

Asha for Education Colorado Chapter – Meeting Minutes

December 6th, 2009 (Sunday)

Location: Minu/Naresh's home

Time: 2:00 – 4:00pm

Attendees: Jim, Minu & Naresh

Meeting Agenda/Minutes

1. Update on JDS
 - a. Based on the progress made by the project, it was decided that project funding should be stopped. Here are the overall discussion points around the reasons to stop funding
 - i. An Asha volunteer/ as well as one of the primary donor to the project - Rohini, wrote up a site visit report (Nov 2008) that detailed out the problems faced at the multiple centers being supported by Jeevan Daan Samiti. The current report was vastly different from the ones before. In the last report the key areas of problem were – (a) the project had expanded too fast and there was no way to monitor the quality of assistance imparted at each of the center by the coordinator. (b) In some of the centers, it was reported that the sessions were not held regularly, as it should have been. (c) The quality of learning imparted to the same kids over the years has not been changed/ kept up with age and needs of the kids, despite Asha's efforts of sending the teachers to training.
 - ii. Asha Colorado chapter tried to see if the person running the program in India (Vishvesh) would be able to make changes to the project, based on the recommendations derived from the site visit. Suggestions included reducing the number of centers being run, letting go of teachers who were not performing, establishing better ways to measure progress in students. Unfortunately, we were not able to make much progress. All the reasons given from his side were understandable – letting go teachers will reverse the goodwill established in the community; closing centers will disable the same people who rely on running of these centers etc. It is really hard as a chapter to decide to walk away from a project that has grown over the years. But at this time, we are not seeing real progress based on site visit, and we do not want people to get accustomed to funding with no real intent to improve the lives of children in these projects.
 - iii. Due to changes in our Chapter (we had shifted 2-3 stewards for this project since Satya), as well as the remote location of the project, making follow-up site visits to ensure the changes we requested were being implemented (it would have to be done within a 6-month period) was proving to be challenging, making management of this project more difficult.
2. Update from Jim on Vidyodaya

- a. Another proposal is expected from Vidyodaya soon, would be discussed in the next meeting.
- 3. 5K 2010 – Meenakshi
 - a. No updates.
- 4. How to forward checks to central treasury?
 - a. Send it to Pankaj, and he will be sending it together to Central Treasury.
- 5. Other updates – Minu
 - a. No updates