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

Communities for Kids Table Meeting

Tuesday May 19, 2009
Sonora Community Centre 7pm

Attendance: Alicia Osland, Starla Braitwaite, Brittny Vieira, Karen Brough. Pat Buckland
Regrets: Erin Shields, Hester Brunner, Sarah Gattinger

Introductions: Christine Schwartz, ECD HUB Coordinator

- MCFD supported initiative
- HUB can be a physical space i.e. one building that houses 2 or more ECD programs in the same building – less confusing for families; service providers easily connected
- Christine works with ECD service providers for the future of our SO families of 0-6
- The vision is to increase effectiveness and efficiency of service provision
- Connecting with Kindergartens and ECEs – 3 X a year in Penticton & Summerland (Kindergartens initiated the Summerland meeting)
- Hopes to have an annual service provider event to network
- Christine is visiting outlying rural communities as a resource person
- HUB works with existing resources vs CFK filling gaps and building awareness
- Christine sends out information relating to ECD to a wide e-mail list.
- can Christine offer anything that would make our area of services more effective?
- Suggestion: a bulletin board at ELC as a partnership? Multiple bulletin board with other areas to promote ECD (CATCH in Kelowna is working on the same idea)

Question: re outreach and collaboration – most of the service providers are from Penticton. It's a challenge to have them out to Osoyoos; difficult to guarantee family numbers, too. MCFD asks for more than just reporting on numbers when they visit as well. There appears to be a higher turnover in staff for rural services as well so a lack of continuity in connecting with families

- Possibly having an annual or twice a year service provider meeting, a connect "meet & greet"?

Question: concern re ESL Families accessing prenatal classes and Baby Talk sessions. Transportation is a big issue – SO Transit isn't always helpful with their scheduling. Concern re car seat safety for families, too.

Approval of Minutes: passed

- Business arising from the minutes:
  1. CAPC money for the garden – noted info from past minutes to CAPC
  2. Translator info: please sent to Karen for Punjabi translations
  3. Car Seat Training: Karen would be interested in taking the training for the Region.

Action: Pat to check with the 2 Oliver car seat inspectors and the possibility of SB6 funding for training.

4. Signage: samples described for Ok Falls park sign at cost of $5-6,000 and Ok Falls PAC sign with changing info in letter format at $5-5,500. More discussion.

Community Facilitator's Report: noted
Balance of Funds: $200

Members Reports:
Early Learning Centre: Starla

- Has extra $ available so is planning another grand opening; June 25 is last day
- The Osoyoos quilters guild has offered to make a friendship quilt for a raffle for the ELC, and want the ELC to be able to use the money. Starla's not sure if she can accept. Could CFK host the raffle so that ECL could benefit?

Infant Development: Karen

- Open house for Boys and Girls Club in Oliver on June 10 from 11 to 3 – everyone welcome

Recreation: Sarah - tabled
Public Health: Brittny –

- Prenatal – has 7 couples for 6 weeks; may offer 4 times a year.
- Nobody's Perfect: Barbara Jo in Oliver is taking the training and will offer in the south
- Baby Talk may be happening in the Fall

Old Business:

Parenting Sessions: Starla, panelist

- 4 parents and 4 panelists – went well; parents of older children ages 6-8; lots of "aha" moments
- Idea: what if at CFK meetings we had parenting discussion topics and parent drop-in & check ins;
  No judging & open dialogue. Maybe a luncheon social with childminding.

CFK's 5th year Celebration:
Display table at ELC; food and fun at the ELC
Action: Brittny designing a poster to be distributed to Osoyoos
Action: Starla will order lasagne/salads for party
Action: Pat will order cake and pay for all the food

New Business:
July 1 Canada Day Celebration: banners in parade with children and families following with bikes, etc.
Action: Starla to check with families who might want to participate

Next Meeting: Tuesday June 15 at 7 pm at Sonora Community Centre