

Mason County Early Learning Coalition

Tuesday, June 11, 2013 4:00-5:30 PM

Mason County Public Health Building 415 N. 6<sup>th</sup> St, Shelton

**In Attendance:** Allison Dore-WSU-Extension, Betzy Mulwee-VEL Project Coordinator, Dan Teuteberg-WSU-Extension, Holly Porter-Headstart/ECEAP, Kristen Franckum-Mason County Public Health, Krist Selby-Shelton Timberland Library, Linda West-Private Practice, Patty Ayala Ross-Shelton Timberland Library, Ruth Nitz-WSU-Extension, Tamra Ingwaldson-United Way Annie Cubberly-Child Care Aware, Kim Klint-Mason Matters

**4:00 PM Welcome & Introductions:** Dan Teuteberg facilitated.

**4:05 PM Regional Coalition Update:** *Dan Teuteberg, Linda West, Mason Representatives.*

Betzy Mulwee, project coordinator for the regional coalition's current grant, reported that the VISIONS coalition is reorganizing and realigning their written grant in order to better fulfill both the state plan and their original goals for regional level activity. All requirements for the Community Momentum Grant were fulfilled by the coalition through June 2013. A summary of the activities performed, such as working with schools in WaKIDS and raising general awareness for Early Learning will be delivered to county coalitions by their regional representatives sometime soon. It was also mentioned that there was a meeting in Kennewick between the regional coalition and other infant/toddler education groups that was well attended. It was stated that the strength of the Mason County Early Learning Coalition remains in its ability to execute ground level work and report back up to the regional coalition, that being the entity that organizations would be able to contact for information on the early learning activity happening in all the region's counties.

It was reported that at the next VISIONS for Early Learning meeting an election would take place to select an "advisor" position for the region, whose responsibility would be to represent the regional coalition (and therefore, the county coalitions as well) at meetings of the ELAC (Early Learning Advisory Council) for the state of Washington. Before this point, the regional coalition was not a voice in the ELAC meetings. The advisor would not have to ability to vote on anything, with the hope that it would become possible in the future. The advisor would be selected by voting at the regional level from nominations from all five counties (Lewis, Thurston, Grays Harbor, Mason and Pacific). The advisor would be active for two years, sitting in on 4 scheduled ELAC meetings a year. Out of 23 total ELAC seats, 10 of them will be taken up by advisors from the regional early learning coalitions. Meeting attendees were reminded that while the idea is to have all voices heard at the state level, any advisor nominated would be representing the voice of the regional coalition, and not just any one cause. After discussion, the Mason County Early Learning Coalition nominated Dan Teuteberg for election as the regional advisor to the ELAC.

**4:25 PM WaKIDS Update:** A question was voiced regarding whether the WaKIDS program would be returning to the same schools it had been in last school year. The response was yes, and also in new schools. It was reported that when a list of schools receiving WaKIDS was made official, it would be sent out to the coalitions.

**4:30 PM Community Needs Assessment:** Copies of the Mason County Community Needs Assessment completed by Kristen Franckum were passed around to meeting attendees. It was stated that the Mason County assessment was based on the state needs assessment framework for evaluating “ready and successful” elements of the early learning community. Data was collected from many existing sources, and it’s possible that not all the numbers included in the report are the most up-to-date figures. It was requested that if anyone has more recent data on a study that’s in the assessment that they forward it on to Kristen Franckum for adding to the document, with a deadline of June 21st. Thanks and appreciation were given for getting an excellent document put together. It was stated that this would be a great tool to use when following up with the attendees of the Stakeholder’s Luncheon in January.

A concern was raised regarding the content of the needs assessment, that there were not enough literacy figures included. The response was made that to fulfill the current grant requirements, the current version would be the document submitted, but that after that, the coalition could add new data and adjust the document as needed.

It was also brought up that the needs assessment was uploaded to the regional coalition’s website, and that the Mason County Early Learning Coalition will have its own tab on the regional website where people can go to find out more information on them. This will give the coalition an online presence where organizations can link to and share information with others.

**4:35 PM Board Committee Officer Nominations:** The finalized nominations for Executive Board positions were published on the agenda for meeting attendees to review. With there being only one nominee for each position, it was announced that a simple yes/no ballot would be sent out to coalition members for voting. The ballots were scheduled to be sent out with the June meeting minutes. While United Way had agreed to be the fiscal agent for the early learning coalition, the position of treasurer had been left blank. The possibility of having the treasurer position combined with the secretary position was brought up, and proposed to the nominee for secretary, who agreed, creating a complete ballot for all positions.

It was brought to attention that when the Executive Board was officially formed, they would meet in July without the general coalition. The Executive Board also would be in charge of deciding on a new meeting time for the general coalition meetings. The next official MCELC meeting was planned for sometime in August.

**4:45 PM Foundation of Early Learning-Coalition Next Steps:** It was reported to the coalition

that the Foundation for Early Learning is no longer funding stage grants. The MCELC is currently in stage two of a possible four stage grant. Officially it was stated that there was no more money available for any funding. However, it was reported that when contacted, the FEL told the coalition if a request for funding was put in by the end of the week of June 10<sup>th</sup>, they would fund it at \$10,000. Dan Teuteberg of WSU-Extension volunteered to write and submit the funding request, with the intention of writing it in broad enough guidelines that the MCELC would be funded for the next year but would have room to do lots of strategic planning and building for the future of the coalition.

Kim Klint of Mason Matters brought up the possibility of early learning involvement in a new initiative called "Bridge to Prosperity," that has the goal of changing the public schools and social services system for the long-term betterment of Mason County's citizens. More information will come up on the initiative at a later time.

**4:55 PM Meeting Wrap-up:** To conclude the meeting, a slideshow was played for attendees of pictures from that morning's playgroup held for Spanish speaking families at the offices of Sound Learning, facilitated by Diana Castro of WSU-Extension. This was one of the results of the coalition choosing to spend their Love Talk Play dollars towards summer play groups.

**5:00 PM Meeting Adjourned.**

