

## Help Me Grow Minutes: Region 6 – Sept. 23, 2020

**Present:** Amber Deters, Amy Stock, Cindy Kvaal, Connie Fragodt, Jenna Williamson, Cindy Loe, Jenny Trager, Jody Ammerman, Kale Weber, Kari Dorry, Laurie Tierney, Miriam Lindblad, Stacey Steinbach, Darla Swedzinski, Karie Miller, Jodi Wambeke, Lisa Kraft, Julie Schroeder, Linda Mathiasen

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. using Blackboard virtual meeting app.

Agency updates focused on referrals, outreach and staff responses to COVID-19 and physical distancing. Preschool screening is in process for many schools—there was broad variation in how each school district and agency was engaging with children and families. Burnout on virtual visits by families/children has led many to switch to phone, outdoor visits and meeting in different community spaces. Crowding is a real concern due to lack of space to keep child properly distanced. A few mentioned parents' lack of response and refusal to accept eligible services have increased. Missed child and teen check-ups and well child visits, low to no referrals from regular referrers in the past along with seeing increase needs for parent & child mental health, child protection, and children suicide watch are concerns. A big recognition and thank you to all for working in new ways and adjusting to new outreach models and methods.

Agenda was motioned for approval by Stacey Steinbach, seconded by Laurie Tierney. Motion carried. Approval of Minutes from April 29, 2020 was motioned by Connie Fragodt, seconded by Stacey Steinbach. Motion carried.

Financial update was provided. We had a carryover of \$109.22 with a FY2020-21 budget of \$22,126.68. This reflects \$2,177.96 available to spend for referral materials, trainings, advertising and outreach efforts. Due to unknown circumstances with COVID-19, the plan is to revisit ways to best utilize the budget and meet/adjust work plan goals.

MDE/ICC updates included a flier on the Help Me Connect (service navigator) and resources on addressing equity in our local systems. Linda shared the 10 Minnesota Equity Commitments published by MDE and a PDF presentation from Cat Tamminga's Meeting of the Minds for IEIC coordinators and co-chairs. (See IEIC Sept. 21 PDF). The goal is to understand bias, white privilege and embedded philosophies in our systems. MDE is encouraging all to move from equality to equity to liberation. (See slide 6). MN Department of Health is also working on equity in a similar way.

**Assignment:** (ALL). How can you share MDE's Equity Commitments?

Membership Roster: State statute was changed this legislative year to include Tribal Nations as members of IEICs. Discussion to have IEIC membership reflect the families and children we serve by inviting parents, cultural liaisons and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) colleagues to attend or give a presentation to the Committee.

**Assignment:** Stacey Steinbach and Cindy Loe to request participation on IEIC committees from active Tribal members at county early childhood referral meetings.

**Assignment:** (ALL). Encourage diverse membership; invite BIPOC colleagues to present at upcoming IEIC meetings.

Linda provided the completed 2020 work plan and outcomes as well as the new format for 2021.

Facebook advertising was suggested, which local regions do not have a separate page. Region 11, who we order branded HMG materials, has a relationship with Risdell marketing firm for their social media purchasing. Risdell prefers to work with minimum contracts that outprice our budget.

**Assignment:** Miriam Lindblad is connecting Linda to Public Health contact to leverage their page and promote referral information and resources within our region.

**Assignment:** (ALL). If you have agency or school Facebook pages that we can partner to purchase ads, send Linda contact information.

**Assignment:** (ALL). Contact Linda with any HMG referral material needs.

No other discussion items. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

**Year 20-2021 Meeting Dates:** Dec. 2, 2020; Feb. 24th, 2021; April 28th, 2021