

Cultural Linguistic Committee
3/4/09 Meeting Notes
CMMHC – St. Cloud

Attendees: Mildred Burch, Fartun Nur, Mary Jackson, Joan Collins, Sara Dahlquist, Larone Green, Abdirahman Ahmed, Mayuli Bales, Ann Scoles, Becky Foreman, Marni Lewis-Harvey, Yolanda Young, Leslie R. Green, Mary Christen Czech, Jane Ellison, Wendy Schoen, Ismal ?

THRIVE Jane Ellison addressed the committee on the Greater St. Cloud Thrive Initiative now approaching its second year. THRIVE is a project sponsored through the Initiative Foundation in Little Falls with a focus on Healthy social and emotional development of children from birth to age three. The work involves bringing community stake holders with an interest and passion for young children together to develop action teams that deal with the greater St. Cloud areas needs.

1. There are five priority areas THRIVE has identified as areas of concern. Jane mentioned professional development (training mental health professionals, child care providers etc. in what a normal, healthy childhood should look like); looking at gaps in mental health as well as other professions (schools); and professional learning (incorporating coursework across the various disciplines that deal with children birth through three.) THRIVE is offering a summer course on Infant Mental Health at SCSU presented by Glen Palm, Ph.D. from the Department of Child and Family Studies. One of the goals is to incorporate cultural diversity into the course. THRIVE has hired Huda Farah to present during the day on Tuesday June 16th. Jane is requesting funding through the STARS CLC committee to offer an evening course utilizing Huda for the local Somali Community. Huda typically receives \$500.00 for a ½ day.

Abdi spoke in support of the program for the Somali community.

Les raised a concern about Huda's role as part of THRIVE's professional development versus families accessing mental health services and the possibility of finding someone local.

Wendy spoke in support of hiring Huda due to her expertise in health related films she has produced with the DHS and her ability to connect with both the Somali population and English speakers. She referred to a past training session Child Care Choices had during the day hours and then offering her service to the larger Somali population and other community professionals in the evening.

Les stated he was clearer about her role with the understanding that she is Somalian.

Larone raises the question "What happens after the training for the Somali population?"

Jane states that this is a very important question for THRIVE to be mindful of as they plan.

MSP - Larone motioned, Joan seconded to pay the \$500.00 support for the June 16th evening. Jane will contact the Bridge for translation and have them bill STARS.

Abdi offered to assist with transportation.

Jane will return to the next meeting of CLC April 1st, 4PM in Monticello.

2. April 24th from 12-2 PM is the THRIVE coalition meeting and open to all. The focus will be on diversity as well as a celebration for the second birthday of THRIVE. The theme will appropriately be 'two year olds'. THRIVE is seeking non majority folks to speak on a panel about two year olds in their culture. Larone, Mayuli, Fartun have volunteered.
3. Leadership team project: A survey committee has two types of surveys in mind. The Perception survey on mental health and the mapping survey of services available in our area. The leadership team is considering a new Cultural survey to assist THRIVE address the needs of various cultures. There will be a meeting on March 18th from 12-2PM at Hillside Early Childhood Center.
Les voiced a concern about the accuracy of data being gathered and how we need to be cautious of public perception.
THRIVE an Initiative Foundation grant project has access to Linda Koffman from the Wilder Foundation to assist with formulating a survey. Jane offered that the Wilder Foundation has expressed interest in the data from such a survey.

Latino Family Town Hall Event Mayuli has a proposal for the town hall meeting planned for Thursday May 21st 5-9PM at the new St. Cloud Library. She is including in her request funding for a meal or snack. She will need child care and transportation. She stated the churches are willing to provide transportation. She envisions a panel of 5-6 speakers to speak on Mental Health Services available to families. The panel would consist of a parent, a County representative, Michelle Ulfers, a hospital rep., a PACER rep., and someone from LaFamilia a Latino organization based in Mpls. Of question too was: "What will happen next?" A meeting date will be set once it is decided on what needs to be worked on.

A list will be developed of who should be invited. The event speaker will be in Spanish – translation to English will be needed. A area will be set up for family resources.

Larone praised Mayuli for her hard work as well as the chance she is taking on organizing such a large event. Les Green echoed the compliment making all aware of the courage it takes to stake one's reputation on such an undertaking.

Father check-in Larone spoke about the National father survey see: (fatherInitative.org for survey) he would like the committee to go on the web site and take the check in and bring back the results next month. He mentioned an upcoming SAMSHA meeting on fathers scheduled for March 12th.

Joan inquired if we are including the right group since some of the FSS may not be at the next CLC meeting. She also mentioned the search for a father to fill an opening for a P.T. FFS.

Five Year Budget Sara (and Joan) reported that every category was slashed with the cultural piece being hit the hardest. There will be less money for year 5 over all. She will cover more details at next months meeting. The Tuesday group will examine contents at their April meeting.

At the Nov. 1st meeting parents voiced a priority for hiring FSS and underserved communities, the GBLTQ was added as a late piece to the budget. It was noted that there are additional barriers for the non-english speaking community. The tight budget draws attention for the need for better collaboration between service providers.

MSP Mary motioned and Ann seconded a motion to purchase 10 tickets for the Gay Pride (Dist. 202) event scheduled on May 5th from 12-3PM.

Mary raised the question of a possible fade out of cultural guide positions to a FSS position due to their wages being absent on the five year budget.

Wendy questioned whether any African Americans had applied for the FSS position and whether or not a qualification of such position was only open to parents having a child with a mental health issue.

Les stated: political point that any African American raised in our Society is crazy – he also mentioned the daily taunting African American children experience and how that constant stress can lead to mental illnesses.

A student internship program was brought up by Larone for African American students in Central MN. The students are paid \$3000.00 for internships in their undergraduate study areas. Mary Jo Facilitates.

It was mentioned that Chris Wahoia has resigned as he is seeking F.T. rather than his P.T. employment. He hopes to secure employment in the Mpls. area to be near family.

Sara reminded all of the David Miller YIPA conference for youth on April 1st.

Ismael spoke of the 90% of Somali children in District 742 are suffering from PTSD. He is seeking funding for both a boys' and girls' soccer team. (Ages 14-19). He also brought up the Somali New Year which occurs on July 1st. Last year the celebration was held at Apollo. The building is not being offered this year.

Abdi spoke of the need to work at preventing problems for Somali youth.

Wendy questioned how the events will include a mental health component.

Mayuli spoke of the gathering of families to relax, enjoy each other and have fun as being the essence of mental health.

MSP Mayuli motioned, Larone seconded to award \$1000.00 to each the boys and the girls soccer teams for a total of \$2000.00.

Minutes submitted by:

Wendy Schoen