

**Mason County Early Learning Coalition**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 3, 2013**

Mason County Public Health  
415 N 6th Street, Bldg 8, Shelton WA 98584

*In attendance:*

Jenny Blumentsein, Sound Learning  
Kristen Franckum, Mason County Public Health  
Tamra Ingwaldson, United Way of Mason County  
Kristi Selby, Shelton Timberland Library, MCELC Secretary/Treasurer  
Annie Cubberly, Childcare Action Council  
Betzy Mulwee, Visions for Early Learning Project Coordinator, ESD 113.  
Dan Teuteberg, WSU Extension, MCELC Past Chair  
Holly Porter, Headstart/ECEAp, MCELC Future Chair  
Mollie Taylor, WSU/4-H  
Lydia Buchheit, Mason County Public Health, MCELC Chair

**1. Welcome & Brief Introductions.**

**2. Updates**

**Dan** mentioned needing to find a replacement to take over for Linda West who was one of our two regional reps for Visions for Early Learning.

**Betzy** is trying to secure another grant for advancing racial equity- would be able to reach out to leaders for cultural competency training. A letter of interest has been written. Also looking for additional grant opportunities.

**Lydia** discussed recent efforts by **Thrive** to promote rural home visiting but noted lack of political support. Discussed need for a community advisory board and wanting to explore the possibility of that board being a work group of the MCELC. Will develop a plan to share with the coalition in the near future.

**Dan** met with **Early Learning Advisory Council** for an orientation for members. DEL wants to know how we can better engage the coalitions. What are the strategic learning priorities? Reminder that activities the regionals come up with need to tie into larger plan. Discussed Visions for Early Learning and geographic areas. We are part of the West Central regional that includes Mason, Thurston, Grays Harbor, Lewis, and North Pacific. Table discussed North Mason as perceiving themselves distinct.

### **3. Phase 3 ELC Grant**

- Received \$10,000 (top allotment). Grant was written somewhat vague so we can align with the regional coalition and fill in more specifics later. We now need to form Task committees that are in alignment with the grant! We will also need to secure \$1250 from other agencies. Dan is exploring Squaxin. Tamra mentioned in-kind sources through United Way.
- FEL Auditor sent letter (Foundations for Early Learning- now merging with Thrive) of inquiry to make sure we want funds and Dan confirmed.
- Examples of projects/activities mentioned: Play and Learn group (six week series in one location).
- United Way is our Fiscal Agent via reimbursements.
- Sub (Task) committees will need to submit reports so we have a paper trail of actions and intent. Committee members will need to submit receipts to Treasurer and United Way.
- Dan mentioned that we can tweak the framework of the components within the grant, i.e. find a less expensive way to host a consultant, i.e. Skype.
- Discussed CHIP (Community Health Improvement Plan) and how this may dovetail with our goals and mission, i.e., functional families, nutrition, environment, and financial literacy.
- Discussed a possible Week of the Young Child event and Play and Learn group/series (possibility for series to be held at Sound Learning). Need for language assistance with Guatemalan families.
- Holly mentioned utilizing a specific staff member for this emergent population.
- Annie suggested partnering with FFN Funds.
- Other event suggestions: Caspar Babypants, BlockFest, The Harmonica Pocket, conference for childcare providers, i.e. David Matteson. (Discussed tying into already existing events such as Head Start meetings or Family Nights).
- Discussed that moving forward we need to stick within our governance structure where many community members can join a work group focused a specific tasks but may not be able to attend coalition meetings.

**4. Website and Social networking.** We can now be found at: [visionsforearlylearning.org](http://visionsforearlylearning.org)  
Mollie will be working on our Facebook page.

### **5. Committees/events – more discussion:**

- Week of the Young Child ?  
Jenny is interested but can't be a chair. Suggested researching a summary of family literacy/changes within the past five years. Sound Learning continues to act as the home for family literacy. Mentioned ESL families wanting to participate in events such as Learn and Play but might have other (older) childcare issues to grapple with.
- Play and Learn? (Annie suggested utilizing Fran from CAC for this.)
- Community Outreach/Partnering – Tamra volunteered to be a part of this.
- David Matteson? Will be here in April. Hollie will look into his cost.
- Po Bronson, author of NurtureShock

- Agreement to table committee ideas and revisit once we inform other coalition members.

**6. Related discussion:**

- Clarification of “Early Learning.” Often considered birth-three, but inclusion of ages may vary.
- Relevant organizations/demographics to potentially work with such as Turning Point women’s project and teen moms in Shelton/Mason County via Health Dept.
- Suggestion to gather local information to build a portfolio for outreach purposes.
- Communicating with the school district is essential.

**7. Additional:**

Tamra mentioned **United Way Early Learning Calendars** are currently in progress. Annie reported on **Early Achievers Program**, designed to help care providers improve the environment of their homes and centers. Rated by the U.W. and is voluntary.

**8. For the Good of the Order:**

- United Way volunteer flyers and posters distributed.
- Childcare Action Council is looking for a board member.
- Community Services Group meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays at Public Works building off Hwy 101.

Next Mason County Coalition is scheduled for Thursday, November 7, 2013 –9:30-11:30 at Mason County Public Health Department.