Mason County Early Learning Coalition

Minutes from February 6, 2014

Present:

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| * Lydia Buchheit Mason Co Public Health
 | * Jennifer Williamson Forester South Sound Reading Foundation
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| * Jenny Blumenstein Sound Learning
 | * Jane Partridge VEL Project Coordinator
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| * Dan Teuteberg WSU Extension
 | * Holly Porter Head Start/ECEAP
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| * Eunice Santiago First Steps
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Meeting minutes:

 Find the minutes for these meetings & the regional coalition meetings on the website: [www.mcearlylearningcoalition.org](http://www.mcearlylearningcoalition.org). *Coalition meetings, Agenda and Minutes 2014.* Minutes from the Dec. meeting were approved.

Regional Coalition Updates:

 Jane Partridge introduced herself; she’s replacing Betzy as the Regional Coalition Coordinator. You can contact her at jpartridge@esd113.org. She was a teacher for 13 years, a foster mom, an adoptive mom, and is now returning to education. She’ll be attending a session this month with other regional leads regarding Love, Talk, Play.

There is funding at regional level for a community momentum grant from Thrive by Five. The scope of work comes in five key areas: WaKIDS; Love, Talk, Play; Advancing Racial Equity, Home Visiting, and Advocacy work.

* WA Kids Implementation: School districts who have WA Kids funding are tasked with connecting with family home providers, child care providers, preschools, etc. The poverty level for districts to qualify for WA Kids will be reduced to 50% next year. The goal is to ensure school readiness. Some funding is available from the regional coalition for things like materials that connect from early learning settings to school e.g. yellow books for literacy.
* Love Talk Play: An RFP will be coming from the Regional C. for $2,000 to start one Love, Talk, Play group. A committee is being formed to deal with the RFPs, looking to grant an underserved area that can do something sustainable (in terms of infrastructure and a system that has a history of being able to continue forward). The money could be used for one ongoing group or for a series of activities on LTP. The goal is to look at what impact is seen, not just how many packets are handed out. Discussed incentives and evaluations for programs. There are a variety of materials to order on a quarterly basis: posters, brain dev. cards, beach balls, Spanish activities etc. (Limit of 1,000 grocery bags per regional coalition). **Lydia will prepare an order for Mason Co ELC and send it in by Feb. 10th.**
* Advancing Racial Equity: The regional coalition has received funding from the Nisqually Tribe and Thrive by Five regarding advancing racial equity. There is funding earmarked for trainings to be offered through Community Connections. There will be a work group to determine location, trainers, topics, etc. The goal is for people who attend these trainings to address personal biases first and progress to being able to impact systems with 3rd level change.
* Home Visiting: There is $15,000 to support home visiting in the 5 county regions. The idea is to work with the support piece, convening, etc. Looking to promote awareness of what’s available and supporting programs by looking at common concerns, sharing ideas, to provide training, etc.
* Advocacy work: There is a big push for the Early Start Bill. There are people working on voting rights for regional reps to the Early Learning Advisory Council. Some members of the advisory council have some concerns about testifying for individual bills when the local coalition members come from various points of view. Their role will be more about educating members about what is happening and advocating for systemic things, rather than advocating for specific bills.

The regional coalition is looking for local people to work on a regional level on some of the projects, watch for an upcoming email asking if you’re interested in helping with some of the work groups.  **All – volunteer by the end of February if you’re interested in participating in a work group on any of the above topics (email Jane – see address above).**

We also need a rep. from the Mason County Coalition to the regional coalition**. Lydia will email this opportunity out to our coalition members.**

Feria de Salud y Programas Comunitarios: This Family Health Gathering for the Latino/a Community occurred on January 19th. The main goal of this event was to promote awareness of the new health care reform and community services available for the Latino community. Over 80 families attended. There were guest speakers and display tables from a variety of organizations such as College Bound, Amerigroup, Olympic College, Family Learning, etc . All presentations were done in Mam and Spanish. South Sound Reading Foundation provided books. A volunteer from the library did storytelling. The Mason County ELC paid for the child care costs for the event (there were more than 40 children in the childcare provided).

Caspar Babypants Events: More than 86 families (over 200 people) attended this fun event. Some of the organizations that participated: CCAC, Timberland Library, 4-H WSU Extension, Sound Learning, South Sound Reading Foundation, Shelton School District, Head Start, Family Ed. and Support, South Sound Parent to Parent. You can see photos and a video from the event on the website <http://www.mcearlylearningcoalition.org/> Thanks to all who helped with this dynamic event. Note: see Lydia’s 1/29/14 email for more on this and the event above.

Bill Weismann: We have funding in our grant for Bill, who facilitated our coalitions March 2013 retreat, to work with our group again. Bill has let us know that his calendar is filling up and he asked what use we plan to make of his time. **Next month the group will address how we’d like to use his time and we’ll invite him to attend the May meeting.** We need to choose some priorities from DEL’s strategic plan to build into a Mason County Coalition Strategic Plan.

Some topics for our **next meeting** **Thursday March 6th from 9:30-11:00**:

* + Ideas for early learning to school transition family event
	+ Love, Talk, Play funding opportunity
	+ Initial look at strategic plan priorities and how we’ll use Bill