Communities for Kids Table Meeting

Monday February 16, 2009
Sonora Community Centre 7pm

Attendance: Starla Braithwaite, Sarah Gattinger, Hester Brunner, Brittny Vieira, Pat Buckland

Introduction: Hope Miller, Ministry of Children & Families

Approval of Minutes: passed

Community Facilitator's Report: noted

Standing Items: gaps

Hope Miller – introduction re fostering:
There is a desperate need for approved resources (homes)for fostering
Over the last 5 year there's been an increase in babies needing fostering; sibling groups coming into care; an increase in the number of parents on drugs and with mental health issues
Lots of new parents don't seem to be unable to parent
Respite homes needed so parents can take a break, especially those with special needs
Process - children go through intake worker; assessed on how much care is needed for child; good program that assess risk to children; use Boys & Girls, Desert Sun for resources
Case loads are steady but several staff are on leave
Betty Bogyo of the Foster Parents Association offers training; separate from the Ministry and also supplies support for foster parents.
Distributed packages for foster parent application forms and posters for advertising need for foster parents in Osoyoos.

Members Reports:

Early Learning Centre: Starla
Ready Set Learn: taking place on Wed April 1 from 5pm – 7pm; will be giving goody bags to families
Action: Pat to check for Leap/Hop books for RSL – 40 of each
Pat to check on possibility of CFK Tshirts for bags
PALS (Parents as Literacy Support): Thursday April 30 - for 4year olds and their parents and 3yrs olds from barriered families; session will deal with music and literacy
Pot Luck planned for later on – Starla's planning on a fun learning component
Rick Hanson funding not applied for: time constraints; possibly via next funding go-around

Recreation: Sarah
Spring programs start in 5 weeks
Action: Sarah will forward to Pat for CFK website
Winter showed poor registration results – economy, time of year the issue?

Pool that had been before Town Council is a no go

Public Health: Brittny
Lesley Hanson is the new public health nurse job sharing with Brittny

Mother Goose: Hester
Turnout has been lower than for previous sessions
May look at organizing for the fall which is when previous MG had been offered successfully; then a spring session partnering with ELC
Would like to offer MG and Toddler Talk together

Old Business:

Parenting Sessions: Hester
promotion on Ch 18 and radio station
decision to go with no registration deadline – given the fact that several people who missed the previous deadline and contacted Sarah the day before the first one – they were upset because it was cancelled.
Action: Pat to provide directories
To encourage participation – Sarah will check with families that were late registering for first session; Hester will check with families indicating an interest from SS in Osoyoos; Starla will confirm with ELC families and Pat will check with CAPC

Strategic plans: ideas
Suggestions to make this first on the list for next month's meeting
Survey:Yearly community check in with families - Pat checked on cost of flyers – fairly expensive; how much of Osoyoos to cover?
Suggestion that flyers aren't effective – best method is to survey families directly through CAPC, Parent & Tot, etc.

Easter parade:
possible entry in Apr - use banner and plaques behind ELC children with decorated hats, bicycles

New Business:

- Parent on Steering Committee: Theresa Swift from Oliver, mother of 2 small children, is being invited to participate on the SC
- Regional Strategic Plan – everyone from the Table is invited to attend on Feb 19/Mar 19; Mileage and $40 offered to anyone from Osoyoos wishing to attend; Brittny will check to see if she can attend.
- Celebtrating 5th year and New Years: tabled

Additions:

Claire's Domenic is doing well – Pancake breakfast on Saturday Feb 21 from 8 – 11 am at the Royal Canadian Legion in support of the family.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 16 at 7pm at Sonora Community Centre