

Mason County Early Learning Coalition Meeting

Mason County Public Health Building

March 6, 2014

Present:

Lydia Buchheit, Mason County Public Health, MCELC Chair; Holly Porter, ECEAP Head Start, MCELC Future Chair; Dan Teuteberg, WSU Mason County, MCELC Past Chair; Susan Herrick, Mason County Public Health; Jenny Blumenstein, Sound Learning; Tamra Ingwaldson, United Way of Mason County; Fran Williams, Childcare Action Council; Teresa Snyder, Department of Early Learning, Childcare Licensing; Jennifer Forster, South Sound Reading Foundation; Kristi Selby, Shelton Timberland Library, MCELC Secretary

MINUTES

1. Welcome & Brief Introductions

The Coalition welcomed Susan Herrick, new Public Health nurse, and Teresa Snyder from DEL.

Lydia gave an overview of the **new website: mcearlylearningcoalition.org**. Will include agendas, minutes, events, resources, etc. Check out the 30 minute video "The Raising of America". The name Early Learning Coalition of Mason County is interchangeable with Mason County Early Learning Coalition. The FB page can be found while searching under the former. Logo on banner used is the latter. Our current "social networker", Mollie, will be leaving in June.

Tamra got an official e-mail account set up for MCELC and it will be routed to the Chair.

2. Work Committee Updates

Family Events—Early Learning School Transition

Holly reported that David Matteson unable to make the event as originally hoped for. The intent of this event is to offer a kindergarten transition. Kindergarten teachers are invited, as well as kindergarten graduates (who talk to incoming kindergarteners). Event will be held at Shelton Valley Christian. Date TBD. Other speaker possibilities were discussed. Transportation to the event was discussed. Head Start buses are available but only for Head Start families.

Play & Learn

Fran and Kristi shared their initial conversation surrounding a focused play group, and are still exploring the possibilities. Fran has facilitated play groups before and shared that the most successful groups include a commitment from multiple families. Love Talk Play, a campaign Fran is affiliated with, is being offered consistently in Thurston County but not Mason County. Kristi has offered the library as one venue and mentioned tagging them onto story time as this might guarantee a group, however we would like to reach additional families if possible. Kristi will be contacting the local Hispanic Round Table for additional ideas. Dan reminded us that an organization needs to take ownership of the event and we fund it. Holly mentioned that school district facilities aren't necessarily designed to provide this.

Community Partnering/Outreach

Lydia clarified that when we have our strategic planning solidified we'll be able to move forward with outreach. Tamra suggested outreach at the annual Law Enforcement Breakfast. Dan suggested we showcase priorities and current workgroup projects.

Of interest: Carousel Conference in Grays Harbor County on April 26th. Author John Medina speaks at SPSCC on child development/brain research March 26th 2014

3. Additional Updates/Discussion

Dan: Regional Coalition Representation & Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC): It's been a very busy time, and relevant bills are currently at a standstill. At a conference call meeting with other Regional Advisors, they discussed the importance of local representation and communication, WAKids data, childcare licensing esp. in relation to infant/toddler requirements. There are several other short term project opportunities for volunteers on a regional level in five areas; Love, Talk, Play, WaKids, Advancing Racial Equality, Home Visiting, and Advocacy (See meeting minutes from February 2014).

Coalition: Clarified and discussed funding that filters down from the federal level and how we align ourselves and/or differentiate local priorities. Also discussed challenges surrounding Mason County, i.e. Belfair and North Mason may experience different issues and/or representation though we all have the same ultimate goal; to strengthen families and early learning.

Fran: Began work on a provider conference event at Gateway Community Church on May 17th and will be applying for MCELC funds to help support the event. There will be two break out session choices, I-LABS and WA Kids and is open to all counties but only for childcare providers. Lydia will send her the application for board review/approval. Lydia clarified protocol regarding monetary requests for events.

Lydia: Requested an updated financial report from Tamra. Kristi will also receive the financial information and will create an itemized spreadsheet for easy accessibility/reporting.

Coalition: Discussed strategic ways to send out information to members. Fran suggested way to cull the contact list so members would receive targeted information, volunteer opportunities, etc.

4. Strategic Plan Priorities

Our next meeting in April (Holly facilitates) will focus on Strategic Plan Priorities. Lydia mentioned a relevant DEL grant opportunity, *Strengthening Families*. Dan would like to explore tying our strategic plan to other plans and we will need to hone in what our priorities are. We hope to do the legwork surrounding this, prior to having our consultation meeting in May. Lydia gave an overview of the County Health Improvement Plan (http://www.co.mason.wa.us/forms/Health/CHA_2013.pdf) and pointed out that the needs assessment information is there for us to access. She will attach this information to our website for Early Learning Coalition of Mason County.