

Mason County Early Learning Coalition

Tuesday, May 14, 2013 4:00-5:30 PM

Mason County Public Health Building 415 N. 6th St, Shelton

In Attendance: Bob Miller-UW Mason County, Cindy Cannon-Holly Ridge, Elizabeth Custis-Mason county Public Health, Ellen Shortt Sanchez-Evergreen, Holly Porter-Headstart/ECEAP, Jennifer Williamson Forster-South Sound Reading Foundation, Jenny Blumenstein-Sound Learning, Kristen Franckum-Mason County Public Health, Linda West-Private Practice, Patty Ayala Ross-Shelton Timberland Library, Ruth Nitz-WSU-Extension, Tamra Ingwaldson-UW Mason County, Allison Dore-WSU-Extension.

4:00 PM Welcome & Introductions: Elizabeth Custis Facilitated.

4:05 PM 2013 ELC Events Recap

- 1) *Celebrating our Stories Parent-Child Event:* The event took place on Saturday, April 20th at Olympic Middle School. An estimated 97 kids and adults from the community attended the length of the event. It was agreed that for the first ever event of its kind in Mason County, the turnout was great. Examples of station activities that parents and children participated in were passed around to the attendees, as well as 2 newspaper articles published on the event. It was mentioned that daycare providers were especially grateful that there was an Early Learning event happening in Mason County that they did not have to put on themselves as this left them free to do more publicizing and networking at the event. The possibility was brought up of next year holding an event and enlisting Mason County Transit to shuttle people from the Belfair area. Congratulations were given to all members on a well executed event. For a full overview of the Celebrating Our Stories event, see the official event debrief meeting minutes.
- 2) *MCELC Stakeholders Luncheon:* The stakeholder's luncheon took place on Friday, January 11th at Alderbrook Resort. There were 87 attendees from the community. The event was successful and fulfilled the requirements for the current grant report. The event committee has not been able to reconvene and determine what their next step is. The possibility of building a "think tank" for future events like the stakeholders luncheon was brought up.
- 3) *Professional Development Event:* The event took place on February 9th at Gateway Christian Fellowship and Child Care. Attendance was upwards of 80 local early childhood educators. The event committee was pleased with the attendance, and especially with the amount of people attending from Mason County. The local placement of the training was appreciated by daycares and educators in Mason County. All bills from the event are paid off.

4:25 PM Holly Ridge Summer Play Group Discussion: Three days are scheduled in July and August for morning play groups aimed at kids aged birth-3 years. Flyers are being distributed in both English and Spanish.

4:26 PM VISIONS For Early Learning Regional Coalition Update: Linda West gave the regional report. It was reported that the agencies Thrive by 5 and the Foundation for Early Learning could be merging in the future. Mason County is receiving some money from WaKIDS soon. WaKIDS is also holding meetings by area on “transition activities;” at the Aberdeen meeting there were no representatives from Shelton but there were from Grays Harbor. The Love, Talk, Play money given to Mason County is being used to fund summer play groups in partnership with Bordeaux Elementary’s summer school and Sound Learning, facilitated by Diana Castro of WSU-Extension.

4:35 PM Community Based Needs Assessment: The needs assessment is currently being compiled by Kristen Franckum of Mason County Public Health from the community health assessment, health ranking and birth certificate data. It was asked of all meeting attendees to provide her with any good resources for data collecting. Sources were brought up such as the regional needs assessment done, asking other counties what they used to find their data, the parent survey from the Parent-Child Event, a Snapshot report, Kim Klint of Mason Matters who wrote the original grant, and a sub-site of the U.S Census called the Annual American Community Survey.

The parent survey from the MCELC Parent-Child Event was brought up for discussion. A concern was raised that the survey data results will not align with the data from other counties in the Department of Early Learning database because the format of the survey was changed to accommodate the needs of the event. It was stated that the surveys were done to complete grant requirements, and the nature of the Parent-Child Event did not allow for a longer more comprehensive data collection this time. The possibility of later down the road doing an in-depth survey over the phone or through daycare providers and the library was brought up, and that for now, the coalition would learn what they could from the process and results of doing the first surveys.

The concern that the MCELC still does not have a website or shared place online was brought up for later discussion.

4:45 PM Board Committee Officer Nominations: The Nominations Committee has enough nominations for every position but treasurer and chair-elect on the board. The coalition was asked to be thoughtful and nominate people. Voting will officially happen at the June meeting. A question about possibly changing the times of future meetings was brought up, with the response from attendees that in the future when the Executive Board of the MCELC is formed it’s an issue to be handled by them.

4:50 PM Wrap-Up: The next meeting was scheduled for June 11th at the Public Health Building, to be facilitated by Dan Teuteberg. **5:00 PM Meeting Adjourned**