



Members Meeting

January 8, 2015

ESD 113 - Chehalis A Room

(Conference call in via the K-20 system. 206.732.8461)

Present: Jodi Wall via K-20, Dallas Smith, Jean Hill-Miller, Kim Shorten (CCA), Shelly Willis, Nancee Alvord, Mary Perkins, Holly Porter, Jane Partridge, Cristi J. Heitschmidt, Erin Schreiber

The mission of Visions for Early Learning; West Central Regional Coalition, is to promote partnerships and community connections that support early learning.

- I. Welcome
- II. **Opening activity, (Dan absent/Cristi chaired,)** identifying other parts of this system: parents, child care, teachers, community stakeholders, ECEAP/Head Start, schools, libraries, decision makers/policy makers, health dept., special services, law and justice systems, CPS. Puzzle activity: what does VEL mean to you? Support & Advisory; Connecting puzzle; collaboration; continual growth, planning & working together, child; whole community; a way to look at the whole picture; future vision; roadmap plan; support advocacy; impacting connector resource; system development organization; collaboration; DEL leg local; Big picture; a vehicle for impacting change.
- III. **Select note-taker and discuss system for rotating responsibility – Jane and Holly to collaborate.**
- IV. **Reports & Updates –**
 - a. **Infant-Toddler Program** (Jean/Connie) 8 centers receiving services in four counties; focus has been on Infant Toddler Environmental Rating Scale; shorter but intense 5 to 6 week intervention, direct instruction on what adjustments/changes are needed to get the highest score possible on ITERS and why those adjustments are important. Upcoming intensive training for staff (Sept. 2015) in FIND video program based on attachment.
 - b. **Nancee Alvord with Tumwater schools, passed out flyers inviting child cares/preschools to monthly meetings on kindergarten transition.**
 - c. **Early Achievers** (Annie/ Jodi) Jodi: looking for support in increasing the numbers of programs in Lewis and Pacific counties that participate in Early Achievers. Enrollment in Early Achievers is at 17/44 licensed childcare in Lewis County; 3/9 in Pacific County. Will be holding stakeholder meetings with Early Achiever participants to get feedback, March 4, 2015 for Lewis County, Feb. 10 Cowlitz County for Pacific County participants. Staff will be offering on-sight professional development for providers in Lewis County. Annie with Child Care Aware provided a written Early Achievers update.
 - d. **Ryan Bezanson, report on award of books from 10,491 books from the Children's Reading Foundation for Lewis, Grays, North Pacific, and Mason counties. Distribution is scheduled for April. Information (detailed below) due to Ryan by March 12th VEL meeting. Ryan distributed FAQs sheet. Award for 10,491 books, 2,622.75 books per region. Requirement is outreach targets specific regional school districts (Ryan will email listing of targeted school districts). South Sound Reading Foundation will house the books temporarily. County Coalitions will need to coordinate a pick up date. Books are new and suitable for ages 0 to 8 and are bi-lingual. Goal for outreach is to create home libraries for regional families.**

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- i. Identify where your event is taking place
 - ii. The date(s) it will be taking place
 - iii. How many books will you give away (and how many did you give away)
 - iv. What activities will take place (and what did take place)
 - v. How you will be modeling reading to a child (read aloud events)
- e. **FY15 Community Momentum Grant –**
- i. **Funding award:** \$87,500 (\$95,000 requested)
 - \$50,000 for Regional Coordination
 - \$17,500 for Home Visiting
 - \$20,000 for WaKIDS

Review Over-view document, including feedback from Thrive and discuss proposal revisions (Jane) [Grant overview](#) (See [Over-view document for more information](#))

Requested \$95,000 and were awarded 87,500. Funding from Nisqually made up most of the difference. We'll also be paying less in indirect rate because it's based on grant amount.

Jane and Sandy got feedback on proposal from Thrive by Five yesterday in a contract call.

- Praise for continued growth – moved up to middle tier of coalitions state-wide
- Praised partnership with Nisqually
- Asked how are we going to get feedback from families for the family engagement piece?
- Kudos on home visiting activities – Liv from THRIVE wants to join in meetings
- Our group's work on Racial Equity is also seen as a major strength

Funding for Regional Coordination

- Advancing Racial Equity: Jan 30, Feb 27th (Attendance – about 45 folks per session). – contact Jane or register via myesd. Proposing 2 more in Aug and Sept and workshop at Starting Strong conference. Quarterly meetings/trainings for panel distilled from trainings.
- Five \$2,000 grants for counties.
- Adie Simmons – came to Thurston ELC. Creating our values and culture around family engagement. *Sandy will send info about her.
- Sustain services for Play and Learn group in Lewis Co.
- Raising of America – discussing doing a screening for specific legislators at Water St. Café at the beginning of the session. Coordinating this through Pierce County. We'll just do invitations for folks Pierce Co. asks us to invite. A suggestion was made to use SPSCC if we want to offer a larger space for other events.
- Develop regional advocacy plan.
- Support reflective practice cohorts for child care providers. Jody suggested discussing this with her and with Annie. A meeting is scheduled for January 21.



The group voted to shift \$841.00 from the food/snack budget for Advancing Racial Equity trainings in order to make up the difference in the funding request and amount granted. Follow up: Jane will submit the revised budget to Thrive.

WaKIDs \$20,000 of funding for:

Participation in pilot for transition form. We're addressing WaKIDS goals through mini-grants.

Creation of flash drives with different materials to distribute to child care centers, dental offices, etc.

- 6 min videos – we'll provide the "talent" e.g. a child care provider using the word "equivalent" rather than "the same". Thurston Community Television will help produce the video, get it on Youtube, etc.

Block Fest activities for

- Not specifying how many events per county e.g. travel costs will vary. At least one event per county.

Conferences: Invest in: Stem Early Learning Conference , January 31, 2015, register at <http://www.investconference.com/>

Starting Strong, August 3-5, 2015 at the Tacoma Convention Center: Advancing Racial Equity workshop.

Home visiting \$17,500 in funding for:

- Continue conducting regional service scans
- Quarterly prof. dev.
 - Feb 2nd, 2015 Mary Foltz, Effective Home Visiting Strategies;
 - April 17th Donna Beegle's See Poverty, Be the Difference video and book study, encouraging VEL participation;
 - July 10th Chuck Smith, Motivational Interviewing;
 - Oct. 16 (no presenter/topic selected as yet.)

ii.

iii. Set expectations for next steps, including participating in Visions Work Teams and opportunities for local involvement.

Expectations for next steps:

VEL Board members

- Participating in work teams around each of these

Local coalitions

- Respond quickly to RFP for \$2,000 (Goal is to get RFP out by the end of Jan.)

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- Encourage local participation on work teams
- iv. Nancee Alvord is joining the Regional Early Learning Steering Committee
- v. Sandy Nelson noted that we need to work out a process for billing and payment for Block Fest. Two year agreement with CCAC – Thurston Co. won't need to pay for it for now. Costs will differ for things like transportation of the blocks etc. CCAC will bill ESD. A written agreement will be drawn up for this process. (The money for counties to do Block Fest will be in addition to the \$2,000 mini-grant amounts.
 - - Formation of RFP committee/Family Engagement Work Team
 - Mary, Jane, Shelly was suggested and has since accepted.
 - This group or another needed to do oversight and coordination of Family Engagement activities at a local and regional level
- vi.
- V. **County Chair/Representative Updates**—*“What are county level priorities for 2015 ?Counties to report on this question at the March 12th meeting.*
 - a. Grays Harbor
 - b. Lewis
 - c. Mason
 - d. North Pacific
 - e. Thurston
- VI. Three talking points (to take back to local coalitions)
 - 1. Local coalitions to discuss system for quickly responding to \$2000 Family Engagement/Advocacy RFP, anticipated at end of January.
 - 2. Invitations to local coalition members to participate on Visions Work Teams
 - 3. Children’s Reading Foundation book grant input (see above) due from local coalitions by March 12
 - 4. look for more information regarding county coalition Block Fest.
- VII. **2015 VEL Board of Representatives Meeting Dates**—members to give input
 - i. Email Jane if you have feedback about meeting times. You can also check the VEL website for info. Reminder to send things from local coalitions for posting, e.g. upcoming events.

1/8/2015	10:30 AM	12:30 PM Chehalis A
3/12/2015	10:30 AM	12:30 PM Grays Harbor
5/14/2015	10:30 AM	12:30 PM Lewis
7/9/2015	10:30 AM	12:30 PM Grays Harbor
9/10/2015	10:30 AM	12:30 PM Grays Harbor
10/8/2015	10:30 AM	12:30 PM Grays Harbor
11/12/2015	10:30 AM	12:30 PM Grays Harbor

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*Serving Our Communities in
Grays Harbor, Mason,
Lewis, North Pacific &
Thurston Counties.*

West Central Regional Coalition