



MNSACA's 2008 Annual Report



Mission: To promote quality Out-of-School Time programs and support the leadership and development of Out-of-School Time professionals.

President's Report 2008

Submitted by Kris Rossow



January is the month when everyone takes time to reflect on the past and look toward the future. As I look back on 2008, it was a year filled with challenges and opportunities. As is often the case, the challenges have led to the opportunities.

Much of the work of MN-SACA is funded through grants. In 2007, one of our major funders restructured the way they distribute grants. Instead of distributing several smaller grants to many organizations they now distribute one large grant to one organization. We, as an organization, went from receiving a grant of \$138,500 in 2007 to receiving \$33,500 in 2008 with a phase-out to zero state funding in 2009. This loss of 25% of our revenue meant we needed to take a hard look at how we were going to operate.

We started focusing our attention on a possible enhanced collaboration with the MN Association for the Education of Young Children (MnAEYC). MnAEYC was looking at similar losses for their organization and were also wondering how they were going to operate. Our financial challenges have opened the doors to new opportunities with MnAEYC.

Representatives from both organizations began meeting to discuss our programs and whether it was possible for us to collaborate further. During these discussions we determined that both organizations had similar missions and visions as well as a track record of working together in the past. One example of this was the partnership with MnAEYC to write the Core Competencies for School Age Practitioners. Our new combined goal became to serve "All Kids from Birth to Youth" without losing either organization's identity.

We have spent much of this past year looking at ways to streamline our operations. We began by hiring Brian

Siverson-Hall as executive director of both organizations. I do not think we could have successfully done this without Brian. His thoughts and insight have been invaluable.

We then brought board members from both organizations together so we could have everyone's thoughts and opinions on streamlining. The board members each joined a team they would work with and support during this process. The teams were:

- **Communications:** the goal was to communicate a consistent message and work on redesigning our websites.
- **Ongoing Professional Development:** the goal was to plan professional development networking and training opportunities and host a joint conference.
- **Joint Steering Council:** the goal was to support both boards and the executive director during this transition and work on streamlining the roles of the boards.
- **Fund & Resource Development:** the goal was to review, apply for, and receive grants.
- **Membership:** the goal was to connect with members from both organizations to ensure we are meeting their needs.

Members from both boards have been so helpful and thoughtful during this process. They are dedicated and committed to their organizations and to our enhanced collaboration.

Now we are looking toward the future and how our organization can continue to prosper and grow and do the important work of supporting those who work with our children.

Kris Rossow
MNSACA 2008 President

MNSACA is a proud state affiliate of this national organization:



Executive Director's Report

Submitted by Brian Siverson-Hall



2008 marked a year of collaboration, transition, and continued pursuit to serve the afterschool field.

As always, our year started out with a bang with the convening of our annual conference the first week of February. With over 700 professionals in attendance we celebrated our commitment to providing quality opportunities to children and youth in the state of Minnesota during

their non-school hours. We were pleased to have Bill Michaelis and Ezra Holland with us for both days of the conference as well as being joined by Judy Nee, Executive Director of the National Afterschool Association.

For the past two years MNSACA has partnered with members of the Umbrella Strategic Alliance, which includes the Minnesota Licensed Family Child Care Association, Minnesota Association for the Education of Young Children, and the Alliance of Early Childhood Professionals. This partnership has allowed us to help programs as they navigate national accreditation. This program is called the Accreditation Facilitation Project and provides technical assistance, mentoring, and coaching to programs seeking national accreditation. Amy Loechler joined the team as the coordinator in July of 2008 and Lisa Walker continued to serve in her role as the school age facilitation specialist.

In March of 2008, the National Afterschool Association announced it will no longer be the organization granting national accreditation status and would end all applications in September of 2008. MNSACA formed an accreditation task force and began looking at both the Council on Accreditation and National Community Education Association's afterschool accreditation models and will continue to update the field as to the benefits of each model. NAA also convened its annual conference in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, this year which was an exciting time of professional growth and advocacy for the afterschool field. They also announced the 2009 conference would be held in New Orleans and would have overlapping events with the National Elementary School Principals As-

sociation. This is a tremendous partnership and MNSACA is pleased with this venture of our national association.

Also in March of 2008, MNSACA went into a formal enhanced collaboration partnership with the Minnesota Association for the Education of Young Children (MNAEYC). This partnership was a result of realizing both membership organizations had similar missions and both organizations needed to be proactive in their response to the changing funding landscape for our fields. With this in mind the organizations began to share an Executive Director, joined their offices into one location, combined computer and database systems, financial reporting, and began planning for a joint annual conference in 2009.

In May, the Boards of Directors of MNSACA and MNAEYC convened a joint planning retreat and began the process of determining what activities of the organizations made the most sense to work together on such as professional development and public advocacy, and which activities of the organizations needed to remain housed with their respective organization. Each organization retains its own 501(c) 3 status and continues to maintain its own separate identity. This enhanced collaboration is meant to strengthen both organizations and keep them viable — during especially difficult economic times for the non-profit sector.

We had another successful summer with our Picnic and Putt-Putt event as well as our Summer Field Trip Initiative. This year we partnered with the Minnesota Lynx, Children's Museum, and Circus Juventas. We had 6,200 children participate in the Field Trip Initiative this summer!

Our Fall Training Series focused on Sensory Disorders in Children and was held in October in four different locations on the same day. We were in Alexandria, Duluth, Edina, and Zumbrota. MNSACA continues to strive to represent all professionals working in the afterschool field in Minnesota.

I want to end by thanking everyone for their hard work on behalf of Minnesota's children. MNSACA's members, Board of Directors, and staff all help ensure we accomplish our mission to promote quality out-of-school time programs and support the leadership and development of out-of-school time professionals.

The Accreditation Facilitation Project Continues its Work in 2008

Submitted by: Amy Loechler

The Accreditation Facilitation Project (AFP) continued to focus and promote quality and professional development in 2008. Guided by its mission to support programs and organizations pursuing program improvement through Accreditation, the AFP is excited to report on the significant progress made in the quality of child care. Launched in 2007, the AFP was contracted by its participating partners, the Minnesota Early Learning Foundation (MELF), Parent Aware and the Department of Human Service (DHS), to assist programs in targeted areas through the accreditation process.

AFP Pilot Programs identified in the targeted areas, began the arduous task in earnest of aligning programs with the accreditation standards through the self-study process in 2008. Initially 18 programs were identified, with the addition of two programs later in the year. We are excited to announce that 4 of these pilot programs achieved accreditation through their respective agency, and 2 more have completed the process.

Through the assistance of the accreditation specialists, programs were evaluated and improvement plans were put into place. Specialists were able to deliver a variety of tailor-developed services and incentives to assist programs enhance their quality of care. These services included professional development, financial assistance and onsite training focused on areas such as environment and interactions. Programs received incentive dollars through our partner Parent Aware and the AFP, to aid with materials and/or additional services, trainings and curriculum. Program staff also attended a variety of offsite trainings related to curriculum and professional development in addition to site visits of accredited programs. Reimbursement of half the accreditation fees was provided to all the programs and organizations. DHS provides reimbursement for the other half of the fees upon completion.

The Accreditation Facilitation Project also provided services to programs and organizations outside the target area. Nearly 200 programs and individuals interested in the accreditation process were identified through the

Tier-1 hotline service. Specialists provided Tier-2 initial visit services to over 30 programs and organizations. As a result 4 centers, 7 school age programs and 4 family providers achieved accreditation in 2008. Congratulations to all the programs who achieved accreditation.

2008 was also a year of significant changes in the internal organization of the Accreditation Facilitation Project. Amy Loechler was hired as the project coordinator. Child care center accreditation specialist Maggie Olson accepted a position with the United Way Twin Cities, yet we are happy to report she remains the family accreditation specialist. Lisa Walker remains the school age accreditation specialist and Brian Siverson-Hall continues to oversee the project and manage fiscal responsibilities as the MnAEYC-MnSACA Executive Director.

Accreditation specialists were also excited to have the opportunity to attend national conferences in 2008. NAA held its conference in Florida, NAEYC had its in Dallas and NAFCC had its conference in Chicago. Key sessions emphasizing the accreditation systems were offered at all conferences. NAEYC and NAFCC have restructured their accreditation systems in 2008 with implementation beginning in 2009. NAA accreditation was transferred to the Council on Accreditation in 2008.

The Minnesota Accreditation Facilitation Project (AFP), formerly known as the MNSACA Program Improvement and Accreditation Project, continues to make significant strides in its effort to support and enhance program improvement through accreditation. This collaborative effort is supported by The Minnesota Association for the Education of Young Children, (MnAEYC), the Minnesota School Age Care Alliance (MnSACA), Minnesota Licensed Family Childcare Alliance (MLFCCA), and the Alliance of Early Childhood Professionals (AECF). The AFP looks forward to its continued work in 2009. For more information on the Accreditation Facilitation Project check out our new website at: www.mnaeyc-mnsaca.org.

MNSACA Membership

Highlights of the year included:

- First Picnic and Putt-Putt event
- Conference Member Social event at the Liffey
- New merchandise offering at the conference included state of Minnesota post-its and t-shirts
- Scholarships were given to members to attend both MnSACA and NAA conferences
- Field trip initiatives included: Circus Juventas, The Children's Museum and The Lynx
- In February, MnSACA hosted our 21st Annual Conference with over 700 attendees
- We offer both individual and agency memberships. Our membership for 2008 was 804 members.

MNSACA Public Advocacy Committee

During 2008, MNSACA worked on a number of efforts on behalf of children and their families, mostly around the activities of the Legislature.

The state faced a \$935 million budget deficit heading into the 2008 Legislative Session, making it difficult to achieve increased resources for children.

- MNSACA joined the legislative advocacy efforts of other early childhood care and education organizations, particularly Child Care Works, Youth Community Connections, and Ready 4 K, in communicating our priorities to legislators.
- We signed two important letters, along with more than a dozen other organizations, opposing proposed cuts to child care, and helped turn people out to the annual Voices for Children Advocacy Day at the Capitol.

2008 Legislative Session Update

Child care funding was once again the target of cuts, seeing \$9.6 million in spending reductions: \$9.2 million

was taken from unspent funds in Basic Sliding Fee child care, due to projections with the distribution formula; \$250,000 was cut from the Pre-K Allowances Pilot Projects, down from an originally-proposed \$2 million, thanks to the work of early childhood advocates at the Capitol; and an across-the-board 1.8% was cut from Child Care Development Grants, affecting a small amount of dollars for Pre-K Allowances, FFN grants, quality improvements, and child care resource and referral services.

A number of important policy provisions also passed into law, with the support of MNSACA, including:

- The creation of a Child Care Advisory Task Force to review and make recommendations to the legislature to remove barriers facing families applying for and receiving child care assistance.
- Changes to the formula by which basic sliding fee funds are allocated to counties to more accurately reflect the actual need in counties. These changes will help prevent situations such as the state faced with regard to unspent funds.
- Changes to the entrance and exit levels for child care assistance to more accurately reflect the demographics and trends in Minnesota. The levels will now be determined by state median income, which is updated more frequently, and not federal poverty guidelines.
- As required under the federal Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, a State Advisory Council on Early Education and Care was created. The council was named in December, with additional duties and membership added under state legislation.
- Continued Partnership with Youth Community Connections and the McKnight Foundation for support of the Afterschool Community Learning Opportunities Act.

Finance Committee

Income

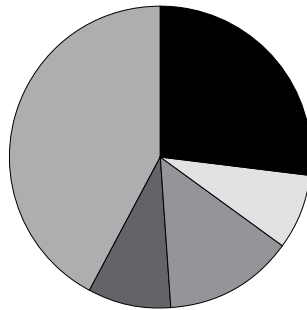
Membership Dues	\$23,604
Conference Registration	\$77,662
Exhibitor	\$5,111
Prof. Development Registration	\$27,486
Sponsor/Donation Income	\$958
Silent Auction	\$2,050
Grant Income/Government Contracts	\$173,307
Interest Income	\$1,609
Merchandise Sales Income	\$1,941

Total Income **\$313,728**

Expenses

Administrative Fees	\$325
Awards	\$132
Bank Fees	\$1,479
Conference Registration	\$744
Contracted Services	\$62,251
Executive Director Salary and Benefits	\$54,231
Facility Rental	\$26,825
Food	\$35,777
General Supplies	\$2,600
Hotel Accommodations	\$3,242
Insurance	\$2,638
Membership Dues	\$6,609
Merchandise Supplies	\$2,777
Mileage/Transportation	\$6,790
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$34
Postage	\$3,451
Printing	\$12,199
Professional Fees/Audit	\$7,797
Rent	\$4,109
Scholarships	\$500
Speaker's Fees	\$24,851
Telephone	\$2,540
Trainer's Credential	\$16,180
Website	\$5,319
Total Expenses	\$283,400

Net Income **\$30,328**



Revenue by Percentage:

Conference:	27%
Membership:	8%
Professional Development:	14%
Government Contract:	9%
Foundation/Other Grants:	42%

Restricted Funds:

Revenue:	\$160,737
Expense:	\$129,244
Final:	\$31,493

Unrestricted Funds:

Revenue:	\$153,343
Expense:	\$154,155
Final:	\$(812)

Finance/Fund Development

Submitted by Brian Siverson-Hall

The finance initiative reviews, identifies, and recommends potential financial policies. In addition, the finance initiative is helping to align the budgeting process with the strategic planning process of the board.

2008 marked a sound, yet difficult financial year for MNSACA. Our overall revenue dropped from \$376,350 to \$313,728 from 2007 to 2008 and our expenses dropped from \$362,877 to \$283,400. The major change for the organization was going from 33% of our revenues from government contracts to only 9%. This created a challenge of raising more funds through grant writing. This is reflected in the overall percentage of revenue from grants increasing from 20% in 2007 to 42% in 2008. This creates a shift in focus for grant writing for the organization. MNSACA thanks the McKnight Foundation, MELF Foundation, and the Department of Human Services for their support this year. MNSACA also recognizes the support of its membership through their dues and through accessing our various professional development options.

MnSACA Board of Directors

Executive Board

President: Kris Rossow
President Elect: Cory Woosley
Secretary/Treasurer: Kim St. Marie
Executive Director: Brian Siverson-Hall

Board Members

Becky Beane, Wicoie Nandagikendan Early Childhood Immersion: MPLS: Comm. Based
Maurie Clipperton, Loring Nicollet Bethlehem Comm. Center, MPLS: Community Based
Susan Estabrooks-Anderson, Verndale 21st Century: Verndale: Community Based/Greater Minnesota
Cecilia Gran, Minnesota Youth Work Institute: MPLS: Community Based
Jaime Grossman, Hopkins Kids and Company, Hopkins: School Based
Wanda Hill, Prominence Educational Consulting: At-Large
Stacy Lindhart, Kids of Christ Learning Cntr, Zumbrota: Faith Based/Greater MN
Shannon Lund, Hopkins Kids and Company, Hopkins, School Based
Charlotte Nitardy, Metro State University: St. Paul: Higher Education
Kris Rossow, Friendship Connection, Roseville: School Based
Joanna Schrupp, Cardinal Place, Willmar, Greater Minnesota/School Based
Kim St. Marie, Cougar Care, Zumbrota: Greater Minnesota/School Based
Anne Stevenson, U of M Extension: Andover: Community Based
Stephanie Thomas, YMCA of Metropolitan MPLS: Community Based
Carol Tobin, Rainbow Kids' Klub: Cottage Grove: School Based
Kenneth Turner, Mpls Community and Technical College, Minneapolis: At-Large
Cory Woosley, Child Care Resource and Referral, Eager to Learn: CCRR

Liaison to the Board

Lisa Walker, Program Improvement and Accreditation

Initiative Chairs

Membership Initiative: Deb Skogheim
Integrated Prof. Development Initiative: Carrie Cabe
Public Advocacy: Jessica Jerney
Communications: Eric Haugee



Minnesota School-Age Care Alliance

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