



**BEST BEGINNINGS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
HOLIDAY INN BALL ROOM  
HELENA, MT  
November 7-8<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**Wednesday, November 7, 2102**

**PARTICIPANTS:**

<b>Barclay, Terri</b>	<b>Bill, Josette</b>	<b>Blunt, Lavonne</b>	<b>Box, Collette</b>
<b>Butler, Patty</b>	<b>Cook, David B.</b>	<b>Corbally, Sarah</b>	<b>Cory, Amy</b>
<b>Cundall, Valerie</b>	<b>Donohoue, Eileen</b>	<b>Frick, Dianna</b>	<b>Gieseke, Kayla</b>
<b>Goetz, Stephanie</b>	<b>Groves, Sara</b>	<b>Hancock, Libby</b>	<b>Hansen, Debbie</b>
<b>Hart, Kelly</b>	<b>Higgins, Denise</b>	<b>Jensen, Caitlin</b>	<b>Jensen, Kriste</b>
<b>Ladd, Dan</b>	<b>Larson, Christy Hill</b>	<b>Meyer, Shelly</b>	<b>Musil, Mary</b>
<b>Neuman, Deborah</b>	<b>O'Dell, Cindy</b>	<b>Palagi, Jamie</b>	<b>Petriz, Lynette</b>
<b>Hodges, Abigail</b>	<b>Riggs, Erin</b>	<b>Stockert, Brenda</b>	<b>Sturgis, Connie</b>
<b>Synness, Melisa</b>	<b>Vennes, Holley Woosley</b>		<b>Wood, Viola</b>
<b>Adams, Sarah</b>	<b>Hansen, Debora</b>	<b>Collinson, Renee</b>	

**10:00 a.m.**

**Welcome and Introductions**

*Debbie Hansen, Best Beginnings Coordinator*  
*Jamie Palagi, Human & Community Services Division Administrator*  
*Patty Butler, Early Childhood Services Bureau Chief*

**10:30**

**Best Beginnings Community Council Year 2 Update**

*Dianna Frick, MIECHV ID Grant Manager*

**10:45**

**Highlights-Best Beginnings Local Community Councils**

*-Erin Riggs: Flathead Best Beginnings Community Council*  
*-Lynette Petrutz: Butte Best Beginnings Community Council*  
*-Kayla Gieseke: 123 Invest in Me, Ravalli Best Beginnings Council*  
*-Lavonne Blunt: Missoula Best Beginnings Community Council*  
*-Brenda Stockert: Eastern Montana-3 Best Beginnings Regional Council*  
*-Val Cundall: Greater Helena Early Childhood Coalition*  
*-Amy Cory: Greater Gallatin Early Childhood Community Council*

**12:00**

**Lunch on your own**

**1:15**

**"5 Protective Factors Model"**

*Family Support Committee,*  
*-Deborah Neuman, Executive Director, THRIVE*  
*-Sarah Corbally, Child & Family Services Administrator*

**2:15**

**Needs Assessment and Discussion**

*Debbie Hansen, Best Beginnings Coordinator*  
*Jamie Palagi, Facilitator*

**3:00**

**Break**

**3:15**

**Needs Assessment and Discussion**

4:30

**Public Comment**

4:45

**Thank you.**

*Meeting resumes Thursday at 8:30 a.m*

## MEETING MINUTES

10:00 a.m.

**Welcome and Introductions**

*Debbie Hansen, Best Beginnings Coordinator*

*Jamie Palagi, Human & Community Services Division Administrator*

*Patty Butler, Early Childhood Services Bureau Chief*

Housekeeping:

- If you are concerned about the weather, please keep your safety in mind for travel
- Parking passes are available
- Please get a travel voucher if you need one
- Please sign in

Debbie went over the agenda for today

Introduction of Patty Butler: Jamie Palagi

- Jamie is here to help move the process and facilitate as we transition with Patty
- Patty gave an introduction of herself and her history
- Everyone introduced themselves
- We spoke about changes to divisions due to transitions/retirements

10:30 a.m.

**Best Beginnings Community Council Year 2 Update**

*Dianna Frick, MIECHV ID Grant Manager*

- Shared Power Point with the group
- 25 local councils: 23 receive MIECHV ID funding
- “Revenue Neutral approach” – Question on how to go about that approach
  - Not developing funds based on the potential of grant funding – not planning for a source that is undetermined
  - Thinking about how to continue the work without an external grant source
  - This will be important to do this next year
  - There are opportunities for communities to get involved and contribute resources

Questions:

- Additional communities: Is there a plan for establishing plans or councils in more communities?
  - Other communities have been showing interest and have been told that they are welcome to join; however, the funding is not available for more at this time. It will be ideal for them to connect with resources within their community. We will support them with recognition and assistance and try to track them
- Outlook for home visiting: What does the funding look like?
  - Yes and No: This is an area that we will never have enough funding that we would like to for providing those services to all communities who need it. There is some federal funding for the actual services – part of the affordable care act – through the end of 2015. We do have some state funding for home visiting, and an RFP will be revisited next year.
- Have some programs developed from medical/behavioral health models?

- It has definitely come up in discussions; some communities have spent some time talking about it. It is pretty community-specific. We will know more once all of the assessments from the communities come back.
- Is there going to be a resource so individual communities can pull resources so they don't have to reinvent the wheel?
  - PH connect is the site used to share that information. Asking the different coalitions is the best way to get that information.
  - The council can make a recommendation to make that a part of the process as a resource to communities

**10:45                      Highlights-Best Beginnings Local Community Councils**

- Erin Riggs: Flathead Best Beginnings Community Council
- Lynette Petritz: Butte Best Beginnings Community Council
- Kayla Gieseke: 123 Invest in Me, Ravalli Best Beginnings Council
- Lavonne Blunt: Missoula Best Beginnings Community Council
- Brenda Stockert: Eastern Montana-3 Best Beginnings Regional Council
- Val Cundall: Greater Helena Early Childhood Coalition
- Amy Cory: Greater Gallatin Early Childhood Community Council

*Erin Riggs: Flathead Best Beginnings Community Council*

- They now have a psychiatrist on board
- They are trying to reach out for tribal involvement

*Lynette Petritz: Butte Best Beginnings Community Council*

- Started with a Kindergarten readiness team and went from there
- 4 Work Groups: Community Outreach and Education Working Group: Most active group

*Kayla Gieseke: 123 Invest in Me, Ravalli Best Beginnings Council*

- Created mostly from people within Head Start
- Family Resource Guide: Worked within the community (40 page document finished in August of 2012)
- Housing is a huge issue in this county for low-income families
- 39% of children under the age of 5 are living in poverty
- Would like to add more parent representatives and government officials

*Lavonne Blunt: Missoula Best Beginnings Community Council*

- Susan moved to the department of aging
- First joint council meeting was held in May
- Agencies in the community gave a wish list of resources they would like to use to give to parents and providers in the community
- 1 in 5 children in Missoula are living in poverty
- Unemployment in Missoula is only 5.8%, but low-pay employment and "under-employment" is an issue

*Brenda Stockert: Eastern Montana-3 Best Beginnings Regional Council*

- A lot of conference calls are executed due to a location barrier
- Increasing the number of providers in the area is their biggest goal
- "Mental Health Summit" planned

*Val Cundall: Greater Helena Early Childhood Coalition*

- They just developed a logo for the coalition – contest of local schools for the concept
- They adopted goals of the best beginnings project into the work that they are doing

- The Executive luncheon in May was a great way to see all of the work being done with early childhood in the Helena area
- United Way helped fund a childhood family resource center which will be run by volunteers
- They are looking at updating their governance structure at the next meeting in November

*Amy Cory: Greater Gallatin Early Childhood Community Council*

- They have 2 main committees that make up their council
- Income seemed to be the biggest influenced need in the area
- They are working on bridging the gaps with providers and professionals in the area
- They would like to use the needs assessment to create a user-friendly report for the community to use as a resource

**1:15 “5 Protective Factors Model”**

*Family Support Committee,*

*-Deborah Neuman, Executive Director, THRIVE*

*-Sarah Corbally, Child & Family Services Administrator*

- There are now 6 preventive factors in the model now
- “How do we get this group to embrace a holistic view on wellbeing?”
- The focus is really on wellbeing - address trauma and focus on their needs
- Feeding, potty training, crying are three factors that can lead to misunderstanding or miscommunications of expectations
- Basic needs must be met before we can look at meeting higher-level needs
- Parents are a lot more likely to engage when extra steps are taken in the process (transportation, setting up a meeting, etc.)
- Local councils are a great example of engaging the community as a prevention tool
- They are looking at changing the confidentiality statute so they can report back to mandatory reporters to create information sharing

THRIVE

- There is a problem when targeting “those” families – family support really is about all families
- They serve around 8,000 children every year
- Focusing on parental strengths is a very important component of the design for family support work
- Family support: the earlier, the better
- Family needs are not Monday-Friday, 8-5
- Providing help: what, when, and where they need it

Discussion:

- Not targeting families is need is important: This is something local councils are working on with their communities
- “Family Support” is a large concept
- Recommendation from a committee or council: look at strategies for strengthening families and being a part of it

**2:15 Needs Assessment and Discussion**

*Debbie Hansen, Best Beginnings Coordinator*

*Jamie Palagi, Facilitator*

- It is still in draft form so we make sure we are capturing ideas from the councils and communities involved in the assessment
- Issues that came up today:

- Cultural competencies and family lifestyles
- Poverty: working poor
- Housing
- Access to mental health
- Child care
- Information and messaging
- Health coverage
- Access to services
- Data gaps
- Policy change: Simplifying applications for benefits
- We will have a public meeting on the assessment in January

#### Needs Assessment

- This is to assist us in developing recommendations and initiating discussion
- LIEAP: More research needs to be involved in this area to see how to better serve those in need
- Prenatal care: Midwives included? Or just physician care?
- Midwife that has hearing screening information in MT
- EPSDT: Parent awareness is lacking – this is something to look into
- School screenings: An issue is follow up when things are found. The new Medicaid system is going to track this to see the services kids are getting
- Immunization tracking is incorrect
- Healthy Montana Kids Plus has three different programs: 0-5, 6-18, 6-18 expansion
- Is there a place to find the split of Healthy Montana Kids and Healthy Montana Kids plus?
- Screening for children with special needs: Are parents asking for screenings? Do they know that they are available?
  - There is not a set of standards for the EPSDT screen
  - What is addressed under the Affordable Care Act?
    - We should discuss the Affordable Care Act next meeting to see what changes have been made since the election
- Preschool Special Education: More information is needed, especially with eligibility criteria
- Montana is now a PURPLE state
- Head Start Programs: Waiting list – how many children that are 100% eligible are on the waiting list?
- Preschools and Drop In Daycares: Look into tracking information on enrollments
  - County sanitarians provide oversight to drop in daycares for areas that require oversight
- Recommendation: Child care providers licensing

#### 4:30                      **Public Comment**

- Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies
  - Privately funded non-profit
  - Provides free cribs
  - Recently awarded \$110,000 to continue building the PURPLE Montana Program
- Contact information: Daylyn Porter, RNC: [purple@hmhb-mt.org](mailto:purple@hmhb-mt.org)

#### 4:45                      **Thank you.**

*Meeting resumes Thursday at 8:30 a.m*



**BEST BEGINNINGS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
HOLIDAY INN BALL ROOM  
HELENA, MT  
November 7-8<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**Thursday, November 8, 2102**

**PARTICIPANTS:**

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<b>Cook, David B.</b>	<b>Corbally, Sarah</b>	<b>Cundall, Valerie</b>	<b>Donohoue, Eileen</b>
<b>Frick, Dianna</b>	<b>Gieseke, Kayla A.</b>	<b>Groves, Sara</b>	<b>Hancock, Libby</b>
<b>Hansen, Debora</b>	<b>Hodges, Abigail</b>	<b>Jensen, Caitlin</b>	<b>Kaiser, Dani</b>
<b>Larson, Christy Hill</b>	<b>Meyer, Shelly</b>	<b>Neuman, Deborah</b>	<b>O'Dell, Cindy</b>
<b>Palagi, Jamie</b>	<b>Petritz, Lynette</b>	<b>Riggs, Erin</b>	<b>Stockert, Brenda</b>
<b>Sturgis, Connie</b>	<b>Goetz, Stephanie</b>	<b>Adams, Sarah</b>	<b>Collinson, Renee</b>
<b>Hansen, Debbie</b>			

<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Welcome/Announcements</b> <i>Debbie Hansen, Best Beginnings Coordinator</i>
<b>9:00</b>	<b>Needs Assessment/Next Steps</b>
<b>9:30</b>	<b>Committee Work</b>
<b>12:00</b>	<b>Working Lunch</b>
<b>1:00</b>	<b>Full council: committee considerations</b>
<b>3:00</b>	<b>Public Comment</b>
<b>3:15</b>	<b>Meeting adjourned</b>

*Next Meeting is scheduled for January 9 – 10, 2013 at the Holiday Inn, Last Chance Gulch.*

**8:30 a.m.**                      **Welcome/Announcements**  
  
*Debbie Hansen, Best Beginnings Coordinator*

- Debbie Hansen welcomed the group to the second meeting day
- Patty Butler informed the group that due to the harsh weather conditions, the group would be adjourning earlier than scheduled so people can drive home safely

**9:00**                              **Needs Assessment/Next Steps**

- Debbie Hansen and Patty Butler spoke with the group about the need assessment and handed out questions for each committee to address during their work time

**9:30 Committee Work**

- Each committee got together and went over the questions handed out by Debbie Hansen

**12:00 Working Lunch**

- The committees presented on their answers to the questions

**1:00 Public Comment**

- There was no public comment.

**1:15 Meeting adjourned**

*There was discussion about the next meeting date scheduled for January 9 – 10, 2013 at the Holiday Inn Ball Room, Last Chance Gulch. Patty Butler explained that the only reason the meeting date would get changed is if the person helping us with strategic planning could not be available at that time. Council members will be notified as soon as possible if the meeting date has changed.*

**Public Comment** - in accordance with 2-3-103 (1), MCA, the Department will hold a public comment period. Please note that this is the public's opportunity to address the work of the Best Beginnings Advisory Council

**Americans with Disabilities Act** - The Department of Public Health and Human Services is committed to providing meeting access through reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact the Early Childhood Services Bureau at 444-0548