

VISION FOR EARLY LEARNING

West Central Regional Coalition Meeting

Minutes for February 19th, 2013

9:00 AM – 12 PM

Members Present: Ryan B., Annie C., Ellen D., Angela F., Cristi H., Laure M., Kelly M., Chris M., Sandy N., Mary P., Erin S., Patty S., Jeanette S., Dan T., Jodi W., Linda W., Shelly W., Abby B., & Betzy M.

Introductions

Betzy M. introduced herself as the new Visions for Early Learning Project Coordinator. As part of the introductions a small activity for all board members was done. All VEL Board members had the opportunity to ask a question to other members.

Reports and Updates (Goal 1-1.3 & Goal 2-1.2)

Counties Update:

Grays Harbor- Dan T. described how the Grays Harbor Early Learning (GHLE) coalition is working now towards asking constantly what's the value/outcome of the activities being done through the coalition in GHLE. The coalition is working hard to expand and sustain their efforts as well as developing task committees to aid with the work being done in the county.

Lewis- Jeannette S. shared how the Lewis County (LELC) is looking and rethinking their strategic plan. She also shared the success of the Literacy conference, with an outcome of about 70 + individuals attending the conference, LCELC is looking at making this an annual event.

Mason- Dan T, Linda W., & Annie C. conveyed how Mason County Early Learning Coalition (MELC) is in the 2nd stage working strongly in their governance structure. Some of the projects being targeted are Conference for Child Care (where 80 people attended), "Celebrating Our Stories" Parent –Child Activity event (planning meeting on February 25th at 3 p.m.). MELC has also schedule a Board Retreat for their county; which is scheduled on March 5th from 10-2 p.m.

North Pacific- Ryan B. reported about the North Pacific Know & Grow County Coalition (NPKG); they are preparing the 4th annual family fair with child activities; they are also working and partnering with health care providers to recruit pediatric services for children in these area. They are planning purpose dinner event to start conversation among health care providers in regards to this issue. There's also a Zumba instructor who is interested in starting/developing Zumba for Kids and they're in talks about what can it be done.

Thurston- The Thurston Early Childhood Coalition (TECC) is looking at the development of Leadership Parent education and child abuse and neglect, they're also trying to bring speakers every month to aid in the education of what resources are available in the community for the coalition. They have also started the recruitment of an Administrative Staffing Position for 20 hours a month.

State Update

Sandy N. shared with the board members the release of WaKIDS Information as well as the legislative updates (See attachment "State Update")

(<http://thrivebyfivewa.org/2013/02/15/legislative-update-week-5-2013-2/>)

Overview of Community Momentum 2013 Action Plan

Betsy M. shared with the board members a quick overview of the Community Momentum 2013 Action Plan to briefly review the goals that we (VEL) have ahead of us. (See attachment “Community Momentum 2013 Action Plan-Overview”)

Taking Care of Business

WaKIDS Steering Committee

As part of the Community Momentum Goal 3.3.1 & 3.2. a minimum of two steering committee meetings must occur. As no Steering Committee had been designated, it was imperative that a WaKIDS Steering Committee was decided upon during this meeting. Mary Perkins along with Sandy Nelson provided the board members with a better understanding of what the WaKIDS Steering Committee is and what their responsibilities are.

WaKIDS Steering Committee is a small, representative group that grapples with the WaKIDS data, considers what actions might be taken given the data on children in the region, develops a regional 2013-2014 action plan and reports to the ESD and Coalition. – as discussed in the meeting; the steering committee will be a base group of members from our board; however, additional membership to other representatives of the community will be open as steering committee makes suggestions.

The members of the WaKIDS Steering Committee are:

Abby B. (ESD 113 – Early Childhood Ed. Content Specialist) -
Jeanette S. (Centralia Community College) College Representative/
Patty S. (At-Large Regional Representative – VEL) – Early Learning Regional Coalition Rep.
Mary P. (Grays Harbor Early Learning Coalition)
Laurie M. (South Bend School District/Early Learning Center)
Annie C. (or a CCAC representative)
Lee Ann B. (ESD 113-Sound to Harbor Head Start/ECEAP) – EACEAP Family Advocate

A survey indicating best times to meet for the first Steering Committee were handed out, and Betsy M. agreed to email all Steering Committee members the meeting date.

Love. Talk. Play.

Ideas for Love. Talk. Play (LTP): As part of the Community Momentum 2013, it was determined that LTP activities in the region would have to be developed in each county; Betsy took this time to remind all board members of this and to keep in mind the following questions as they’re planning the LTP events in each county, as such activities must be reported and budgeted by the VEL Coordinator to LTP/Thrive By Five.

- What activity is the coalition developing? – One time vs. On-going
- When will the activity occur?
- How much will the activity/event cost?
- Who is the targeted audience? (Low income, Hispanics, Teen Parents) & Who will be aiding in the activity? (County Coalition and/or another agency)

Management of LTP budget: The LTP has provided each county with an amount of \$500 dollars to spend in their events/activities to support the LTP campaign. Sandy N. presented the coalitions with two ways to manage their budget; one is through giving the total amount (\$500) to a fiscal agent and

they can then provide the VEL Coordinator with proof of how the money was spent (budget, materials, receipts, invoices, etc.) or to have the VEL Coordinator manage the total amount for the county coalition; in which such case, the county coalition will provide the VEL Coordinator a list of items and materials to be provided to them to use as part of the LTP campaign.

Electing an Executive Committee

The board members nominated candidates for the VEL – Executive Committee. The executive committee responsibilities are as follow:

- Assist with the development of the agenda for the meetings.
- Elect a secretary to take minutes and maintain documentation of the activities of the regional coalition.
- Make decisions in which the notification about a specific issue and the timelines to make the response or decision occurs between meetings. Efforts to gather input from the regional coalition members by e-mail and telephone will be made prior to making the decision.
- Establish and maintain the following e-mail distribution lists of board members, executive committee members, & stake holders

The elected executive committee is:

- Two co-chairs of the regional Board: Dan T. (Mason) & Sandy N. (Thurston) who will be attending the two state-wide Thrive Meetings: April 11th & June 27th
- Three representatives (one each from the other counties not already represented by the co-chairs): Mary P. (Grays Harbor); Ryan B. (North Pacific); & Cristi H. (Lewis)
- ~~Two representatives at large who can represent any of the stakeholders in the membership~~: It was proposed by Sandy N. that these two at-large representatives were not necessary, as all counties had already been represented. It was then second by Jeanette S.; and unanimously voted by all board members.

Think-Share-Do (TSD)/ Zig Zag Sharing -Closing

As a closing activity, Betzy M. guided the board members into thinking about the future of Vision for Early Learning; after reviewing the vision and mission of VEL, the questions of: *What's your vision of VEL for the next years? And what do you have to offer to accomplish our vision?* were brought up and shared among all board members; some of the thoughts shared at the meeting are written here for future reference:

- Community Connections
- Collective Impact – the larger, the stronger voice, the stronger community (local → county → regional → state)
- Local communities/coalitions have a voice
- Develop effective methods of communication (local → county → regional → state)
- Development of greater resources and partnerships/connections
- Continue forward with developing thrust
- Building strength of local coalitions (infancy unique connection to parents-child care providers resources)
- Collaboration (county – county)
- Meaningfulness in reaching out to families
- Sharing of Ideas among resources (counties)

- Starting at bottom and growing with impact
- Developing strong families
- Inclusive of all children.
- Looking ahead, beyond the grant

Announcements

Next meeting: March 19th from 9-12 p.m. at ESD 113 (Executive Committee to meet before this day)

Update/add information to coalition meeting calendar - place & time if needed please – Betzy M. is trying to keep an updated calendar with coalition's meeting times & dates.

Starting Strong August 6th & 7th @ Lynwood Convention Center.

Travel Expenses: If you want to be reimbursed for traveling expenses, please pick up a form from Betzy M. at the end of each meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM