

**Region 6 IEC Meeting Minutes**  
**VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM**  
**Wed, Feb 22, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

2022-2023 Co-chairs (Kandiyohi & Lac qui Parle Counties): Jody Ammerman, Karie Miller, Jodi Wambeke, Darla Swedzinski, Lac qui Parle, Lac qui Parle Alternate

**Present:** Billie Lindemann, Connie Fragodt, Jody Ammerman, Katie Slagter, Cindy Kvaal, Jodi Wambeke, Rhonda Buysse, Tina Saue, Tanna Stucky, Erin Hoffman, Laurie Tarning, Hillary Spray, Jodi Wambeke, Linda Mathiasen

**Guests:** Dr. Michelle Beach, SMSU and early childhood students

The meeting began with the introduction of guests from SMSU-Marshall Early Childhood department. College students as part of their coursework are asked to attend a regional early childhood meeting. Agency updates were a recap of Kid's First Conference, which was held for the first time at Jackpot Junction. It was very well attended. We partnered with Region 8 to host an expo booth and provide Help Me Grow materials and referral information. Preschool screening is underway in many districts, reports of increases in number of children referred for evaluation. A best practice tip of sending certified letters to non-responsive parents via phone was recommended. Additional funding for early learning scholarships and the Wayfinder (Child Care Start-Up) programs are hopes for the legislative session. Home visits and WIC are returning to in-person with full return this summer. Increased reports of young children with challenging behavior causes concern for child care providers. Top two referral concerns are communication and motor skills.

Approval of Agenda was motioned for approval by Connie Fragodt, seconded by Cindy Kvaal. Motion carried. The Minutes from November 30, 2022, were motioned for approval by Jody Ammerman, seconded by Jodi Wambeke. Motion carried.

MDE updates included a sample survey of the Personal Equity Inventory and status of the monthly meetings (15) with Dr. Allen/MDE. Follow Along program newsletter and the Governor's proposal for Children, Youth, Families Department: [Part C FAQ \(mn.gov\)](#).

FY 2023 Work Plan status was provided by Linda Mathiasen. The creation of a Child Find Local Video with Ten17 bid to create 90-second videos on Help Me Grow Social Media Campaign. Goal to increase referrals and parent/partner understanding to improve comfort/accept services. Motion to spend up to \$2,500 was made by Jody Ammerman, seconded by Jodi Wambeke. Motion carried.

**COMPLETED/SCHEDULED:**

- a. September 28: Distribution of referral materials to IEC members
- b. September 29: Upper Sioux presentation on Early Childhood Development/Autism interest.
- c. October 11: Fire Station in Willmar. IEC is partnering with Public Health.
- d. November 22: Benson Clinic & Hospital – switching to CentraCare in 2023
- e. November 28: CentraCare early childhood connections
- f. November 28: Lutheran Social Services – teen parent presentation
- g. November IEC newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/1cb53d26bcbb/free-training-relationships-routines-rest-5915029>
- h. December 19: Kandiyohi County early childhood outreach
- i. Kid's First Conference March 3-4: Partnering with Region 8. Requesting materials from MDE as participants are from various regions.
- j. (6E) March 23 & April 6: Develop approved training Young Children with Developmental Delays (two sessions 2 hours each) in Spicer. Will be shared via Develop, UCAP, IEC newsletter
- k. April: CentraCare Child Find training to clinicians
- l. May 17: Supportive Hands Family Nurse Partnership
- m. June 6: Develop training through Milestones – Providing Region 6 HMG materials
- n. (6W) Working to schedule center-specific trainings: Prairie Playhouse, Puddle Jumpers, Kids Inc, Learning Funhouse. Waiting on responses from Litchfield and Hutchinson centers.

When contacting child care centers in Region 6W, a request to host a Super Saturday was preferred over providing training to center staff at their site. An assignment to work with Milestones in St. Cloud, Prairie Five and Ortonville Early Childhood to identify the feasibility and expense of hosting a Super Saturday in Appleton/Benson/Madison. An upcoming event is to partner with Kandiyohi County Early Childhood Outreach/WPS Schools Support On Site (SOS) for Jennie-O families at The Village. Linda Mathiasen will also continue working with CentraCare for presentations to clinicians. A new request is to place developmental wheels in Talking is Teaching bags that are distributed to hospitals through the assistance of Public Health.

Next meeting is April 26, IN-PERSON, 9 a.m. – noon at WEAC-Willmar District Offices.

Submitted by Linda Mathiasen