



IEIC Region 8 Meeting Minutes  
Pizza Ranch Slayton – and Virtual  
4/25/23  
1:00 – 3:00 pm

Members Present: Sarah Mok, Kelly Konechne, Jennifer Zollner, Tiffany Teske, Cody Rofshus, Lindsay Prescott, Karen DeBoer, Shari Dean, Hollie Pater, Lisa Peterson

Agenda Approval: A motion was made by Kelly and seconded by Karen to approve the agenda. No changes or additions. Agenda was approved.

Minutes Approval: A motion made by Hollie and seconded by Jennifer to approve the meeting minutes of 2-28-23. They were read with no discussion or corrections made. The motion carried and minutes were approved.

Members Introductions and Sharing: We welcomed to our committee Lindsay Prescott from the Nurse-Family Partnership program. Lindsay shared that the Lower Sioux Early Head Start presents a monthly event for parents that is well attended. Kelly discussed a Murray county ECI sponsored event in June called “Touch a Truck”. Hollie told of the Father-Daughter dance in Pipestone this weekend. All events could have a possibility of making our Help Me Grow brochures available to parents. We thanked a couple of members for serving on our committee, as they are moving onto other positions. Lori Gunnink has left her position at SMOC Head Start and Nikki Van’t Hof will be leaving her ECSE position in Pipestone at the end of the school year. We thank both very much for their years of service on our committee!

State Updates:

*March Meeting of the Minds (MOM) 2023* – Gina Liverseed presented on the recent addition of CMV screenings to all newborns in the state of Minnesota. The virus is fairly common but it can impact the developing brain and neurologic system of the unborn. The most common impact is hearing impairment. The prevalence of it causing disabilities is fairly low but still warrants awareness for those working with young children. To give an idea of the prevalence of CMV, Shari Dean shared that based on the stats in Gina’s presentation and the annual births in Nobles county of 350 to 400, they could expect 0 to 1 annually to be born with CMV in Nobles. She is aware of 3 cases in the last 3 years, which was prior to the mandatory CMV screening.

*April Meeting of the Minds (MOM) 2023* – The topic was equity. We spent time listening to Arab American music for Arab American Heritage month. We also spent some time doing a quiz on privilege and some things to keep in mind as we think about our privileges. We discussed the equity training that is currently being done by the state for the IEIC’s and how the information may impact our work plans for the future.

*Equity Training for State IEIC’s* – Karen DeBoer, who is the Region 8 representative for this training, presented on what has been done so far. They had a meeting once a week for a month as an introduction to this topic. They are now currently meeting once a month for the next 18 months. They are developing an equity survey for our committee and/or individual agencies to

use to see how we are doing in the area of equity. The state does not collect this information. It is only for use by each individual entity as they are moving forward in the equity work. Karen gave each of us a draft of the survey to look over.

Operating Procedures: The committee took a vote on the updated Operating Procedures for Region 8. At the last meeting we had decided to do an email vote to approve the Procedures. However there was not enough response to take the vote. A motion was made by Shari to approve the update. Kelly seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Kids First Conference Follow Up: This state-wide conference for child care providers was held at Jackpot Junction in Morton, MN on March 3-4. About 100 people signed in at the Help Me Grow booth to get materials. There were more that stopped but did not sign in, so an exact number coming to the booth is not known. There were people from at least 25 different counties of MN that stopped at our booth with various groups represented from childcare centers, home childcare, preschools, head start, and others. At the conference we also distributed information about the Follow Along Program and the childcare training offered by Regions 6 & 8.

Child Care Trainings Follow Up: The free childcare trainings that Region 8 sponsored for providers was held in Windom and Pipestone on March 28-29 (session 1) and April 11-12 (session 2). Attending both sessions was necessary in order to obtain the credit. We had 7 registered for Windom and 14 registered for Pipestone. Because registration was not required and walk-ins were welcomed, the committee decided to go ahead with the trainings, even though the numbers were low. I was at both of sessions 1 in Windom and Pipestone. The actual attendance was 5 in Windom and 8 in Pipestone. The training focused on child development and when there are concerns, and how that can impact home or center-based childcares. Many Help Me Grow materials were shared with the participants. The information was very good and well presented. The participants seemed to have gained information from the training, in that many of them gave it a rating of 7 on a scale of 7. We discussed the low attendance at the trainings, which could have been attributed to many factors. One of those factors being the fact that this may have been a training that is not essential for licensure. Karen DeBoer shared with the group the various areas that are needed by providers for childcare licensure. It was decided that for future childcare trainings our group would collaborate more extensively with Karen at Child Care Aware. The group discussed various other options to consider for trainings, if we do decide to sponsor another one.

Help Me Grow Materials: The materials ordered by Region 8 agencies were brought to the meeting for pick up. Because Region 11 was low on materials and will not be able to reorder until after July 1, some of the items requested were unavailable. These items will be ordered this summer once Region 11 replenishes supplies. There were extra Help Me Grow brochures and extra What Happens After the Referral cards for all members to take at the meeting.

International Festival Update: The Festival will be held July 14 & 15 in Worthington. I shared with the committee a mock up provided by 4imprint, of a Help Me Grow label for bubbles. The committee reacted positively to the label. This could be both our advertising and interactive activity for the festival. We have several people from the committee interested in volunteering for this event. This sub-committee consists of Shari Dean, Ryann Beukema, Sarah Mok, and her husband Tim. We discussed the possibility of having a school liaison or school connector to also be part of the event with the volunteers. Shari and Karen had some ideas of possible liaisons and will check into this for the subcommittee. We discussed that any school liaison or connector or

volunteer there on their own time should be compensated with a stipend. The subcommittee will be meeting on Tuesday, May 2 at 2:00 to work out more details.

Current Budget: Of the \$31,778.86 budget, \$16,828.24 remains. Money spent since last meeting include facilitator's salary, childcare training, Help Me Grow materials, and community education brochures. There were no questions about the budget.

Review of 2022-2023 Plan: Due to lack of time just a brief overview was given. It will be sent out to members by email to review before the new plan is written.

Co-Chairperson Position: We discussed the position of co-chairpersons. In the updated Operating Procedures committee members wanted to keep this a volunteer position rather than one that would rotate by county. From 2011-2018, prior to a facilitator being hired, we had three chairpersons who were in charge of the committee (Karen DeBoer, Jennifer Zollner, and Shelley Kruger). Following hiring a facilitator in 2018, we had co-chairs who acted in an advisory capacity to the facilitator. Those having served as co-chairs included Hollie P, Tiffany T, Kristin D, Channing V, Anna H, Janelle M, Kelly K, Jessica F, Shari D, and Nikki V. Of this year's chairs Shari will continue on, Nikki's position has changed and she will no longer be on our committee, Kelly and Jessica's terms are complete. Kelly has agreed to another term. Karen D has volunteered as a new co-chair. We are in need of at least one more co-chair. Please consider volunteering. Duties as a co-chair are minimal.

Brainstorm Ideas for Next Year's Projects: Here is a list of ideas talked about: ACEs training, Sleep workshop, training on challenging behaviors, popcorn bags with HMG logo for school sporting events, parent workshops presented virtually after bedtime or during lunch hour, reusable grocery bags for food shelves and/or ethnic food stores, HMG bags for libraries, local online marketing using state HMG bumper ads, having a presence at International festival in Marshall, posters at YMCA and JBS field house, continue and expand community education brochure ads, continue for a presence on school websites, tracking referrals, sponsor booths at outreach events, follow up with medical community, (continue facilitator?) other ideas I missed????

Work Plan for 2023-2024: A sub-committee to work on the new plan is being formed. We have a core group of co-chairs (Kelly, Shari, Jessica, Nikki) as part of the sub-committee but any Region 8 member is welcome to join. We will meet virtually on Monday, May 1 from 12:00 to 1:00.

Next Meeting Dates for 2023-2024: This date is to be determined. We discussed various options to meet. A poll will be sent later to help determine the best dates, times, and locations to have our meetings for the majority of members.

Adjourn: Motion made by Shari and seconded by Hollie to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Peterson, Facilitator