

Help Me Grow
Region 8 IEIC Meeting
12-1-2021
Virtual – Microsoft Teams
11:00 am to 12:00 pm

Meeting Called to Order: The meeting was called to order by Lisa Peterson at 11:01 am.

Agenda Approval: Hollie Pater made a motion to approve the agenda. Nikki Van'tHof seconded the motion. No discussion or new items added to agenda. Motion carried.

Minutes Approval: The meeting minutes of 9/22/21 were read with no corrections made. Kelly Konechne made a motion to approve minutes. Nikki seconded. The motion carried.

Members Present: Janelle Mickelson, Jennifer Zollner, Karen DeBoer, Channing VanOverbeke, Tiffany Teske, Jessica Froderman, Lori Gunnink, Nikki Van'tHof, Amber Bruns, Hollie Pater, Kelly Konechne, Lisa Peterson

Introductions: Members introduced themselves by their agency, position, and county.

Agency Sharing: Members are reminded that we have the Help Me Grow Banner and a Trifold board to use for any upcoming Early Childhood event. If you are in need of those items or any other Help Me Grow materials for an upcoming EC event please contact Lisa. Lori Gunnink shared that the Kids First Conference in the spring will be done virtually again this year. They will have a Facebook page with the possibility of advertising Help Me Grow there.

State Updates:

- October state meeting: We listened to a panel of ECTAC and OSEP on the equity work being done in child find. They are looking at racial disparities as a result of systems policies. As expected the predictor for the worst outcomes is for people of color with disabilities.
- November state meeting: The equity session this month was honoring Native American Heritage month by talking about intergenerational trauma as a result of residential and boarding schools. Check out this video for more information - <https://garnetsjourney.com/> We also had a discussion with Amanda Varley, manager of the Preschool Development Grant. The grant is working to remove barriers to our Minnesota families that are in need of resources. Help Me Connect has been one of the projects. One of the current projects they are working on is to address gaps in EC mental health services, especially in SW Minnesota. Region 6 and Region 8 are working with Amanda and those invested partners from our IEICs to have a discussion on our needs, etc.
- Cat has been holding virtual listening sessions on the 10 indicators of a quality state ECSE program set up by the federal government and whether MN is meeting the criteria set up. I listened on November 17 to indicators 5 and 6, which focuses on child find. MN has fallen behind on B-1 referrals and B-3 is better as a whole, but continues to need improvement. Cat listened as we gave her feedback on where we all thought that criteria numbers should be set for next year. She will

take that into consideration when setting up the final criteria for the state. Some of the factors discussed to helping with child find was building trust between families and agencies, giving families more information on how to access services, building collaboration among local agencies that work with families, and how we frame child find (is there different language we could use for this like family connections).

Current Budget: We discussed what has been spent so far this year. Of the total \$32,323.43 available to our committee, \$27,547.29 remains.

Help Me Grow Orders: Orders were placed this fall for HMG materials needed by the agencies on our committee. The orders were received thanks to transportation via former member, Jane Feller and her daughter-in-law who works for Region 11. This saved a lot of shipping costs for our region. We have budgeted \$2000 and have spent \$1066.24. We will place another order in the spring and may be able to reallocate other monies not used, if needed.

Referral Tracking: The google tracking form was sent to all the ECSE teachers in Region 8. This was tabulated for the period of July 1, 2021 to Nov 30, 2021. Of the 30 schools, 14 responded with most of the areas completed. Some completed only the numbers that were referred, but not the source of the referrals. Even though the schools reporting last year are somewhat different from last year, there is definitely a trend toward more referrals being made this year.

Contacts with Medical Facilities: The Avera and Sanford NICUs in Sioux Falls SD were called and sent emails with HMG information and to remind them about making referrals to MN Help Me Grow. Fifty-nine letters, brochures, and information sheets were mailed to the medical facilities in our region. At the time of this meeting only 2 had been returned due to address issues. A google form was used with addresses by county. Hollie re-sent this form to the members. Please look over your county with any changes to be made and to help fill in contact names and email addresses that you may know. Thanks.

Community Education Brochures: Worthington, Redwood Falls, and Luverne have purchased ads. These communities have an online presence, in addition to print. Windom also expressed interest but has not yet purchased one. Some communities do not have advertising in their community ed brochures. The committee discussed the possibility of advertising in free circulars (such as the Pipestone Star or the Murray Co Advantage) that go to homes free of charge, even though it potentially will not be in a home for as long a time and therefore would be a bit more expensive. Jessica Froderman made a motion to place an ad in free advertising circulars in counties that do not have advertising in their community ed brochures. Channing VanOverBeke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Library Project: There is \$3000 allotted for this project. There are 26 libraries in the Plum Creek Library system, which aligns with our Region 8. We discussed having a display in each library with the developmental poster displayed next to free 1, 2, and 3 year old Help Me Grow books with a HMG brochure in each book. Lisa will contact the library system head with information about Help Me Grow and to determine if this possible. Lori suggested that we may be able to use the vans that go to each library from Worthington as a way to transport materials

to each library. If you have a library in your community not connected to Plum Creek system, please let Lisa know so we are sure to cover each of the libraries.

Cultural Community Relationships: Lisa continues to work on a list of questions for potential speakers from our under represented communities.

Workshop for Childcare Providers: Lisa and Karen DeBoer from Child Care Aware will meet to discuss how childcare providers are meeting these days and if there might be a training that would incorporate Help Me Grow and that we could help sponsor.

Future Meeting Dates: Our next meeting dates will be February 16, 2022 and April 27, 2022. They are both Wednesdays from 11 to 1. Due to Covid and the time factor in traveling, about half the members present were in favor of keeping the meeting virtual. We discussed the possibility of having a hybrid meeting. This will depend on finding a suitable location and the safety measures needed at that time.

Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made by Janelle Mickelson, seconded by Lori Gunnik. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Following our regular meeting we met with Charlotte McDonald and Lydia Pfluger, from MN DHS who led a discussion on CAPTA (Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act) referrals and how this can be done better and with more ease between Social Services and Education. A good discussion was held with many thoughts and ideas presented to them by our members. They recorded answers to questions on an IdeaBoardz. This will be open until the end of January to anyone wanting to submit more ideas to them on this topic. The website for the IdeaBoardz is:

<https://ideaboardz.com/for/Part%20C%20Referrals%20Region%208/4228472>

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Peterson, Facilitator