

# Early Childhood Planning Team

Meeting Minutes- January 7, 2009

## MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Nancy Bischofs, DCF  
Iris Bicksler, DST  
Rose Wilde, DHS  
Serafina Clarke, DCF/CCF  
Karen Roth, FFLC  
Megan Turner, Pearl Buck Center  
Heather Murphy, FRN  
Pam Stuver, LCPH

Karen Hamilton, Head Start, CCF  
Sandy Moses, LC HHS  
Terra Ralph, DHS  
Sharri da Silva, RN  
Janece Chapman, CCD  
Tami Walkup, 4J/FRC  
Melissa Smith, VISTA/DC

## WELCOME & SHARING

### **Nancy Bischofs**

HS has exciting **new pilot project**. Rose Wilde, DHS, and Natalie York DHS/AmeriCorps VISTA, have gained access to list of 1<sup>st</sup> time pregnant moms under age 25 who qualify for TANF & OHP. Project will collaborate with caseworkers and do outreach for HS to these DHS clients. Will eventually include phone screening using New Baby Questionnaire (NBQ), a psychosocial risk assessment tool for parents. Goal is to have this project grow into a permanent volunteer position. Current screening rates rose from 26% of all new moms to 50%, but goal is to be at 65%. HS now employs a bilingual (Arabic/English) caseworker, so can now **serve Arabic-speaking families** in addition to English, Spanish and Mandarin.

### **Tammy Walkup**

Attending this meeting as 4J's Title 1 Parent Involvement Coordinator and Family Resource Center Coordinator. Works closely with EC CARES and evaluates families for early childhood program. FRC's offering **8-week parenting class** "Incredible Years" in partnership with Centro Latino Americano, LCC downtown & 4J. Class starts in January and is offered in English and Spanish. For kids 8 and younger. Transportation assistance for families may be available.

Nancy Bischofs noted that FRC's often have ongoing parenting classes which are publicized through the Parent HelpLine.

Karen Roth added that flyers can be placed in agency boxes at FFLC to publicize such classes.

### **Janece Chapman**

**Quality indicator project** began January 1<sup>st</sup> which increased visits

to registered childcare families to being annual rather than biennial. Visits will be part of license renewal and will address quality issues. **New law:** Can no longer license **upstairs apartments** in the state to do family childcare due to fire hazards. Restrictions are straight across the board, no upstairs, no matter how many exits are present. We are grandfathering people in.

**Megan Turner**

Recent focus in her parent mentor work was on getting families through the holidays, primarily focused on budgeting training. Has seen an increase in game-playing and family time which is sort of a positive spin on our economic times. Has 2 DHS clients now and the rest are community. Goal for New Year is to get all babies and infants assessed through the ASQ, a developmental screener. Pearl Buck is focusing on their preschool. Have current waiting list. 2 year old list is full. 3 year old list almost has enough kids for another class.

**Melissa Smith**

**Project Homeless Connect** is seeking donations through February. Donations are low this year so every bit helps. Please visit our website at [www.homelessconnect.org](http://www.homelessconnect.org) to learn how you can donate items in person or online. Volunteer positions are now up and registration is open and can be accessed online as well. Please contact me with any questions, if you have items you'd like to have picked up, or if you would like fliers, posters, or save the date cards to help you get the word out to your clients/community partners. (melissa.smith@co.lane.or.us/682-6785)

**Heather Murphy**

Snow delayed holiday activities a bit but still had a fantastic holiday party for clients. Lots of need and high waiting lists, but people have renewed energy. In Cottage Grove area, 2 rural preschools have closed, pushing more clients into other systems. South Lane **Teen parent program is losing funding**, making the need more acute. This may affect many of our clients and some of yours. FRN has 16-18 teen parents right now.

Karen Hamilton commented that HS is assessing eligibility of these kids but has limited openings. It will radically change the community assessment and make us reconsider whether we have enough slots available in Cottage Grove to meet the need.

**Iris Bicksler**

We've tried to get the funding to go to South Lane as much as we can and we serve clients who are able to come to us. Part of our concern is location and where we're able to meet clients. We do some home visits, but if there's **a location that we can share** we're very interested in collaborating.

Heather Murphy added that FRN has had a **spike in teen parents**. May need to have a conversation with HS, Kennedy Alt. HS, FRN. I don't think space is going to be the issue.

Nancy Bischofs suggested contacting the Family Resource Center.

Discussion continued around **increasing needs in South Lane** in the midst of decreasing funding and service availability. Karen Hamilton mentioned the possibility of a shared space in downtown Creswell, and the amount of community support there for inviting nonprofits to be located downtown.

**DST news:** 12-week Childbirth education class is full and has turned people away for the first time. DST is starting a longitudinal study through OSU beginning in 2009, tracking clients for 5 years on issues including birth outcomes, successive pregnancies, and others. New folks on DST board with new focus on fundraising. There will be a Mother's Day brunch in May at Red Agave. DST has partnered with MECCA to do an art show of photography of the young families that they work with focused on increasing awareness with a human face & myth busting. It will be part of the Friday art walk.

**Karen Roth**

FFLC has received a generous anonymous donation for food purchase. Our gardens brought in more food than ever before. We had a banner year in food drives as well. **2 new positions open:** Agency Relations Coordinator and Multicultural Liaison position. Specifically looking for bilingual/bicultural Spanish speaker.

**Karen Hamilton**

Still have **8-10 openings for 3-5@ Bailey Hill site**. Right behind Churchill if you know families in that area. We had an outpouring of gifts for our families this year. All families that requested help got it.

**Jennifer Slater**

Lane Family Connections is now Family Connections of Lane and Douglas Counties. Position open in Roseburg for Douglas County service expansion. Vena Williams has taken a 6 month leave. Now hiring a temporary full time position to help pick up tasks in her absence, primarily direct service and some administrative duties. LCC open house today. Lost DHS contract, which was a hit to our budget. That funding was for our parent consulting so we had to shift. That combined with taking on the new county = lots of re-organization.

**Sandy Moses**

Prevention Program is having a training on the 40 Developmental Assets on January 29. Our website has a list of our ongoing

**trainings.** [www.lanecounty.org/prevention](http://www.lanecounty.org/prevention) Also doing a training on **smoking cessation for providers** on how to help their clients stop smoking. It's a brief intervention that's been shown to be effective with WIC clients. Starts on Apr. 15. No charge.

HBHC has **safe sleep fliers**. Downloadable on website (above). Welcomes contributions toward copying expenses. Currently has limited number of color copies.

**Perinatal Health Team** meets the first Thurs. of the month @ 8:30-10. LCMH, Room 201. Open group. March date might change due to a scheduling conflict.

**Follow up meeting for Healthy Brain Dvlpt. Conference** formed workgroups. Lots of consensus on broad ideas among all attendees:  
**1.** Find out what people are doing and identify who they are. More interagency communication re: knowing what resources and services exist. Enhance collaboration. **2.** Group on creating trainings re: brain dvlpt. **3.** Group focused on information dissemination, public education and media campaigns.

Karen Hamilton is interested in a collaborative effort to fund bringing **Horacio Sanchez** (a speaker at HBD Conference) back here to speak again in September. Sandy Moses invited Karen Hamilton to send a reminder email and it can be sent out to all email her with a reminder and it can be sent out to all conference attendees from LC, ECPT & workgroups.

Karen Roth mentioned Faith Center has a lot of room with lots of break out rooms. Discussion around other HBD Conf. follow up work included implementing Robert Anda's work and interest in Dennis Embry.

**Terra Ralph**

**Save the Date:** Circle of Security dates will be **Saturday, April 4**, from 9-4 @ LCC Forum for direct service providers & foster parents. The one for caseworkers & family support workers will be **Thursday, April 9**, from 9-1 @ Serbu Youth Campus.

**UPDATE:** To avoid giving the impression that attendees of these trainings will be trained in Circle of Security (COS) model, we have re-titled it: "**Attachment-Based Care Giving: How to Recognize and Meet Needs, based on Behavior.**"

**Pam Stuver**

There's a significant increase in the difficulties that families are having right now re: housing & jobs. We have also noticed a **national increase in teen pregnancy** over the last 10 yrs. More \$ spent on abstinence than on family planning programs. Existing family planning programs are facing further cuts. Family Planning Expansion Project (**FPEP**) **will be cut** drastically, reducing access to reproductive care for many low-income women.

**Immune Review** in public schools makes sure parents receive letters saying if children are not immunized they need to be kept home from school. LC immunization rate is lower than National. Discussion around need for increased access & parent education around immunization guidelines. CDC has a current list of recommendations. Will take feedback re: website.

**Menu Labeling**

Chronic disease prevention area is working with Commissioners in Lane & Multnomah counties on required **nutritional menu labeling** for 14 large chain stores. Will show calorie info on menus. Since those types of restaurants are inexpensive many of our low income families eat there, as do many teens. This will enable them to make healthier choices. At our current obesity rate 1 in 3 children will be diabetic by adulthood if obesity does not decrease in the U.S.

**Discussion**

Serafina Clarke mentioned that CCF has been asked by BCC to comment on this issue and invited ECPT comment. Discussion noted that one of the projected consequences of caloric labeling on menus is that the restaurants will change their foods to look better (and thus lower calories). Group weighed the need for sugar content and other nutritional criteria to be visible with the logistical limitations of menu simplicity & readability. Caloric labeling aligns with the goal of preventing obesity and is ideally a first step among many to come re: public health & nutrition.

**Decision**

A show of hands yielded unanimous approval for CCF support of required caloric menu labeling for large chain restaurants.

**Sharri da Silva**

In final stages of hiring fully bilingual mental health professional at RN. Will start as of Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Rose Wilde**

HOPE Coalition, focused on adolescent sexuality and teen parents, is losing focus and steam. Is interested in talking about possibilities in linking those activities more to ECPT or some other body. Possible agenda item for next month?  
**SAVE THE DATE:** Mar. 1. Sibling Connection. For children in foster care living separately for their siblings. Will bring them together for a day at a play center for kids. National event being done for the first time in LC. All ages. Accepting donations.  
Jan. 15. Prevention folks at LC will be doing a series of short presentations on underage drinking, FASD, gambling, & suicide prevention. Overview of topics+ recognizing signs + resources.

For DHS workers but open to ECPT as well. RSVP to Rose if you'd like to attend all or a portion of it.

## **DEBRIEF OF BCC/CCF JOINT MEETING**

### **Format**

Group discussed how to work within the traditional meeting structure to make it more dynamic.

### **History**

The historical format has been that only CCF members speak on the agenda.

### **Discussion**

There is a need for more meeting prep time, especially for our speakers re: structure, time limits, etc.

Discussion around public comment vs. agenda items: Public comment is very limited in time but seems to be the most likely venue for inviting community members. ECPT will work toward creating more structured plans for how to utilize public comment. Group members would like to see more family stories in the future and invite more community members to speak. ECPT will get the word out earlier next time.

Group discussed the need for clarity and purpose in statements to both BCC & CCF.

### **Increasing Communication**

Standing agenda item for ECPT: Increase communication with CCF. Each month an ECPT member will attend CCF meeting. CCF agenda will be discussed at ECPT meetings: Send ECPT member with expertise relevant to current issues to speak at public comment each CCF meeting. ECPT will be more visible and therefore easier to utilize. Also, have that person report back to ECPT re: CCF future agenda or relevant issues.

**CCF Meetings:** 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday from 5:30-7:30 @ Serbu.  
(Changed from 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed.)

Karen Roth volunteered to speak at next CCF meeting on the topic of nutrition labeling on restaurant menus. Will deliver specific talking points re: this issue.

Discussion around how to encourage flow: ECPT > CCF > BCC. Barriers include timing of meetings and rigid meeting structure. BCC meets weekly, so it might be difficult to coordinate an ECPT a response to something that happens in 2 weeks when we only meet monthly.

ECPT will encourage CCF to make formal requests for ECPT (and other advisory groups) feedback on specific issues. It's also important to increase communication between ECPT & other advisory groups that already have relationships with BCC.

Group identified general need for more public information on governmental structure and how to successfully advocate for various issues on local, county, and state levels. Pam Stuver has a county flow chart that she can share with the group. Serafina Clarke offered to be a source for this type of information re: accessing the system.

Suggestion: Invite BCC members to attend ECPT meetings.

## **WORK GROUPS**

**Childcare group** Rose Wilde distributed copies of DHS data on subsidized childcare re: concern about general lack of childcare available in community as a whole. There are more than 3 times as many children in family-based childcare than center-based, through subsidized care. There is an observable increase in family-based care. The largest percentage of those are exempt family care, i.e non-certified, which means they have little required training. Enhanced has more hours of training, such as first aid/CPR, food handlers, etc. Group is looking at difference between groups receiving subsidy due to TANF eligibility vs. working parents.

Terra Ralph explained that centers charge more than what the DHS subsidy pays. Many low income families can't afford to pay that extra. Family care often charges less and doesn't ask for pre-payment like centers do.

Group is also exploring the reasons why infant and toddler care are lacking. They are looking at strategies that have been successful around the country and how they might fit in with our existing structures. Also exploring challenges to funding various types of childcare, for example: Family childcare centers are private businesses and can't get funding from foundations like nonprofits can. It's important to look at systemic strategies that address differences in funding.

**Meeting Time** Second Wednesday of every month @ LCC and is an open group. (This meeting time is subject to change.)

**Home Visiting**      Waiting for data from survey. Will prioritize lowest income and youngest people (i.e. teen parents) in collaborative HS/DHS outreach.

## **MEDIA OUTREACH**

**Update**              We had one article out on safety, using BT3 article.

**Topics**              Proposed topics for upcoming articles include childhood obesity and diabetes, connected with info on labeling and fast food calories. Incorporate info from HBC re: stress and the mother? Discussion around possibility of submitting a monthly guest viewpoint to the RG. Lots of discussion around time constraints and logistics.

**The Plan**            Nancy will contact BT3 to see if they're looking for contributors for articles.  
Media outreach will be a standing agenda item to discuss possible articles, have ECPT members volunteer to write, and brief discussion on ECPT stance or talking points for article.

## **FEBRUARY AGENDA ITEMS**

1. 100% Access Project- Susan Stearns. Increasing access to health insurance.  
Enrollment for their 300 slots begins soon.
2. Media Outreach. Monthly Article talk. (Standing Item)  
Topics, Volunteers, & Group Feedback
3. Increasing Communication with CCF. (Standing Item?- 5 or 10 minutes)  
Who will attend next CCF meeting?  
Current Issues & Next month's agenda.  
Increasing Public Comment  
Viewpoint of the month or monthly updates?
4. HOPE Coalition & ECPT- Rose Wilde.

Please email Nancy or Sharri with your agenda items. Thank you.