



COUNTY OF MERCER
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Minutes
WIB Early Childhood Literacy Committee
May 12, 2009

Attendance: Nancy Thomson, (Child Care Connection), Winnie Fatton (TCNJ), Beth Gardiner (Child Care Connection), Betsy Schumann (Mercer Street Friends), Pam Marshall (Mercer County Correction Center), Deborah Chitester (Private Sector)

Staff: Beverly Mills

Opening: Nancy Thomson, Committee chair, opened the meeting held at the Child Care Connection, 1001 Spruce Street, Ewing. The minutes from the April 14, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved.

New Business:

Deborah Chitester updated the committee on her new non-profit for multi-language kids. She plans to provide educational programming to CLD children and parent literacy programs to families.

Pam Marshall reported she may not be able to continue participating. The new Warden at the Mercer County Correctional Facility is assessing the need for representation on this committee. In the future she may be joined by her supervisor who will make the recommendation to the Warden regarding continued representation.

Pam said one of her goals is develop a program on how incarcerated parents can address their absence from her and continue to build the self esteem of their children. The committee advised on different avenues to find ways to develop this parenting curriculum. Winnie Fatton suggested using videotape to tell their story and talk about future plans. Nancy Thomson further suggested Pam speaks with Ed Gittens, UIH Fatherhood Program, since his program deals with many formerly incarcerated people.

Early Mercer Reads (June 12, 2009):

Nancy reported there will be two packets available on the website; the toolkit is the same as last year only with a different title (Early Mercer Reads). Also included is a “blurb” – all forms should have return information to Gina Jones at the Mercer WIB. There were a few other corrections and suggestions which Nancy will incorporate and have done in a day so it can be sent to Bev in PDF form for the County web. It was suggested that two weeks before Early Mercer Reads calls should be placed to centers as a reminder.

Volunteers are needed and suggestions included soliciting juniors and senior in high school. Bev Mills will ask Sam Stewart, if he can help get the word to schools. Susan Sternberg will have volunteers from the Trenton Public Library all day. Mercer Street Friends will look into books they have to donate for our giveaway.

The tentative volunteer schedule is as follows:

Deb Chitester	12:00-1:00
Beverly Mills	1:00-2:00
Susan Sternberg	2:00-3:00
Nancy Thomson	3:00-4:00
Pam Marshall (?)	4:00-5:00

Remaining donated books will go to the Mercer County Correction Center. Bev Mills will also bring the Adult and Children's Pledge Cards from last year. Nancy Thomson will look into making or ordering an Early Mercer Reads sign.

Next meeting: **Tuesday, June 30, 2009 @ 9:30 AM, Child Care Connection, 1001 Spruce Street, Ewing.**