



Midwest Nest Coalition

Minutes from Tuesday, July 22, 2003

Acting Chair Jeanette Brockert called meeting to order at 10:01 am.

Members present:

<i>Name – County</i>	<i>Name – County</i>	<i>Name – County</i>
Bonnie French-Watters – Johnson	Linda Romero – Poweshiek	Chris Porter – Appanoose
Donna Bruggeman – Van Buren	Pam Mentzer – Greene	Rita Petersen – Guthrie
Nancy Parkin – Story	Nichelle Drummond-Hall – Story	Tracy Holven – Tama
Joyce Legg – Tama	Barbara Mulgrave – Davis	Judy Songer – SIEDA
Carol Long – Keokuk	Tammy Hanen – Jefferson	Frances Hawthorne – Zeta Phi Beta
Elizabeth Schultz – Benton	Heidi Pearson – Benton	Pam Grayson – Zeta Phi Beta
Jeanette Brockert – Louisa	Lori Kuntz – Des Moines	Lacey Fliger – Des Moines
Melissa Jacobs – Des Moines	Tara Jones – Muscatine	Ann Osborne – Sac
Janet Gritten – Crawford	Cheryl Lahr – Crawford	Carrie Hornor – Sac
Krista Barcus – Page/Fremont	Sylvia Andrade – Dallas	Amanda Kellenbarger Cruz – Polk

Two corrections were made to the previous meeting's minutes. 1. Frances facilitated the Stork's Nest *workshop*, not conference, in Oklahoma City. 2. Polk County posed the issue of liability insurance for Nests, but was not planning to investigate further.

Zeta Phi Beta Update – Frances Hawthorne

- Chapter has not been active over the summer, no conferences since last Coalition meeting
- Frances has March of Dimes/Zeta Phi Beta requests for March of Dimes curriculum/materials, the form was also sent via e-mail. This applies to the same Nests as at the previous meeting, but the materials could not be ordered due to missing information.
- Just a reminder that the materials are only free of charge to Nests that have not received them previously.

March of Dimes Update – Jeanette Brockert and local MOD representative on behalf of Molly Guard

- Grant money for last year has been distributed, if you haven't received it, please contact Molly.
- Grant application for this year is due in to Molly by Friday, July 25, 2003. The MOD representative brought copies to the meeting.
- March of Dimes and American Baby magazine would like to work with the Nests to provide free copies of American Baby in English and Spanish to all Nest participants. All members present were in favor of the idea.

Old Business

- Legacy Conference:
 - ♦ Will be held Monday, Sept 22, 2003 at Holiday Inn Downtown in Des Moines (6th Ave)
 - ♦ Tentatively scheduled for 9 am – 3:30 pm; morning session with Zeta speaker and breakout sessions, afternoon with breakout sessions and March of Dimes presentation

- ◆ Block of rooms available for a special rate
- ◆ Meal must be catered by the Holiday Inn, however, we can bring our own snacks. Several Nests agreed to bring cookies or soda.
- ◆ Conference will cost about \$25 per person, Jeanette is working with MOD to check avenues for covering costs of participants' registrations, Coordinators will be responsible for paying their own registration.
- ◆ There was discussion about postponing the conference until Spring due to concern about funding, childcare, etc. It was decided to keep September date. Jeanette will send registration form out as soon as the date is confirmed.
- Midwest Nest Coalition Website:
 - ◆ Jeanette announced that the Coalition website is almost up and running and passed out information with the website address and the e-mail address to use if you have something you want placed on the website. The website is www.midwestnestcoalition.org. The e-mail address to use is jbrockert@comcast.net. Put Midwest Nest Coalition in the subject line.
 - ◆ The website will have information about the Nests, Coordinators, classes, grants, events and forms. Links can also be added to other websites.
- Liability Insurance:
 - ◆ Polk County was unable to get any further information on liability insurance
 - ◆ Frances will check with the Zeta administration about the availability of liability insurance through them.
 - ◆ Many Nests are already covered under their sponsoring agency.
- Yearly Statistics:
 - ◆ Yearly statistics for each Nest need to be submitted to Jeanette. If you were unable to open the attachment, a copy of the form was available at the meeting.
 - ◆ New Nests with no statistics for last year should submit the number of current participants.
- Nest Packets:
 - ◆ Bonnie French-Watters and Pat Jones are working on the packets. If you have any information about your Nest to include in the packets, send it to Bonnie French-Watters, Nest of Johnson County, PO Box 1361, Iowa City, IA 52244.

New Business

- Jeanette announced that the March of Dimes is moving out of the United Way Building and asked if the Coalition wanted to move its meetings to the new location. It was voted to continue meeting at the United Way Building, as Polk County is also able to reserve rooms.

Committees

- **Operations – Amanda Kellenbarger Cruz:**
 - ◆ March of Dimes and Zeta Phi Beta have been made aware of membership freeze until March 2004
 - ◆ By-laws need to be revised in the near future. The current by-laws will be placed on the Coalition website. Please review them and send any suggestions for changes to Polk County at StorksNest@vnsdm.org by **Tuesday, Sept 2, 2003**.
 - ◆ The committee will meet with Bonnie and Pat to look at working together on a packet for all Nests, not just the new ones. Heidi with Benton County offered to contact a volunteer group about assembling the packets. Polk County would store them.

- ◆ The committee is looking at establishing a single contact person and a uniform Nest start-up process. The basic Nest criteria and contact information would be on the website so that MOD and Zetas would just need to give the website address to interested groups.
- **Education – Bonnie French-Watters**
 - ◆ SIEDA Nests have monthly topics and weekly meetings, August's topic is child abduction. At www.preciouskids.org, you can order brochures in English and Spanish on the topic.
 - ◆ Radio Shack has grants up to \$500 for preventing child abuse/abduction, Jefferson County is trying to get a grant for child ID kits
 - ◆ A list of class topics and what organizations could present was also distributed.
- **Public Relations – Jeanette Brockert**
 - ◆ Coalition website is almost up and going.
 - ◆ Crawford County indicated they would share information on their data system so that Nests would not have to do handcounts.

Spotlight Nests

- Crawford County:
 - ◆ Recently celebrated their 1st anniversary, they're using the experience to adjust program
 - ◆ Combined classes in English and Spanish, usually 22-37 participants in class
 - ◆ Participant limit of 100, there is a limit on certain incentive items
 - ◆ Hoping for additional Empowerment funding, the Nest has been taken on as a project by a couple of local women's groups.
 - ◆ Class topics include lead, nutrition, infant care, breastfeeding, infant CPR, choking, etc.
- Des Moines County:
 - ◆ Approximately 130 participants, 20-30 participate in classes, held Mondays and Thursdays
 - ◆ Nest has high school volunteers, showed a scrapbook/newsletter done by volunteers/participants
 - ◆ Putting together a book that will be used to apply for grants
 - ◆ Trying to plan educational childcare for the Nest
 - ◆ Participants receive 25 points/week for finding other childcare options.
- Next spotlight Nests: Appanoose, Van Buren

Nest Sharing Time (selected general information, not attributed to particular Nests)

- Grant available through American Association of University Women www.aauw.org, maximum \$7000, can be used pre start-up or 1st year start-up.
- Reminder to submit events, anniversaries, birthday parties, etc for your Nest to the website.
- Jeanette will check on having a message board on the website to exchange ideas, such as for fundraising.
- State Farm has a pamphlet with a 1-800 number to get a nice large baby book
- A suggestion was made to get participant input when considering changes to your Nest.

Meeting was adjourned following sharing time by each Nest.

Amanda Kellenbarger Cruz, Polk County
Interim Secretary