

Early Learning Coalition of Mason County

6/5/14 Minutes

Participants: Annie Cubberly Child Care Aware of Olympic Peninsula, Jennifer Williamson-Forster South Sound Reading Foundation, Jenny Blumenstein Sound Learning, Lydia Buchheit Mason County Health Dept., Susan Herrick Mason County Health Dept , Tamra Ingwaldson United Way, Holly Porter Head Start/ECEAP.

(Note - follow-ups are in italics).

Reviewed minutes from last meeting

Merging ELC & ICC – ICC will meet on the 13th to talk more about this.

Financial Report – corrections: 482.74 for calendars & 39.01 should not be on the report. The \$1,000 listed is for Admin. costs for last year and this year. The ELC Board has looked at the possibility of having a different organization receive money and pay bills for the ELC so that administrative costs would be lower; Mason Matters and WSU have been proposed. Today's steering group participants approved having the ELC Board make the decision on who will be the fiscal agent for the coming year. The Board will consider admin. costs and what services will be provided. *Annie will confirm whether or not CCA got the \$600.00 – may need to be billed.*

Work Groups

Training Conference in May – Approximately 60 people attended. A speaker from I-Labs was there. Providers appreciated having a local conference; coalition money helped make this possible. Child care providers can be isolated, so building the community of providers is a positive aspect of this event.

Play Groups – Possibilities: it can be helpful to have a play group with a trained leader, following early learning principles & track-able outcomes. The busy schedules of providers have an impact on what's possible and whether the above ideals can be met. Some of the ideas have been to support existing programs, e.g. there's a domestic violence group that's meeting and it would be helpful to have someone with the children. Eunice mentioned that she thought there was someone available to lead a play group in the fall. *Jenny will talk to Eunice about this & Jennifer is interested in being involved. Lydia will check in with Jane on the parameters for the \$500.00.*

Early Learning STEM Grants – One coalition got the grant and utilized a local college to make simple math games that were presented in the community. The RFP for the grant comes out very soon. Previously there have been only 4-5 grants awarded for the whole state. The MCELC does not plan to apply for the grant at this time, though we would perhaps be willing to support a proposal from one of one of our member agencies.

Kindergarten Transition – due to a number of factors there was not K. trans. event so this work group is no longer active at this time.

Visions for Early Learning - Holly Porter will be designated rep. *All – answer Doodle about fall training dates.*

Community Support Group – June 10th 1:00, topic will be about helping coalitions work together.

Revision to MCELC Mission Statement – The mission of the Mason County Early Learning Coalition is to support parents, caregivers and the community in developing the skills children need to be successful in school and life. (The revision involves taking out specific developmental domains e.g. social, cognitive, etc.) *Lydia will put the revised mission on the strategic plan.*

Strategic Planning – Lydia brought a draft template based on our work at the last meeting. Some revision suggestions so far: divide the resources section into the columns so that resources are identified under each goal. Values statement: Use or utilize practices supported by data. Utilization of research-based rather than evidence-based in the values section. Add some verbs e.g. collaborating with diverse communities. *Lydia will email a draft to the group; Annie and Jennifer expressed interest in helping with this.*