

Visions for Early Learning



Board Members Meeting

August 20th, 2013

Minutes

Present at meeting: Ryan B. Cristi H. Dan T. Jodi W. Linda W., Shelly W., Sandy N., Jean HM., Tiffany S., & Betzy M.

I. Welcome & News

- a. News - Betzy opened the meeting at 9:15, Dan Teuteberg asked members present to share a summer memory with a partner.

II. Early Achievers Speaker

- b. Tiffany Stutesman; Early Achievers Regional Coordinator (Grays Harbor, Mason, & Thurston Counties), reported that harmony exists at Early Achiever sites within counties. Early Achievers work is focusing on strengthening the number of sites enrolling. There is encouragement to apply as incentives are in place for individual staff as well as programs. Each county has providers at all stages of the "journey" -- those beginning the process through application vs. centers/in-home providers that have been in system and rated. Numbers of participants in each county are as follows, Thurston 68 facilities, Mason 11, Grays Harbor 15. Tiffany explained that these connections have been made through the Infant-Toddler Project and WaKIDS. Tiffany addressed questions regarding adding preschools specifically Head Start and ECEAP to data and that information is communicated to parents, specifically ways to message what high quality child care looks like and that a center is participating in EA. Tiffany also clarified that the Early Achievers is a voluntary program.
- c. Early Achievers (Lewis & Pacific Counties) – Jodi Wall reported that six providers have applied for Early Achievers in Lewis County and one in Pacific (out of 11 providers available in county). She spoke of misinformation being given to family child care providers at local level that DEL is trying to get rid of family child care centers. Information from the state level has not clearly trickled down to local levels. We will all work together to debunk this myth.

II. Reports & Updates

- a. Infant-Toddler Consultation – Jean Hill-Miller distributed a hard copy report explaining 24 facilities applied for the project and out of those only 4 are not enrolled in Early Achievers. All were reminded that VEL is regional advisory board for Infant Toddler project. A recommendation was made for Early Achiever mentors to connect with infant-toddler project consultants when visiting and connecting with child care centers. It was noted that collaboration should be smooth as each program is using CLASS and ITERS as assessment tools.

Visions for Early Learning



- b. County Updates – *County Chair/Representative each gave an update on specific county activities.*
- . Grays Harbor County completed it's Family Fair event, noting over 200 participants. Play and learn groups are planned for fall. The organization continues to work on evaluation of the play and learn groups.
 - i. Lewis County is planning a fall stakeholder event such as a breakfast including a key note presenter.
 - ii. Mason County elected a new officer base and has their next meeting in September when they will move forward with the strategic plan.
 - iii. North Pacific County is will give away 250 backpacks full of school supplies at the Pacific County Fair. The Early Learning Coalition will be hosting a "booth" at the county fair to support family needs while at the fair. The space will be provided for families to reconnect, read, offer nursing area, and give families respite from the busy fair activities. The coalition is also sponsoring a concert at the fair. Fall will include plans for a community luncheon, continuation of Read Know and Grow book drive which began last spring. The coalition continues work to obtain a pediatrician in N.Pacific County.
 - iv. Thurston County elected new board members and hired a coordinator to keep communication intact. A new software package was purchased to help pull together data. A fall stakeholder presentation will take place at SPSCC and ESD bringing author of Nurture Shock to speak at each venue. The coalition also awaits the impact of the merger between Foundations for Early Learning and Thrive by Five as FEL is used as the coalitions fiscal agent.
- c. Love. Talk. Play. Update shared information from VEL member meeting with Thrive by Five staff. 2014 evaluation of L, T, P will be focused on the coalitions engagement and development of partners helping coalition grow. The intent of materials will continue to focus on quality of interactions. L, T, P will likely be a mandatory part of 2014 Community Momentum Grant. Applications will allow for varying funding levels to be requested.
- d. Thrive By Five Site Visit report was given. VEL members met with Thrive directors Dan Torres and Holly Wyrwich allowing for informal conversation around RFP applications and reporting process. Dan praised the regional report submitted adding kudos for the clear information and the clarity in the budget. Thrive representatives stated that next year's grant will be similar in scope as the current grant.



- e. *ELAC* finds Dan Teuteberg as the newly elected VEL regional rep. An electronic copy of notes was distributed via Betzy from Mary Perkins. Dan will share additional info at the next meeting.

IV. Action Agenda

- f. VEL Board Meeting Agendas & Updates included information that the RFP for the next community momentum grant should be available by the end of Sept. The executive board communicated to Thrive the importance of funding for a coordinator. It was requested to schedule meetings monthly in order to begin work on the RFP. Meetings will continue to be held the third Tuesday of every month. The Sept. agenda will include looking at the regional early plan data in preparation for responding to RFP and policies needing to be developed for website resources.
- g. Thrive by Five is looking at system change through the National Equity Project. They have offered an RFP for Advancing Racial Equity (ARE) Funding Opportunity. All coalitions represented reached agreement that VEL regional coalition will participate in this process. VEL members are asked to review and consider ways to build this work into the community momentum grant plan. The Racial Equity grant is open to all agencies not just coalitions. A letter of intent is due Sept. 13 Sandy, Betzy and Shelly will begin establishing a framework for the LOI.
- h. The Regional Early Learning Strategic Plan will be reviewed at Sept. meeting. Betzy will update community needs assessment for use at Sept. meeting

V. Announcements

- i. If you already receive updates from ELAA & Thrive By five contact Betzy to be taken OFF the Updates List.
- j. Next meeting: SEPT. 17, 9:00 a.m. Staff at ESD will investigate capability of K-20 video conference to allow member participation at monthly meetings.
- k. Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.