

Activate Omaha Kids
Nutrition Plank Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 9, 2008
Collaborating Center
Minutes

Members Present: Jewel Knapp, Lori Swirzinski Moehn and Mary Balluff
Staff Present: Mikki Frost and Diane Roberts

1. FYI
 - a. Welcome and introductions.
 - b. Mary Balluff announced that Bev Benes of the Nebraska Department of Education, Nutrition Services, may be getting one of the fruit and vegetable grants to provide nutritious snacks.
 - c. The Nebraska Action for Healthy Kids have presented their 2008 awards to schools who submitted their school success stories.
2. School Wellness Policies – The group discussed ways to move forward with evaluation of school wellness policies. It was agreed that it was very important *not* to create a “rating” system of wellness policies, but rather to present stories of schools whose policies had produced promising results. Additionally, stories of difficulties with implementation could be presented with strategies on how to address these difficulties. The American Heart Association and the William J. Clinton Foundation have joined together to form the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. They have focused on schools with their Healthy Schools Program which provides some school success stories on their website: <http://www.healthiergeneration.org/about.aspx>. Mary Balluff agreed to be the point person for our work on school wellness policies.
3. Breastfeeding – The group agreed that it was important to collect information on the breastfeeding policies within each health system. It was recommended that the health systems be surveyed as to what is going well and what could be improved to increase rates of breastfeeding in Omaha. Although the Methodist Health System is the only health system in Omaha to actually be certified as “Baby-Friendly”, the certification process is lengthy and most health systems will not be seeking this designation. Lori Swirzinski Moehn will be the contact person for review of breastfeeding policies with the hospitals.
4. Review of the Inventory of Community Assets – The inventory of community assets was reviewed. Mikki Frost and Diane Roberts agreed to merge the Activate Omaha Kids inventory with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services survey and refine the responses to align with information that the Nutrition Plank is specifically seeking. They anticipate creating call lists that contain the missing questions which can then be divided among the membership to obtain the “need to know” information.
5. The next meeting of the Nutrition Plank has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 7 at 2:30 at the Collaborating Center. It was decided to form subgroups around the school wellness policies and breastfeeding survey. If you would prefer to work on school wellness policy evaluation, express your interest to Mary Balluff at mary.balluff@douglascounty-ne.gov. If you would like to survey the Omaha hospitals on breastfeeding policy, send Lori Swirzinski an email at lori.swirzinski@nmhs.org.