

Early Learning Coalition of Mason County Monthly Meeting

Mason County Public Health
415 N. 6th Street, Shelton, WA

April 3, 2014
9:30-11:00 AM

Minutes

Present: Holly Porter, MCELC Future Chair, Head Start/ECEAP; Dan Tueteberg, MCELC Past Chair, WSU-4-H; Kristi Selby, MCELC Secretary, Shelton Timberland Library; Kim Smith, South Sound Parent to Parent; Skylar Carroll, Interagency Coordinating Council Chair, Hood Canal School District; Olivia Olson, South Sound Parent to Parent; Annie Cubberly, Childcare Action Council; Sylvia Heiser, South Sound Parent to Parent; Shelly Wills, Family Education and Support; Karen Pursey, Family Education and Support; Susan Herrick, Mason County Public Health; Eunice Santiago, Hispanic Roundtable.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Absent, Lydia Buchheit, MCELC Chair. Holly Porter facilitated.

2. Last month's meeting minutes

One correction was made to the March meeting minutes: Annie clarified info regarding CAC's May 17th provider event – all are welcome to attend, not just childcare providers. March minutes were voted on with correction and approved.

3. ICC/ELC – exploring the possibility of combining/overlapping meetings for these two groups

Holly explained the reasoning behind having both groups work together since we have overlapping missions, and several participants who attend both meetings. The group read through both mission statements and Holly outlined different options to consider:

- A. Merge the two groups.
- B. Overlap meetings.
- C. Have back to back meetings.
- D. Meet alternately every month.
- E. Continue to meet separately.

The group discussed pros and cons of each, including the mission requirements of each group and the meeting requirements for each group. Some of the comments included:

- Duplication of efforts we might be experiencing in the two groups
- Since we will be meeting with a consultant next month to help us define our strategic plan, now is a great time to be discussing collaboration.
- In Thurston County, the ICC merged to broaden membership and the merge was pretty seamless.

- Collaborating is part of our goal, but we don't want to lose, dilute, or diffuse our distinct missions and purpose.
- The ICC acts as an advisory board and they have a role in dispute resolution (but they've never had to enter into conflict or dispute resolution).
- There was a question about reporting - South Sound Parent to Parent does the reporting piece for IFSPs.
- We don't want to create an "us vs. them" mentality.
- The commonalities can work for us if we decide to merge.
- Attendance at both meetings has been low and combining meetings or groups could strengthen our actions and giving us a broader pool for potential leadership, officers, etc.

After continued discussion, the group unanimously decided on choice A.; to merge the two groups.

Holly will coordinate wording with Skylar prior to sending out an announcement e-mail to group members, and will also include a simple poll for preferred meeting times (based on current ELC and ICC meeting times of first Thursdays or second Fridays). Our next meeting will be May 1st, as we have already scheduled time with a facilitator, Bill.

Skylar mentioned that he would like at some point to invite Mary Williams of the Skokomish Nation to be a guest speaker. Mary currently acts as liaison of Skokomish and Hood Canal School District.

Holly reminded the group that there are still project opportunities in the five areas mentioned in March meeting minutes: Love Talk Play, WaKids, Advancing Racial Equality, Home Visiting, and Advocacy.

4. Work Group Reports

- **Kindergarten Transition** event. Holly mentioned that David Matteson is unable to attend but the plan is to have the event at Shelton Valley Christian Child Care Center. Skylar asked about Kindergarten Transition events in other areas of Mason County & Annie suggested that WaKids might be a resource. Holly mentioned that this event is local, for Shelton school district kids moving into K, and perhaps we could think of other localized events.
- Annie shared the glossy brochure for the Childcare Action Council's May 17th Commitment to Quality Conference (MCELC approved \$600.00 for this event) and reiterated that all are welcome and that the focus will be on quality of care. Scholarships are not available at this time.
- **Play Group.** Holly mentioned that one of the areas listed in the grant for the ELC is serving Latino families. Kristi explained that at one point we were considering the library as a logical venue, however, Timberland has recently started a pilot playgroup, Mother Goose, at Aberdeen, and it makes more sense for the Coalition to support an outreach group, esp. since library staff are already

involved in their own internal efforts. Eunice mentioned that summer is the time when many Latino families leave to work elsewhere. Holly mentioned that this is time sensitive since the goal was to do a play group before the end of the summer. Various local play groups and block play groups were discussed. . A work group was formed to work on the idea of play groups that includes: Eunice, Annie, Shelley, and Olivia. If an agency is interested in applying for ELC support for a playgroup they should submit a proposal by May 1st.

5. Early Learning Assessments & Data

Dan gave an overview of local data which is also linked on our website. The group all agreed that our actions should be in response to research, data, and needs assessment, and we need to be strategic, i.e. make data informed decisions as we move forward with our strategic planning. Homework assignment is to overview the data prior to our May 1st meeting.

Holly mentioned that we will be honing our priorities based on the data and will be discussing it with our consultant.

Mason County ranks 30 out of 39 in terms of overall needs assessment. However, through the county's CHIP process, we are moving upward. This is positive news and illustrates why the data is important to utilize and work from.

5. Upcoming Calendar of Events

- Commitment to Quality Conference, May 17th – Gateway Christian Church. Register online at <http://www.ccacwa.org/>

6. Brief news updates from participating agencies

- *South Sound Parent to Parent* hosted a sensory friendly movie event that was attended by 134 families. Shelton Cinemas helped sponsor the event.
- *Family Education and Support* asked for the groups to get behind a letter to Mason General to increase awareness of Shaken Baby Syndrome during Child Abuse Awareness month. Group unanimously agreed. Shelley will send a template for the letter.
- *Childcare Action Council* reported that 33 licensed childcare providers in Mason County are meeting quality standards through the Early Achievers program.

Action Plan

Who	Will Do What	By (Date)
Annie, Eunice, Shelley, Olivia	Set up a meeting to discuss play group possibilities	5/1/14
Dan	Contact facilitator for May meeting	4/10/14
Holly and Skylar	Send out invitation to May 1 st facilitated meeting and survey of meeting times	Survey by 4/15/14
Interested agencies	Submit proposals for playgroups	5/1/14
Shelly	Send template for letter of support regarding Period of Purple Crying	