



IEIC Region 8 Meeting Minutes
Pizza Ranch Slayton, MN
09/24/2024
12:00 – 2:00 pm

Members Present: Kelly Konechne, Elvia Brinks, Channing VanOverbeke, Michelle Niehus, Heather Rinke, Sally Gniffke, Rachel Klein, Kristin Deacon, Jackie Heibert, Payton Braun, Katie Rigge, Sabrina Vosberg, Shelley Krueger, Karen DeBoer, Sarah Mok, Patty Linder, Amber Groen

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

Minutes Approval from 04/23/2024: **M- VanOverbeke/S- Niehus/P- All in Favor with 1 small change to the date on page 2- Should read “May (MOM)”**. No further discussion.

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

State Updates:

May (MOM) 2024– Canceled.

June (MOM) 2024- Scheduled 3 Options to meet- Discussed various ideas people are doing and walked through work plan hiccups/budgets. One that stuck out was a sticker on a pizza box. Others are doing Mallard Ducks, Soccer Balls, Baby Baskets. In general ECSE is utilizing what the family has and focusing on interactions versus objects. We talked about the timeline of the workplan and when items are due, budgets are released, etc.

July (MOM) 2024- Shift to DCYF will happen mid July, No longer MDE. We talked about relationships and how our program is a connector to so many others. How can we best utilize and work together to cross collaborate between agencies. Dual Purpose to connect our message with others versus acting alone. With any partnerships, how can we come alongside them? We shouldn't be a silo. Example- Child and Teen checkups presentation, WIC, Vaccine Clinics, etc.

Region 11 has statewide funds they can help boost and come up with materials we can utilize. Budgets went down slightly. Our new budgets don't have any COLA built in.

August (MOM) 2024- DCYF is official as of July. Watched a “Changes” Video on Youtube. 1-2% are innovators, 15-18% early adaptors, then it tips to everyone else. Discussed sudden change and how it happens to you vs with you. Everyone brings different perspectives. How can change as a word bring positive light- “Adding” “Expanding” “New Opportunities”.

We discussed 6 areas of the IEIC and where we need to look for “new opportunities”. Statute Review- Membership, Operating procedures. Budget Allocations Formula- Where do numbers need to change, can extra be utilized by other regions. Structure Review- county to region and that hardship with relationships/connections, medical professionals included. Website Additions- milestones with CDC, missing community and cultures, it should have a reason on the referral so ECSE teacher doesn’t have to cold call. Data Access- education data, webpage on ICC access.

How can Help Me Connect work with Help Me Grow? Shawn Holmes will be coming to monthly meetings and discussing ways to partner.

September (MOM) 2024-10 Commitments to Equity. There were 2 speakers from DHS to speak to us about NAS- Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome which is when babies are born and showing symptoms of withdrawal from Mothers who were using drugs. It is typically opioids, but can include many other legal and illegal substances. It happens in 5.3 to 7.3 of every 1000 births. It continues to rise nationally. Developmental deficits are usually seen 12m+ or even not until school age. It includes things like DD, learning difficulty, vision impairments, speech and language impairments. EI is recommended and at min an automatic qualifier. Discussion was held on how to get this to be an auto qualifier. We need to be careful in how we handle this so we are supporting the family. Studies show family support is so important and can help tremendously in the overall deficits of children with NAS.

We also spoke about clinic referrals and “Informed Clinical Opinion.” There seems to be a need to educate around when to use it and district leadership. MDH stressed the importance of getting in front of clinicians and repeating outreach efforts because of the high turnover. NICU’s, clinics, etc. How do we work together in departments to enhance our work and programs? We also discussed the need to meet families where they are at. No judgment. These are real families/real people. We don’t want to make implicit bias’ and not what we think they need, but meeting them where they are.

Equity Training for State IEIC’s – DeBoer is the Region 8 representative. She gave an update on this 18 month training. More information to come as the assessment is still being worked on by the State.

Guest Speakers:

1. Michelle Niehus shared about the work her and Hollie Pater are doing with going to clinics and sharing more information about the HMG Program and training clinics on the referral process/best practices. They have had a lot of good feedback from providers. There is a spreadsheet of qualifying conditions we looked at. The link to that is: [Diagnosed conditions affecting development | Help Me Grow MN](#)

-The group also had a discussion about best practices for following up with referral sources, attaching releases, etc. We will discuss further at the next meeting how and who to

follow up with once a referral has been made and problems that arise with this process from each department's perspective.

2. Channing VanOverbeke shared what it looks like for a B-3 home visit. They have 45 calendar days once referred to assess. There only needs to be 1 area of concern versus as they get older in Part B, it requires 2 areas of concern to qualify for services. Various providers can be part of the team including PT, OT, Speech, Social Worker, Nurse, Teacher of the Visually Impaired, and many others at any point if there is a concern or an outcome is created.

-The group also discussed best practices on providing services when parents work across the border in SD/IA and daycare is also out of State. The consensus was that there is a little give and take on both sides by staying late/going early, but must work within time constraints by district/contracts as well. Konechne will ask at the monthly MOM to see how others do that.

Old Business:

1. Members: We are always looking for anyone who would like to 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.

2. Bags for Food Shelves- Konechne gave an update that the 3,000 bags are ready for distribution. Konechne provided a letter to give to each food shelf along with the brochures and contact information for each of the food shelves. The members who were present were willing to help distribute the remaining bags to their counties. Thank you for everyone's help in making this a successful project!

3. International Festival- This was held in July and we had a successful booth. Temporary tattoos were given out to kids along with the books. We spoke with about 25 kids and 35 adults. We had a really hard time getting enough volunteers to help, even with a stipend. As a group we'll discuss if we want to continue having a booth because help is hard to get.

4. Equity Audit- Tabled until further instructions from Cat Tamminga. This will be used to help our group for next fiscal year and moving forward.

5. 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- Our budget for the 24/25 FY is \$31,829.26.

2. Work Plan was discussed by line item. The work plan was narrowed down from the chairperson workgroup last Spring and approved at the State level after submission this Summer. Work plan was approved by the Region 8 group for FY 24/25 **M- VanOverbeke/S- Braun /P- All in Favor.**

Work Plan Action Items

- a. Digital Marketing- Options were discussed for banner ads versus OTT videos. Pros and cons were discussed on each. Data was provided by The Daily Globe marketing group. After much discussion we decided to do 2 or more months of both Spanish and English advertising on the OTT. It was suggested we try to do January and March as target months. **M- VanOverbeke/S- Rigge /P- All in Favor.**
- b. Community Transit Ads- We will work with SMOC and UCAP to do advertising on each of the buses in each of the counties. Konechne will work on getting contracts in place.
- c. Radio Ads- These have been implemented on KLOH and KISD and play about 2x per day throughout the year. If we have any special weeks or months we want different messages we are able to do that.
- d. ThinkSmall has partnered with us to provide a text code "HMG". We are able to provide additional texts about HMG if we would like. Once the code is active, Konechne will send out the fliers. This is a multi language program.
- e. Referral Tracking will go out to ECSE Teachers 3x throughout the year to provide the data points for our Work Plan. Graphs were helpful in reading the data
- f. and will be used for next year's 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 on. We will also ask them to provide ECFE Teacher contacts in each of the districts so we can go and talk with the parent groups about HMG.
- g. Material Orders- After discussion this was suggested to keep it open to Members only. We did increase the budget from last year, but have been getting requests for more than our budget. We will work on using materials on hand first. Konechne will also send out a survey to members to ask who uses what materials so we try to avoid overlapping.
- h. Cultural Equity Goal- Discussion was made about ways we can be more intentional with providing information to the underserved populations. We've done projects for the latino community, but should we be considering Karen and Somali as well? What ways can we provide more information? Can we get Head Start involved, can we make contact with faith communities, community liaison, provide bags to specialty grocery stores, speak with Avera's Karen liaison, etc. This will be a topic of discussion at our next meeting so people can bring ideas back.

3. Chairpersons- Pater, VanOverbeke, Rigge, Dean, DeBoer. Shari Dean has given notice she is no longer able to be part of the group due to a new role. Rachel Klein will be taking over for her to fulfill her duties through the end of her term. Thank you Rachel!

M- VanOverbeke/S- Niehus /P- All in Favor.

4. Changes to Operating Procedures- Tabled until next meeting. Discussion about adding reimbursement and mileage to members who are not compensated as part of their work hours for attending meetings.

Next Meeting is December 3, 2024 at Slayton Pizza Ranch from 12-2pm. This will be a hybrid meeting with in person and virtual as an option.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Konechne, Facilitator