

Mason County Early Learning Coalition

Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013 4:30-5:30 PM

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

**In Attendance:** Dan Teuteberg-WSU Extension 4-H Youth Development, Tamra Ingwaldson-United Way of Mason County, Linda West-Parent Child Mental Health, Annie Cubberly-Child Care Action Council, Patty Ayala Ross-Shelton Libraries, Kristen Franckum-Mason County, Bonnie Miller-Hood Canal School District, Kim Klint-Mason Matters, Daphne Patterson-Hood Canal School, Elizabeth Curtis-Public Health, Ruth Nitz-WSU Extension 4-H

**4:30 PM Welcome and Introductions:** Bonnie Miller facilitated. A quick budget update was added to the minutes at the end of the meeting.

**4:31 PM Update 1: Community Stakeholders Event-** *Sherri Dysart, Tamra Ingwaldson, Committee Chairs.* The event went very well. Packets with info on early learning were passed out to guests including Tim Sheldon.

The question was brought up of how to use the list of attendees to follow up on the event and keep the momentum of early learning awareness going. The Stakeholders Event Committee volunteered to meet one more time and design a one page thank you note to be sent out to all the attendees of the Stakeholders event explaining early learning issues in Mason County and promoting the next MCELC event in April.

The Stakeholders Luncheon was praised as a good starting activity with great feedback from all involved.

**4:35 PM Update 2: Professional Development Event-***Annie Cubberly, Kim Klint, Committee Chairs.* The event took place as planned in February, with an attendance of over 80 people. Some overflow attendees had to be turned away, with priority given to Mason County residents.

For 35\$, attendees received six hours worth of training. Surveys immediately taken after the event came back very positive with many people grateful for a professional development opportunity located in Mason County.

The group was reminded that MCELC promised part of their grant money to this event, and an invoice will be arriving to Tamra Ingwaldson of United Way for the promised amount.

**4:40 PM Update 3: Parent Child Event-** *Ellen Shortt-Sanchez, Linda West, Committee Chairs.* The "Celebrating Our Stories" Event is scheduled for April 20<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM-1:00 PM at Olympic Middle School. It was stated that based on past numbers, 100-150 children were expected to attend.

Healthy Benefits Market was confirmed to be providing cheese, crackers and fruit for the event's snack time. It was eventually confirmed that Blockfest had been booked for the event, and invitations to other possible station hosts had been handed

out. Diana Castro of Mason County Extension was mentioned as a placeholder with a Love Talk Play group in case not enough agencies hosted booths. Some vendors will also be present, such as a free child ID card table.

It was stated that the theme of narrative play and telling stories would be carried through the whole event. Grays Harbor 4-H and Mason County 4-H volunteered to help take care of early learners' older siblings during the event by holding activities in the school gym for kids not willing to walk around the early learning booths. Possible Girl Scout volunteer involvement was also mentioned.

It was explained that the \$324 needed to be spent by Love Talk Play before January was spent on early learning gift baskets to be either auctioned off or given as prizes at the parent-child event. \$250 was allocated in the event budget for outreach and publicity, and it was confirmed that one page posters and half-page handouts were soon to begin being printed and distributed to the community.

Annie Cubberly of Child Care Action Council volunteered to do face painting at the event.

**4:55 PM County Based Needs Assessment:** An analysis of Mason County was presented to the coalition by Dan Teuteberg of WSU-Extension, stating that the MCELC now needs to define their own framework and make good, data-based decisions on where to focus their energy and priorities for the largest lasting impact on early learning in Mason County for years to come.

Ideas for sources of data were listed such as the recent regional coalitions own needs assessment, stakeholders, WaKids kindergarten readiness study, and a "perception of gaps in early learning" survey possibly done on parents in the community, especially parents attending the MCELC parent-child event.

It was stated that the quality work of the Mason County Early Learning Coalition aligns itself well with the requirements of a larger community grant worked on by Dan Teuteberg and Kim Klint of Mason Matters. A committee was asked to be formed to complete an official needs assessment for the MCELC. Dan Teuteberg, Kim Klint, Tamra Ingwaldson and possibly Sherri Dysart of United Way were volunteered for the committee positions.

**5:05 PM Regional Coalition Representation:** It was reported that the regional early learning coalition, "Visions," will now be meeting quarterly. The Thrive by 5 grant awarded to Visions has clear goals including hiring a regional early learning specialist to work with all five of the counties in the coalition. Dan Teuteberg and Linda West, Counselor, volunteered to deliver another report on Visions to the MCELC after the specialist's arrival.

**5:10 PM Budget Update:** A hard copy of the updated budget was passed out to the coalition by Bonnie Miller and reviewed by the group. It was stated that if all

committees stick to their pre-determined budgets, things will be fine.

All grant money awarded to the MCELC is completely accounted for, with no room for adjustments. The topic was brought up about how to account for the funding of early learning in Mason County if the MCELC stops getting grant money, and it was decided that taking on a financial expert to help the coalition would be discussed at a later date.

The Alderbrook stakeholders event was congratulated as budgeted well, and it was decided that the discounted lodging provided by Alderbrook could count as a show of community support for Mason County Early Learning.

**5:20 PM MCELC Retreat 2013:** The Mason County Early Learning Coalition's first ever member retreat was scheduled for March 5<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Mason County Public Works Building. It was decided that the member retreat would replace the March coalition meeting. Coalition members will be assigned homework to complete before the retreat in order to streamline the process and get the full benefit of Bill the facilitator's time. It was generally agreed that any important communications about the parent-child event could take place over e-mail.

**5:27 PM Closure/Added Items:** Kim Klint mentioned briefly the fact that she is involved with writing a bill for K-12 grade student support, and that data from Mason County has shown long term improvement in education and high school graduation rates. The coalition should view this as an encouragement for the future of their efforts.

**5:30 PM Meeting Adjourned**