

Activate Omaha Kids
Nutrition Plank Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 7, 2008
Collaborating Center
Minutes

Members Present: Caryn Kusleika, Jennifer Talarico, Lori Moehn, Martha Nepper, Joan Sather, Michelle Mertz, Tim Bivens, Kara Meisinger, Katee Upton, Travis Lucas, Carrie Miller and Mary Balluff

Staff Present: Mikki Frost and Diane Roberts

1. Welcome and Introductions.
2. Review of Minutes and Agenda: The minutes from the meeting of 4-9-2008 were approved.
3. School Wellness Policies Update – Mary Balluff updated the group on the school wellness policies evaluations. She has spoken with Shannon Volker, a Nebraska representative for the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. Shannon is currently working with six schools, one in Lincoln and 5 rural schools, to enhance their policies. She anticipated working with Omaha schools in 2009. The efforts of this plank will be well appreciated by Shannon! The focus of our evaluation will be one to publicize the good policies and offer support to schools with knowledge and training resources. There are two websites that have extensive school wellness policy resources: <http://www.healthiergeneration.org> and <http://www.neactionforhealthykids.org>. Mary has been contacted by 5 or 6 plank members willing to work on this subgroup. If other members want to work with this subgroup, please contact Mary at mary.balluff@douglascounty-ne.gov. The group will make inroads in understanding school wellness policies the next few months and begin reaching out to schools in the fall.
4. Inventory Update – Mikki Frost and Diane Roberts distributed potential questions to ask of the various organizations who responded to either the Activate Omaha Kids inventory or the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services survey. Another survey is being created by the state. We will not, therefore, be contacting those organizations who did not respond to either survey until the results from the state are known. A copy of the master spreadsheet was also circulated. Plank members signed up to call specific organizations they knew and of which they had previous knowledge. A “script” will be created and a list of organizations will be given to the plank members who agreed to make calls. The information obtained could be used in several ways: 1) identify gaps in programming, 2) provide the information as a resource on the website, 3) provide easily accessible information for grant-writing purposes, and 4) sort by zip codes so city areas lacking in certain programs could be identified.
5. Hospital Breastfeeding Policy – Lori Swirzinski Moehn discussed baby-friendly hospital criteria. Cheryl Carlberg had provided the group with listings of Baby-Friendly hospitals in the U.S., locations of certified lactation specialists in the Omaha area and the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative. The group agreed that the

best first point of contact person for each hospital would be their lactation specialist. The specialists would be surveyed as to their hospital's position on baby-friendly certification, if they would want to seek this certification, what resources could be provided to help them promote initiation and continuation of breastfeeding. There were several resources in Nebraska mentioned: HABA (Heartland Area Breastfeeding Association) and Milk Works in Lincoln. The group will consider developing position statements, creating a benefits of breastfeeding educational flyer and providing resources to the lactation specialists, OBGynes, Pediatricians and FPs. If you wish to work with this subgroup, please contact Lori at lori.swirzinski@nmhs.org.

6. Next Steps – The membership agreed to meet as subgroups during the months of June and July and reconvene the large group in August. The Collaborating Center, Room 1010 is reserved on the dates of June 11 and July 9 from 2:30 to 4:00 if the subgroups wish to use the room as a meeting place. The entire plank membership will meet on Wednesday, September 10, at 2:30 at the Collaborating Center.