

MINUTES
Mansfield Advocates for Children
Wednesday, October 3, 2007
Mansfield Town Hall – Council Chambers
6:30PM-8:00 PM

PRESENT: K. Grunwald (staff), S. Baxter (staff), J. Stoughton (staff), D. McLaughlin, Jessica Higham (guest), K. Paulhus, J. Buck, A. Bladen (Chair), R. Leclerc, J. Goldman, B. Lehmann, E.A. Aschenbrenner (Eastconn), C. Guerreri (Graustein), L. Dahn
REGRETS: L. Oransoff, S. Patwa, N. Hovorka, M.J. Newman

Time	Item	Discussion
6:30 PM-6:40 PM	<u>-Call to order</u>	Chair A. Bladen called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM. Guests introduced themselves.
	<u>Introduction:</u> E.A. Aschenbrenner EASTCONN- Collaborative Agent	S. Baxter announced that PEP is starting next week with 3-4 enrollees; still recruiting for new members. Reminder that the Stone Soup Conference will be held on Oct. 24; still time to register. LWV is sponsoring candidates' night Oct. 18; we are looking for 1-2 questions for the candidates re: ECE issues.
	<u>Announcements</u> - PEP Program Update -Discovery Stone Soup registration reminder -Candidates' Night Questions about early care and ed.	-Sub committees and ad hoc groups list suggestions for project for PEP group - recruitment of PEP grads and parents -work on questions for candidate's night
6:40 PM-7:05 PM	Approve minutes of 9/5/07	Minutes: Note that J. Goldman was a member of the Infant/Toddler's group.
	E.A.Aschenbrenner from EASTCONN to discuss collaborative agent's role	E.A. Aschenbrenner provided a brief overview of EASTCONN as an agency. Their job is to support member communities. They provide professional development and support for early care providers through state
		Minutes accepted with that correction. S. Baxter invited E.A. to attend monthly MAC meetings. Executive Committee will meet with representatives of EASTCONN to discuss whether or not they are the appropriate agency

**Review 2008-09
Discovery Action
Plan (see small
groups)
to decide how sub**

grants. She has reviewed the Action Plan that MAC has submitted; asked what our vision is re: being influential locally and statewide? J. Buck asked if Eastconn can help to mobilize support on a regional basis? Eastconn is mobilizing local communities to advocate for enhanced school readiness funding. S. Baxter asked what MAC can do to support these regional efforts? One of the issues is parity in funding between priority school districts and competitive school readiness programs. Some discussion of professional development opportunities. J. Goldman stated that at MDD the emphasis for professional development is on receiving academic credit. C. Gurreri questioned whether or not E.A. is the right person from Eastconn to play an active role as the collaborative agent for this community? E.A. answered that the role is different in different communities, and partly depends on the funding that is available to support this role. C. Gurreri asked if there is a plan re: how to target all of the political representatives of the various communities represented? This depends on the support and interest of the communities that are involved. There needs to be

to fulfill this role and if so, to prepare a working agreement. This will be completed by the end of the year.

committee or ad hoc group will move the action plan in the 2008-09 Discovery work when in small gr.

some discussion and negotiation re: the role of the collaborative agent and the fee that will be paid for these services. K. Paulhus asked why a collaborative agent is required and what they do for this fee? An external collaborative agent is a grant requirement; Eastconn essentially serves the role of a fiscal agent for a fee of 5% of the grant. J. Goldman asked that Eastconn look at assuming a more active role around the issue of parent engagement. Eastconn has applied for funding to support regional parent training initiatives and disseminating information.

Feedback on the Action Plan and Narrative of the grant application: J. Buck noted that the use of parent stipends is a creative way of involving parents. She is also glad to see that we are continuing other activities that disseminate information.

J. Buck also felt that in the area of local leadership the strategies support what we have been doing for some time.

J. Goldman announced that the town-wide strategic planning community has started to work and will be inviting individuals to participate in this effort.

7:05 PM-8:00PM **3 Small groups:**
Assess where group is and next steps and any future meeting necessary

- **Parents- Recruitment- Who are we reaching, who are we not reaching?**
- **Infant/Toddler- How will survey be used? Who will do surveying?**
- **Membership- What next?**

Small groups began discussions, but time was too short to accomplish the stated goals. Groups will meet between now and the next MAC meeting and report on their progress at the next MAC meeting 11/7/07

-Each sub committee creates action steps toward outcome accomplishment - and who will be responsible for the action step

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM; Respectfully submitted: Kevin Grunwald