Project ENRICH Benchmark Meeting
Monday, June 20, 2005 – Mid Central, Platte

Following members were present:
Tim Mitchell, Supt. Chamberlain Schools
MaryLou McGirr, TIE Evaluator
Tracy Christensen, Director of Special Ed. Mitchell
Valerie Johnson, Mid Central Cooperative School Psychologist
Colleen Springer, Birth to Three Coordinator
Ruth Krogh, Curriculum Director, Lake Andes
Jan Varejcka, Supt. Lake Andes
Rick Thaler, Head Start Executive Director, Wagner
John Fathke, South Central Director, Tyndall
Marilyn Kokesh, Birth to Three Coordinator
Dan Guericke, Mid Central Cooperative Director
Sylvia Street, Project Enrich Director
Patricia White Horse, Special Ed. Coordinator, Wagner Schools
(All Schools in Region 3 ESA were represented except for Yankton)

Sylvia began the meeting by doing introductions.
Explanation about the handouts were then done. Sylvia made sure everyone had copies of the handouts.

A quick note was made about the Region 3 ESA web site in that the service tab will be changed to collaboration tab and will contain all the standards for early learning.

Sylvia then explained that over the course of this last school year they had kept enrollment of the data base trainings and she presented sheets of all those who were enrolled. As of to date, there were 4,600 + who took advantage of the training. These list will be compiled by schools and made available to the Supt. so they are aware of what training their teachers have taken. The group felt this was quite an impressive number.

**Action 3.1**
The two birth to three coordinators then presented on goal 3.1. We went through the parent packet and told about the provider packet. We then discussed who received them, how to monitor their use, and if we should make more to distribute. The group felt we should send email to the Elementary Principals and see if they got the packets and the explanations about them. It was decided that we should find out who got the packets and who still needs them. The group also felt that the schools would like a copy of the parent packet so they know what the parents have. They could also make copies to hand out to other parents as needed. We also discussed that school social workers should have a packet also as they work directly with families. We also did brainstorming on who all should receive the parent packets and how to survey the parents to see if they felt the packets were of use to them. For the evaluation part of this, Marilyn and Colleen will come up with a quick little survey for families and share it with the other Birth to Three Coordinators to hand out at the six month reviews with families. The information found
out from the school elementary principals will be the evaluation for the provider packets. Rich Thaler took a packet and will update his staff on it.
The group then worked on goal 1. Sylvia pointed out that the key words in goal 1 are professional development of school personnel, mentors, volunteers, parents, and others who work with children and young adults with disabilities.
In doing Project Enrich we want it understood that this is for regular ed. teachers as well as special ed and that Project Enrich works hand in hand with the ESA as far as training and collaborating with all the schools and professionals in Region 3.
Benchmark: Empower parents so transition into schools goes well
- Need more provider packets
- Transition training for families/staff
- School social worker included in #’s of packets needed.
- Parent packet to districts
- Rick update his staff on packets
- Child/care services…see if schools include in their trainings
- Survey the parents at 6 month reviews
- Survey the schools to see how they use their packets in the next school year

**Action 1.1 Investigate specific professional development needs within individual districts as they relate to academic achievement of students with disabilities.**
Again we discussed that a list of all the teachers who did the CRT and the Data Base trainings was kept and will be shared with the supt. of the schools. Out of the 28 schools in the ESA only 2 or 3 have not done the data retreat, but are inquiring about doing it this next year. The group discussed the fact that data retreats need to be done every year as this helps the schools make plans for the year. Mr. Mitchell discussed that there has been a calendar done by the DOE of events and reports that need to be turned in throughout the year. The calendar also has on the back side all the criteria for NCLB laws. Common needs and activity matrix is on the web.
**Benchmark:** Goal to compile list standards of concern on the web
- Calendar list for principals
- List of teachers who attended training to be given to Supt.
- On-going action.

**Action 1.2 Build parental capacity through quarterly family activity/training nights at each school.**
The group talked about the parents nights and how the schools write the grants and after approval, have the trainings. We discussed that the percentage of parents that we want to take part in the fun nights may be too high as it is hard to get families to come with their busy schedules. We brainstormed on how to get more participation. Some examples of the family fun nights were discussed. I.e., calculators and number cubes were handed out in a math packet to parents at one of the family fun nights.
We may need to look at other ways to reach parents other than the parent nights. We discussed what presenters were good and who to have come back again next year. Parent evaluations were done and will be compiled by the end of June and will be posted on the web.
**Benchmark:** Parent nights to continue, but look at getting more parent involvement as
percentage may be too high of parents reached. 
Repeat the Autism and Self Injurious training. 
By the end of June the parent evaluation report will be done. 
Add Girl 
Vollmer/Deadwood 
Merzer/Self Injurious Behavior

**Action 1.3 Provide a series (monthly) of trainings in family sensitivity and effective communication in order to build capacity of professionals.**
We discussed this action and determined to continue this through the next year. Mr. Mitchell discussed the fact that when parents become empowered that some teachers don’t know how to handle it. This is not a bad thing, but teachers/staff need more training on working with the parents.

**Benchmark:** Professional development needs to continue  
MCEC is having a training Aug. 18th at the Platte school and the keynote speaker is open to anyone. This would be good for teachers/staff/parents to hear. 
Kevin Miller – Crucial Conversations/Confrontations

**Action 1.4 Train the trainers in ASCD Differentiated Instruction.**
This action was discussed to quite some length as only 6 teachers were involved and got trained. The group discussed the fact that maybe the administrators weren’t buying into this concept. Valerie also brought up the fact that in some cases it is the same teachers going through all the training and they are just getting overwhelmed with all the training. It was the group’s consensus that this Action needs to continue and we need to work on getting more teachers/administrators involved.

**Benchmark:** Administrators not buying into it. 
6 teachers were trained 
Concerns that the same teachers were getting all the training.

**Action 1.5 Train the trainees in ASCD Differentiated Instruction.**
The group felt that this action is very critical to continue but that we may need to change the number of educators that we would like to see trained.

**Benchmark:** 3 for each (18)

**Action 1.6 Provide training to Region 3 ESA through Saturday Seminars on learning communities.**
This action has been very successful. Teachers are given a stipend to attend and the materials are free to them. It has been awesome in the fact that teachers are giving up their free time to attend the trainings. The lowest number in attendance has been 65 and the highest number has been 120. A lot of teachers are in their masters program and use this training for that.

**Benchmark:** Real successful – must continue

**Action 1.7 Develop a web site communication resource center to provide SBR strategies for schools and parents, and FAQ informational pieces.**
Benchmark: We are working on the web site for this.

Goal 2
Action 2.1 Promote David and Phyllis Whiten Saturday Seminar to special educators and parents of children with disabilities.
Action 2.2 Provide training in Thinking Strategies for Mastering Math
These two actions were discussed and it was self-explanatory about the successfulness of them. The group would really like to see these continued next year.

Benchmark: To continue both trainings next year.

Action 2.3 Canter Course Supporting the Struggling Reader/or the Reading Package.
Stipends will not be offered this year through ESA on this action. If Project Enrich wants to do this next year, then we can continue with the Stipends.

Benchmark: Stipends can no longer be given through the ESA for next year.
Decide whether to continue this project by giving stipends through Project Enrich.

Action 2.4 Provide Prompt Institute Training
This training took place last week and was accepted very well. The trainers were from Seattle and were impressed with the number of therapist that took the training. We will probably not need to do the same training next year for the speech therapist but may look at training other special interest therapist/counselors.

Benchmark: Training was very successful and probably won’t need to do next year.
May look at training special interest therapist/counselors.

Action 2.5 Provide training in Curriculum Mapping to improve Special Education teacher’s understanding of how to correlate goals and objective with SD Reading and Math Standards.

Benchmark: This will be continued next year.

Action 2.6 To provide instruction in SD in Guided Reading practices to all teachers (special, Para’s and parents) in grades K-8
Kathlyn West provided the training.

Benchmark: This will be continued next year.

Action 2.7 Increase the number of certified and recruit Special Education Teachers.
This is an exciting piece as it highlights Project Enrich. This is based on the needs of the Region 3 ESA (meeting more special education teachers).

Benchmark: Paula Platz will teach teachers to do special education.
Need to continue this.
Each participant gets a stipend as well as materials.

Action 2.8 Promote cross collaboration through Region 3 ESA Minutes 4 Mentoring.
This has been cancelled.

We had already gone over Action 3.1 and Action 3.2 had been cancelled by the State.
We discussed adding to Goal 3 the possibilities of 3-5 transitions, Tribal Head Starts (and their involvement), and offering more training to Head Starts. We decided to email each other the updates to the grant for next year for final approval. Sylvia and Colleen will be in charge of getting the information out to Board Members.

MaryLou McGirr, TIE evaluator, asked a few questions. She asked how this grant is different from the spray and pray method of doing training. Each board member answered with their own thoughts. We felt that Project Enrich was building capacity – teachers are building with and on each other and that schools are building on Project Enrich. Our project looked at the vision for each district and built on that for our plans. The group was very supportive of Sylvia and the grant and feel that it has helped them immensely with their school districts.

MaryLou then asked a few more questions of the stakeholders with Sylvia’s absence. Again, the group was very supportive of Sylvia and Project Enrich.

Colleen Springer