

**Child Development Advisory Committee Meeting
March 5, 2008**

Attending: Sue Leopold, Marge Knudson, Sharon Rasmussen, Melanie Schultz, Teri Smith, Laine Rieger

The group met for a noon lunch and meeting at The Grinder Coffee Shop in Granite Falls.

Laine presented the following updates on the Child Development program:

1. First year with new A.S. added to existing Certificate and Diploma
2. Modifications to program - offer lab credits off-site in order to make earning credits more convenient for professionals working full-time
3. CDA - "typical" candidate takes 4 classes:

Foundations of Child Dev.	2 credits
Guidance	2 credits
Family & Community Relations	
Or	3 credits
Language & Literacy for Young Children (above group of classes are 100% on-line)	
Internship	2 credits
(done at candidate's work site/includes Laine's role as advisor and completion of CDA Observation Instrument)	

Candidate earns 9 college credits at an apx. Cost of \$1700 (Based on \$160/credit and book cost of \$250)

TEACH has been a tremendous support, especially for those planning to earn an A.S. It is a great opportunity to build a career ladder.

Discussion by group:

-Ridgewater is offering, on the Willmar campus, a series of CDA classes through customized training. Heartland Community Action staff is utilizing these classes. Group discussed relative merits of having credit based vs. non-credit based. Total cost between Minnesota West credit-based and Ridgewater non-credit based is very close.

-The proportion of on-line classes, and addition of off-site lab component beginning in 2008 is appreciated by group members. Offering continuing education for full-time staff is always a challenge.

- Even those teachers who have Bachelor's degrees need continuing education, so the accessibility of on-line classes offers diverse opportunities

-Head Start is setting goals for higher levels of education for their staff. CDA's are being required for Assistant Teachers, or Associate degrees. Eventually, all Head Start Teachers will be required to have a Bachelor's degree.

The meeting closed, and all present expressed appreciation for the lunch and for the Minnesota West t-shirts.