



## August Meeting Minutes 8-6-15

Meeting was held at the Health Department located at 415 N 6th, Street in downtown Shelton. The meeting began at 9:30am and ended at 11:10am and was led by Jennifer Williamson Forster.

Those present included: Jennifer Williamson Forster, South Sound Reading Foundation  
Daniel Teutenberg WSU-Extension  
Holly Porter, Sound to Harbor Head Start/ECAP  
Jenny Blumenstein, Sound Learning  
Shelly Willis, Family Education and Support Services  
Elizabeth Custis, Mason County Health Dept.  
Kim Shorten, Community Action Council/Block Fest  
Lydia Buchheit, Mason County Health Dept.  
Rebecca Roadman, Dept. of Developmental Abilities

Excused: Kim Smith

A consent agenda was agreed upon. Jennifer requested a volunteer to take minutes -Shelly Willis agreed.

**Other Emergent Needs/Events etc.** Jennifer asked all to introduce themselves and share any "emergent needs" identified for the community. Holly mentored a need for developmental screening, Rebecca acknowledged a gap in services/screenings for those children exiting birth to 3 programs and prior to enrollment in school. There was some discussion about easing that transition for the 4 year olds. Jenny indicated Sound Learning is working on serving adults and that has crossed over to include family literacy. Elizabeth indicated the Nurse Family Partnership program could use referrals for "first time mom's, who live in poverty, and have a pregnancy of 28 weeks +. Shelly welcomed all to participate in the family fun day at Evergreen and announced there are various parenting opportunities available in the community. Rebecca mentioned there are changes in the works related to Federal match dollars, waivers, and the payment system. They have an emergent need to contract with professional providers who (speech therapist, Occupational Therapists for example).

**Minutes:** Minutes from the last meeting were not available and will be provided at the September meeting.

**Treasurers Report:** Dan shared a Treasurer's Report identifying a balance of \$9,055.13 to be in the account. He noted that he had met with Lydia and reviewed the books. He also noted that he has engaged one of his staff members (Kathy Fuller) who will be working on this from now on. Dan asked members to consider what categories should be identified for income and expenditures. As they work to set up the financial reports they will need an idea of how to best group items. Lydia mentioned Grant writing, and Dan identified United Way as a potential funding stream. Shelly also suggested the Community Foundation. Jennifer suggested that a budget be designed this year, and serve as a template for future budget work. Dan agreed and mentioned that he was looking at how others offer their financial information and had a solid understanding of next steps.

**Vision/ELAC update:** Dan mentioned that since Jane was not contracted for July & August there was not allot to report. However Thrive by Five is visiting in early September to explore the Community Momentum grant. Val will be continuing to provide training for Home Visitors on Diversity, and the Early Start Act passed which many are working to understand better.

**ICC:** Lydia mentioned there still needs to be some clarification about what happened with ICC and what needs to be different in the future. This discussion was tabled until Kim could join in.

**Advocacy Event Discussion:** There is a grant to the Skookum Rotary to Support an advocacy day event. Jennifer reported that she will be meeting with folks to plan an early learning advocacy event for late October/early November.

**Family Engagement Classes Discussion :** Jennifer, and Lydia noted that there will be an opportunity in the future where those working on "parenting" will get together. Jenny provided a brief summary of some of the Parent Engagement activities that had occurred at Sound Learning. In addition a flyer from CCAC was shared about an upcoming event on Saturday, Sept 26 at the Elks Lodge.

**Blockfest Event Discussion :** Holly reported that Head Start was able to pay for a blockfest event and that left funding on the table for other events. Annie Bloomfield had an event planned at the Squaxin tribe and a second event was scheduled to take place in the Shelton Valley. However because the Coalition did not hear back in a timely fashion from the Shelton Valley folks the Coalition agreed to approve spending those additional dollars on the "Family Fun Day" event occurring at

**Strategic Plan:** It was agreed to move this discussion to the next meeting. There was a brief discussion on grant writing and how to approach collaborative grant writing, especially if an agency were submitting on behalf of their own organization, and/or in collaboration with the coalition.

### **Agency Announcements**

**Sound Learning:** Jenny gave updates about Sound learning which focused on adult education classes. She mentioned a workforce investment act has provided opportunities to help with career exploration, and college readiness. She also spoke briefly about a High School diploma program comparable to a GED called HS21+ (High school 21 plus). SPSCC will be partnering to help implement some of the modules.

**Sound To Harbor Head Start:** Holly reported that Belfair has a new property. She also noted that Shelton is adding slots which will allow them to serve 111 families total. This will require turning the current Shelton "meeting room" space into a classroom.

**WSU-Extension:** Dan reported that the President has passed away, but a new President is coming to the university. There is an expectation of change in the air.

**Mason County Health Dept:** Elizabeth indicated the Nurse Family Partnership program could use referrals for "first time mom's, who live in poverty, and have a pregnancy of 28 weeks +. Shelly invited Elizabeth to visit the Harvest program and reach out to pregnant women in recovery. Elizabeth agreed to visit the program on August 19.

**South Sound Reading Foundation:** Jennifer announced she has books to give away in Mason County as well as "Ready Kits". If you have a need please email Jennifer at: [jwilliamson-forster@nthurston.k12.wa.us](mailto:jwilliamson-forster@nthurston.k12.wa.us)

**Child Care Action Council:** Kim reported that staff in her office are still adjusting to the retirement of Annie Cubberly but are all very happy with the current temporary ED-Susan Kavanaugh.

**Family Education and Support Services:** Shelly announced there are DVD's for the Period of Purple Crying available if anyone is needing them. She spoke about the monthly class "Consider The Children" held in Shelton for parents facing divorce/separation/or parenting plan modification, and shared info about the Fatherhood program- specifically the Spanish Speaking class held in Shelton.

### **Final Announcements:**

- Holly mentioned there had been a number of community events occurring and that it would be nice to track them. Lydia suggested a "Calendar of events" through "Google Calendar and it would be

good to track those. Jennifer led a discussion about a "calendar of events". Lydia noted that she has a Google calendar we might be able to use to identify and track upcoming activities. Shelly mentioned the old "Parenting Connections" template and agreed to share it with the Coalition as a template for future discussion.

- It was announced that a party is in the works to honor Eunice for her significant contributions. The date is being aimed at the first week of September and more will be announced via email.
- it was suggested that the meetings be extended until 11:30am
- All agreed the next meeting will occur on September 3, 2015.

Respectfully submitted by:

Shelly Willis, Family Education and Support Services, Temporary/Substitute/Part time Stand in Secretary