

MN Cognitive Network Meeting Notes from July 18, 2003

In Attendance: Scott Nyegaard, John Countryman, Joanna Bendiske, Kelly Nohring, John Schlichtmand, Sue Stacey, Dan Bartlett, Kelly Higgins, Connie Ross, Sue EckMaahs, Julie Jordan, Len Anderson

Each area represented at the meeting spoke of what is happening in their area, and what type of curriculum they are using.

There was a presentation by Jane Greathouse who is the research analyst from ARC in the Duluth area. She updated the network with what process the hosting organization has been using in Thinking for a Change. She focused on the adult and juvenile populations, and the outcomes of these groups. The network discussed the importance that all organizations need to have in using measurement tools. There was some discussion as to creating a sub-committee on ideas of measurement and how to guarantee the issue of consistency to each respective curriculum of cognitive skills.

Budget cuts and the impacts from this were discussed. The conversation revolved around BEST PRACTICES and using this as a means to improve the status of cog. skills in the state. Much of the research promotes the dynamics that cognitive skills incorporates in their philosophy. The hope and direction for those who are trying to maintain the same level of cognitive skills use in the state is to educate administration personnel on how cog. Skills is indeed best practices.

The cog. Network wants to extend a 'Good Job' to all that have been in the trenches and daily addressing issues to keep the cog programming in your area active.

Training needs were discussed, and the DOC. is trying to create some training in several areas. Hopefully we will see some of these training set up in the next several months. There are still many questions of personnel and finances that will need to be solved, but it is a task that is of huge importance.