

# VISIONS FOR EARLY LEARNING

West Central Regional Coalition

Board Members Meeting

April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013

*Members Present: Angela French, Annie Cubberly, Chris Moon, Cristi Heitschmidt, Dan Teuteberg, Ellen Duffy, Erin Schreiber, Jeanette Spiegelberg, Linda West, Mary Perkins, Patty Smith, Sandy Nelson, Shelly Willis, Connie Dougherty, & Betzy Mulwee*

## 1. Welcome & News

*News- Betzy presented the Visions web site and facebook page. Sections and links within site were shown and Visions members were encouraged to share the site. Members were also asked to provide Betzy with resources that might be informative to place on these sites. Links to each are as follows: Website (<http://visionsforearlylearning.org/>), Facebook ([Visions for Early Learning West Central Regional Coalition](#))*

## 2. Reports & Updates

*a. Each County provided an update of activities in their area.*

*i. **Grays Harbor** is working to develop a strategic plan. Last week an event was held in conjunction with the 'week of young child.' A new play and learn group incorporating Love, Talk, Play has been formed. A repeat event will take place on family day at the Grays Harbor County Fair. Families will get in free.*

*ii. **Lewis County** is revisiting their strategic plan. Love, Talk, Play information will be incorporated into Fun Fest this Friday, April 19. L, T, P is also being used in a parent education class for families currently raising infants-toddlers.*

*iii. **Mason County** will host an event this Saturday, April 20, for community engagement titled, "Celebrating Our Stories." The coalition is in stage 2 of the current grant.*

*iv. **North Pacific County** is continuing to supply families with welcome baby baskets. Reach out and read buckets are being placed in hospitals for children and families to use while waiting service (it was suggested to place the Reach Out and Read buckets at the court house for children's use). The spring family fair will be held in May and includes a family concert.*

*v. **Thurston County** has hosted speakers at monthly meetings offering information about resources in the area. Block Fest events are being hosted and a L, T, P event will take place in Rochester. The group will be hiring a new coordinator. The next meeting is scheduled for 26th of April.*

*b. **State Update/ELAC:** Sandy Nelson & Mary Perkins reported on the work of ELAC (Early Learning Advisory Council). This council advises DEL. OSPI, DEL and Thrive By Five serve as the leadership for this council. Through the committee's work, it has been decided to expand the council to include the director for the Dept. of Health, the director of DSHS, director of Child Care Aware and a representative from each of the ten regional early learning coalitions. The large group has formed subcommittees to complete work. One of the committees is looking at the structure of state governance around early learning, working to define relationships and investment in early learning. The group is also looking to create a goal and set priorities. Recommendations from the council went to leadership group of ELAC.*

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*After hearing a report about the early learning guidelines, the group developed objectives around the roll-out and implementation of the guidelines. Efforts are underway to ensure families/caregivers and professionals have opportunities to gain information about the guidelines (a recommendation was made to place the guidelines in libraries) and possible training to make guidelines useable. The purpose is to use the Early Learning guidelines as a foundational document to align with standards creating common language around young children.*

*At a meeting in June discussion will revolve around legislation from DEL. This will be an opportunity to guide the committee. A second focus will be Early Achievers. At the September meeting there will be MERIT discussion. There will also be input on next year's community momentum grant. The December meeting will find early learning partnership creating an action plan and deciding on priorities. A look at mental health issues will also be coming within the next year.*

*A last piece is that work is being done to change the system for subsidies, making the system work for families by offering interpretation, decreasing the time spent on the phone and gaining a better understanding of seasonal child care.*

*ELAC meetings are public, and each meeting allows time for public comment. The next meeting is scheduled for June 24, 9:00-3:00 at Lacey Community Center.*

- c. **Infant/Toddler Program:** Connie Dougherty reported on Infant/Toddler programs explaining that coaches continue to work with classrooms. There are 20 classes in their 2nd year and 13 classes in 1st year with a coach. This program has seen positive change happen with motivated and engaging coaches. The challenges exist with changes in leadership in centers. The Infant/Toddler project ends in June. The next steps of the project are being determined and work is being done to align this program with Early Achievers. There will be a statewide project meeting in May from which Connie will report back to VEL.*
- d. **WaKIDS:** Betzy gave an update on WaKIDS. The steering committee has developed a regional road map to address some of the confusion around WaKIDS. The goal of the program is to develop relationships between early learning providers and kindergarten teachers. A first regional meeting will take place in Grays Harbor. From here, local coalitions can begin work at their local level, developing a plan for the county through the early learning coalitions. At this point, WaKIDS is to be fully implemented by 2015. Funding for the program is yet to be determined, and will be organized based on percentage of students within each school building receiving free and reduced lunch and those offering full-day Kindergarten.*
- e. **Love. Talk. Play.** Each county coalition is to provide Betzy with the Love, Talk, Play activities or events occurring in their areas, submitting proposals to Betzy.*
- f. **National Equity Project:** Betzy also gave an update on the National Equity Project which is working on Advancing Racial Equity (ARE). The group is working to develop projects of work, setting a goal around diversity and creating next steps. The project would like input given to the grants committee and opens the opportunity to attend and participate in meetings. The group has requested representatives from regional coalitions. Meetings will be held in Seattle at Thrive by Five. First meeting is this Friday, April 19 in Thrive conference room. VEL agreed that a member should attend these meetings; Patty Smith will be the representative this week.*

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- g. Other updates** given information to the coalition about the Head Start sequester, which has occurred and possible ECEAP expansions (in areas with full day K).

*It was requested that Visions add Early Achievers as part of the on-going agenda*

### **3. Key Note Speaker: "Lobbying vs. Advocacy"**

*Casey Osborn-Hinman cancelled her presentation the night before; therefore no speaker was available.*

### **4. Innovating Resilient Conversations (IRC)**

*Executive Committee Members provided the group with reports on each goal/strategy in the early learning plan and the connection to our community momentum grant. From this information the large group moved into smaller discussion groups, arranged by county. The groups worked on the following questions and reported back to the large group.*

- In accordance to the knowledge of your local community; what are some things that need to be prioritize within your region according to the Regional ELP?*
- How would this be accomplished?*
- How would my county ELC benefit from developing a plan and guiding implementation by reaching out and involving other agencies and/or individuals that have similar goals; but are NOT part of the coalition?*
- How does my county ELC plan affect our regional ELC?*

*The thoughts that were shared from each county include, Lewis County working to expand membership, Grays Harbor will work on home visiting, Mason County is a new coalition, split between ESD's focusing on what to do to have a ready and successful community and Thurston County will work on Ready and Successful Parents/Families/Caregivers including looking at ACE's and strategies to be put in place to reduce ACE scores.*

### **5. Membership Growth (IRC)**

- 6.** *VEL will be working on Membership Growth and reaching out to more diverse members. At present there is one member-at-large position available to be filled.*

### **7. Announcements:**

- 8.** *The next meeting will be **Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>** 9AM – 12PM*