are over 14,000 programs/services listed in 3 languages in 11 content areas. Geared toward prenatal through age 8. At age 3 kids start hitting the system so this helps fill that gap. It is also mobile friendly. Top queries include autism, transportation, diapers, housing ecfe, mental health, eidbi, food, home visiting, childcare. They do an annual review with data sources through the agency, but also need to collaborate with outside services. Mostly promotion through a professional lease. Providers to go into this to get information for their families. There is potential to collaborate with HMG through DCYF. Need to reach greater MN. Also spoke about the idea of members vs “Friends of” the IEIC to invite community members to be a part of the conversation and support our work within the IEIC.

*April (MOM) 2024*- The State is redesigning the Part C Family Outcomes Survey. Wilder Foundation presented on their work so far including rural, midsize, urban input. How to communicate more effectively, the challenges we face, barriers. 5600 families participate in Part C, 70% of those are white. Inreaching diverse cultural & linguistic backgrounds. Need 80 families. There are is a \$50 stipend. [bunchung.ly@whilder.org](mailto:bunchung.ly@whilder.org) and [ananya.matewos@wilder.org](mailto:ananya.matewos@wilder.org). <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/early/ecse/fam/index.htm>

—Head Start and Public Preschool Referrals portal/website design. There is a purpose of both programs. This connects them to Head Start and then on to district if needed. Colors look VERY different to not confuse with HMG. Registrars can log into the system and track the referral-

transfer, accept, refer. Public launch was March 15. Parents can use one or both. <https://public.education.mn.gov/HSPPreferrals/> Avisia [avisia.whiteman@state.mn.us](mailto:avisia.whiteman@state.mn.us)

April (MOM) 2024- Work plans will remain similar format and funding. Will be due June 21st and then final draft will be submitted in the Fall after the first meeting. It is unclear if there is a COLA. Fiscal host process will remain the same. Highlight any carryover dollars. Get creative with those dollars and find a project for them; Could use to bring in outside contractor, etc. example- Wilder Foundation. Equity goal will remain. Want us to think outside the box and really question the goals/reach of the information. Can we collect data on this project, do we hear feedback, are there good reasons for doing it? One IEIC discussed focus on non-education members. Have a target audience each year, where have we seen dips, etc. Is there a group we want to include/reach out to? Also spoke about Robert's Order and it being white dominant and how it doesn't leave things open for a lot of discussion. We want the meetings to be relevant for people to attend. We want to create community and open up the conversation from just having silos. Spoke about DCYF and how that will help.

*Equity Training for State IEIC's* – DeBoer is the Region 8 representative for this training, but was absent today to give an update.

#### Guest Speakers:

1. Elizabeth Hessler of ThinkSmall spoke on their program. It is a 3x weekly text program geared toward 0-5. She has pdf sheets available and also has bookmarks she can send with the new design. Please reach out to her at [ehessler@thinksmall.org](mailto:ehessler@thinksmall.org)

2. Cody Rofshus of SWHHS spoke about one of their programs called Maternal Early Childhood Sustained Home Visiting Program (MECSH). Program eligibility is determined based on several factors including lack of support, history of mental illness, DV, childhood abuse, depression, life stressors, etc. It consists of 22-25 visits from prenatal through age 2 which are typically 60-90 minutes long. Visits are done by Nurse Home Visitors in the assigned county. Referrals can be sent to [kristin.Deacon@swmhhs.com](mailto:kristin.Deacon@swmhhs.com)

3. Ramy Vadendriessche of Avera/Big Stone Therapies spoke about their services and what they have to offer the community. They are an outside therapy service that can often work with pediatric patients who wouldn't necessarily qualify for school based therapy or may need additional therapy on top of their school therapy. They offer a variety of therapies including Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Feeding Therapy, Reading Programs, Sensory, etc. Patients would work on getting a referral through their Primary Care Physician. Services are offered in Marshall at Avera Hospital Building, but there are also outreach locations as well.

#### Old Business:

1. Members: We are always looking for anyone who would like join our group. We are continuing our search to increase membership in all counties, school districts, and required agencies. Top areas needed are Community members, service providers, Lower Sioux. If anyone has direct contacts, please make a warm introduction with Konechne as the facilitator and she'll reach out. We also spoke about the possibility of adding "Friends of the IEIC" vs. Memberships.

2. Bags for Food Shelves- Konechne gave an update on the order. We originally ordered 2,000 bags back in November of 2023. Unfortunately the company did not place our order after multiple e-mails and phone calls. In resolution Konechne was able to secure 3,000 bags for the original price. They will be arriving mid July and we'll make a plan to distribute them once they arrive. In the meantime Konechne is compiling a list of every food shelf in the region and writing a letter that will be delivered with the bags. We will need help distributing those to local food shelves in the region once they are in. There was also a note of another food-shelf in Worthington and a new food shelf in Cottonwood.
3. ACES Training- Adverse Childhood Experiences training was a success with 36 attendees. We had two sessions held: April 4 in Marshall and April 11 in Worthington from 3-5:30. This was open to all. We had VERY positive feedback from those that did attend. CE credits were provided to those that needed/wanted them including Nurses, Head Start Teachers, Daycare Providers, Social Workers, etc.
4. Community Ed Brochures/School Websites- ECSE teachers were instructed to reach out to their Community Ed departments to include the HMG ad. Our hope was that it would help avoid charging us and saving money in our budget for other items. We did advertise in Luverne and Nobles County again with a fee.
5. International Festival- We are on the list to have a booth. As it gets closer we'll ask for volunteers to be at the booth. We will be doing tattoo's as the activity and handing out books in multiple languages. Konechne purchased the books as part of our budget.
6. Equity Audit- Tabled until further instructions from Cat Tamminga. This will be used to help our group for next fiscal year and moving forward.
7. HMG Material Order- We had several orders for more materials. We will need to increase our budget for next year as many agencies and districts are requesting books/bags and the higher priced items. We were able to move around budget to account for the original budgeted dollars.

#### New Business:

1. Current Budget- On track and will have another carry over. We will dip into the carryover balance slightly. A total of \$10,040.14 is remaining of the \$32,914.77. Part of the funds can be carried over from year to year and can be utilized for a big project if needed.
2. Referral Tracking Update- Konechne will send out the referral tracking early May to the ECSE teachers to gather the last of the data for the FY. Graphs were helpful in reading the data and will be used for next years work plan ideas. We'll be able to start comparing from year to year so we can see the data side by side and what areas we should focus our dollars/marketing ideas.
3. New Ideas- We broke out into 4 groups and started brainstorming for ideas on next years work plan. We discussed rotating year by year to focus on a specific agency/group such as daycare providers, parents, schools, clinics, etc. Being intentional with the underrepresented groups, and also making sure we are able to track the outcomes/feedback from the project. We also want to be sure to include new ideas and not continue to just use the same ideas over and over. Ideas included: Radio Ads, Focusing on where are our kiddos who are 0-3 and making that connection, Utilizing the Public Health database of new births in the area, Ads on Public Transit, Sponsoring a kids grocery snack at the stores with HMG logo/flier attached, Giving out Developmental Wheels/Advertise the Milestones because that is what parents like to look

at, New Daycare Packets, Church Bulletins, Digital Advertising again, Fall Open Houses at Schools, Home Daycare Starter Kits, ECFE and Preschool Screening bags and educating parents at those, International Festival, Booths/Parades/Fairs, etc, Making it Fun with a Balloon Artist at those or something interactive to break down the stigma/barrier and overcoming, Working with Community Connectors/Liaisons, Educating referrals on how to make the referral and the importance of the information provided/Best practices, Database of which agency utilizes what and who provides materials so we aren't not doubling up, Resource Fair like Nobles Co did.

4. Work Plan Committee-Chairpersons Pater, VanOverbeke, Rigge, Dean, DeBoer. Facilitator Konechne. Zins and Sefcik also volunteered. Konechne will send out a group email to see what works best to meet and narrow down.
5. Next years meeting date/times: Opened it up for discussion.
  1. We want the meetings to be relevant and needed. We are going to try to showcase programs and information at each meeting so we can go back to share that as a resource for our networks.
  2. Discussed geography and pros/cons of online/hybrid vs. in person. Meetings will be held similarly as last year with in-person for 1st/Last and hybrid for winter meetings. Tentative dates are slated for:
    1. Slayton Pizza Ranch on September 24, 2024 from 12:00pm-2:00pm. This is an in person meeting only.
    2. Slayton Pizza Ranch on December 3, 2024 from 12:00pm-2:00pm. This will be a hybrid meeting. Come in person if able, but digital option will be available. \*\*Note change in date because of the Thanksgiving Holiday week.
    3. Slayton Pizza Ranch on February 25, 2025 from 12:00pm-2:00pm. This will be a hybrid meeting. Come in person if able, but digital option will be available.
    4. Slayton Pizza Ranch on April 29, 2024 from 12:00pm-2:00pm. This is an in person meeting only. \*\*Note change in date because of the Easter Holiday week.

Adjourn: M- S.Dean /S- VanOverbeke /P- All in Favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Konechne, Facilitator