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To engage families and communities in children's healthy early development

**Oliver Communities for Kids Table
Minutes**

Monday March 22, 2010 at StrongStart

Present: Laurene Sloboda, Shannon Koteles, Shelley MacPherson, Pat Buckland

Regrets: Barbara-Joy Taggart, Jim Insley

Guest: Christine Schwartz, HUB Coordinator – introducing **Ages and Stages – Understanding Your Child: Pilot project** for families of children ages 18 months to 5 years.

Discussion of proposed Pilot Project: response from Table was enthusiastic; lots of the logistics need to be worked out with the TEN and Osoyoos Elementary preschools; Christine will be working with Tracy Hunt to set the program working in Oliver and Osoyoos. Suggestion from Table to maintain a continuum from the last PH visit at 18 months to connection with this project - possibility of having notice or apt made for the next visit with project staff. Suggestion to have the appointment notice also in Spanish and Punjabi. Decision to have it in smaller communities than Penticton as it would be easier to monitor as a Pilot project.

Additional note from Christine:

1. ECD HUB on facebook – approx. 40 members; need to be approved to join
2. Rejuvenate: an early years networking event for people working with children ages 0-6 to be held May 11 at Linden Gardens in Kaleden; dinner with presenter, Hugh McLellan, Certified Laughter Leader; there will be only 76 seats so early reservation with Christine is advised. First one last year was excellent opportunity for ECD folk to get together.
3. ECE/K groups meet as a bridging group in Summerland and Penticton – very successful connections.

Minutes approved – noted

- Business arising from the minutes:
Action: Pat will report to SC the results of this meeting re OFTI – report to SC requires editing
Action: Roxie Van Aller of Desert Sun and Pat met to discuss administration of a volunteer driving option for OFTI – suggestion that scope of project be extended to include shopping, AA meetings for parents, inclusion of Osoyoos in transportation service, etc. Further discussion to take place once final budget for existing OFTI is established. Possibly taking to CYC meeting to expand financing.

Report on **Funds:** Balance Mar'10 25.28

Members' Reports:

Boys & Girls Club: Laurene – Parenting Wisely in Ok Falls for young children – 1 parent from Osoyoos; 2 Ok Falls; 3 Oliver - successful

Desert Sun: Roxie - tabled

Library: Vicky - tabled

Public Health: Shelley – Nobody’s Perfect to start May 6

Action: Shelley to forward corrected poster and an ad for a child care person to assist with NP for distribution

StrongStart: Shannon – 2 new families are coming each week; since Shannon started 6 more Indo-Canadian families are attending SS.

Action: Shannon to forward April SS calendar to Pat for website and distribution

Old Business:

a) **OFTI** transportation status – Laurene/Pat:

Balance for \$2,391 does not include Admin deduction of \$1,077

Action: Pat will discuss best way for setting up financial report with Lynn Cook

b) **Mother Goose** – Shannon: Evening with Mother Goose has 11 to 12 families attending – all the families’ dads are attending, too.

c) **Family Fair with Heart** on Feb 27: 125 children ages 0-6 attended (an increase from 45 in 2008); focus this time was more on the entertainment and activities in hopes of getting the families to attend. Displays indicated people did stop to talk.

- Parent Evaluations also up from 18 to 41: draw prize for completing evaluation was a night at Spirit Ridge & dinner at Passa Tempo.
- Draw prizes for every child who attended
- Final report and financial statement through Desert Sun will be completed asap.
- Do we hold another Family Fair in 2012 – how effective?
Action: Check with Revelstoke which has a successful children’s fair. Penticton Recreation also held on last fall – check with Ted Hagmeier.

d) **New Horizons:** funding for senior projects – Heather Whittal has indicated the Community Garden Society hoping to access this funding.

Action: suggestion to link this idea with Cubs; note that Princeton has seniors dubbed “gardening angels” to maintain the gardens in the summer but who also connect with the children there.

New Business:

National Day of the Child/Sat Nov20/10 – Recreation would like some ideas for this

Safe Spaces Bullying Prevention Education for Preschoolers:

- The table feels this would be a good project to support once the parameters are established ie. Would one “center” definition work for all StrongStarts’ staff; who would fund the \$1000 plus the \$400 per kit

Action: Suggestion to follow-up on this with Corinne Valteau at PDCRS in Penticton re training for Penticton folk as well

Ages and Stages – Understanding Your Child Pilot Project: see Guest

Next Meeting Date: Monday April 26 at **StrongStart at Oliver Elementary at 3pm**