

Help Me Grow
Region 8 IEIC Meeting
4-26-22
Pizza Ranch – Slayton, MN
11:05 am to 1:05 pm

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Lisa Peterson at 11:05 am.

Agenda Approval: Lori Gunnink made a motion to approve the agenda. Toni Baartman seconded the motion. No new items were added. Motion carried.

Minutes Approval: A motion was made by Shari Dean to approve the meeting minutes of 3-9-22. Kelly Konechne seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

Members Present: Jennifer Zollner, Shari Dean, Hollie Pater, Kelly Konechne, Janelle Mickelson, Sara Carlson, Sarah Krause, Kristin Deacon, Lori Gunnink, Toni Baartman, Lisa Peterson. Participating virtually were Channing VanOverbeke and Emily Hoffman.

Introductions: Members introduced themselves by their agency, position, and county. We offered a special welcome to our first time members participating Sarah Krause and Sara Carlson from DVHHS out of Jackson and Windom!

Community events: Members are reminded that we have the Help Me Grow Banner (in both English and Spanish) and a Trifold board to use for any upcoming Early Childhood or community events where we can promote Help Me Grow. There is also a virtual Help Me Grow booth for virtual events that can be used. Please contact Lisa if you could use these resources.

There is a cultural event taking place in Marshall this weekend called Worldfest offering a chance to experience the different cultures found in Southwest MN.

State Updates:

- No March state meeting.
- April state meeting focused on the new work plan for 2022-2023. The work plan format will remain the same this year. Allocations will be similar to last year. Our region received about \$20,000 in allocations. March saw a big jump in HMG referrals. Region 11 discussed some of the new resources available to all regions. Of particular note to our committee is the new bookmark entitled “What Happens After a Child is Referred”. It is in English only. Lori Gunnink offered to have her staff translate the form into other languages. Region 11 is always looking for more ideas on resources and ways to be more inclusive.
- The state Early Childhood Summit is taking place May 3 & 5 virtually. It is free but registration is required. Registration Here: https://whova.com/portal/registration/mecs_202205
- The next state IEIC meeting will be May 16 at 9:00 by Zoom. All are invited. Please let Lisa know if you would like the link.

Old Business:

Current Budget: Money spent since our last meeting includes advertising in Community Ed brochures, ordering materials to distribute to the libraries and facilitator payment. We have \$18,083.43 remaining of our budget of \$32,323.43. Expenses in May include ordering HMG materials for our Region 8 agencies, facilitator pay, and possible additional Community Ed advertisements. A question was asked how much money can be carried over for next year. Lisa will check on the exact amount. A motion to approve the budget was made by Hollie Pater. Seconded by Jen Zollner. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

Review of 2021-2022 Projects: We discussed the projects in our 2021-2022 Work Plan. The projects include Medical Community Outreach, Tracking Referrals, Help Me Grow Ads in Community Ed brochures, Library Project, Kids First Conference display booth, Childcare Trainings, Ordering HMG materials for Region 8 agencies, Community Cultural Relationships. Some of the projects did not happen due to various reasons. Most of the projects cost under the estimated amounts.

Ordering Materials: There is money still available for any agency in need of Help Me Grow materials. Lisa will send an order form to be distributed by members as needed. Forms should be returned by May 4. Region 11 has a deadline in May for other regions to order from them.

New Business:

Membership Roster: We continue to look for new members, especially parents who have or have had a child who is being served or has been served through early intervention. Stipends will continue in the new plan for parent attendance with possibly adding childcare costs to attend, as well. The question was posed if hiring subs to attend meetings is within the budget constraints. Lisa will check on this. Next fall we will spend more time discussing how the operating procedures addresses membership and if a change is needed.

New Co-Chairpersons: Janelle Mickelson, Hollie Pater, and Kelly Konechne have completed their terms. Jessica Froderman continues for 1 more year. Shari Dean and Nikki Van't Hof have volunteered to be new co-chairs. Kelly volunteered to serve another year. We are looking for 1 more volunteer.

Brainstorm projects for next year: The Committee discussed this year's projects and how to change or expand current ones. New ideas included distributing materials to food shelves. reaching out more to ECFE programs to advertise, finding other ways to reach out to the medical community, using school websites to put HMG info, and sponsoring other childcare training topics.

Work Plan Subcommittee: A subcommittee was formed to refine and focus the ideas brainstormed to write the new 2022-2023 work plan. The group consists of our present and future co-chairs. Others wanting to be a part of this subcommittee are welcome! Lisa will contact members about a meeting in May.

Future Meeting Dates: Our committee discussed the time of day we currently have our meetings. Most members agreed that it would be better for members to have the meeting at the end of the work day rather than the middle. The exact start time was somewhat debatable but it was agreed that we would try a 1:00 or 1:30 start time in September. We also discussed switching to Tuesdays. Please let me know whether Tuesdays will work for you, as we can still make adjustments.

Our tentative next meeting is for Tuesday, September 27 at 1:00 at the Pizza Ranch. This could be changed depending on response from members not present at our meeting.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Peterson, Facilitator