

Early Childhood Planning Team Meeting Minutes - March 4, 2009

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Nancy Bischofs, DCF
Sharri da Silva, RN
Sue Norton, LCC R&R
Karen Roth, FFLC
Melissa Smith, DCF/VISTA
Megan Turner, PBC
Cheryl Henderson, EC Cares

Rose Wilde, DHS
Jennifer Slater, FCLDC
Shea Hardy, DST
Iris Bicksler, DST
Serafina Clarke, DCF
Terra Ralph, DHS
Karen Hamilton, Head Start

WELCOME AND SHARING

Karen Hamilton Most of her sharing will be later.

Sue Norton Birth to 3 is having a webinar Mar. 18, 2009 at 10:30 am. To participate call 1-866-682-6100. They also have an excellent listserv to get lots of great **info on infant toddler policies**. www.zerotothree.org/policywebinars . Will include info on ways to access the moneys from the Recovery Act. Info & referral, now serving Douglas co. LCC funding came through but there may be some cuts. ORI awarded a **CareScapes grant award**, for family childcare providers who work with preschool age kids 3-5 improving prosocial behavior. Will roll out to multiple counties involving training caregivers, coaching, and follow up with outcomes for about 3 years. Will give more info as available.

Discussion around **need to include rural folks** who are often isolated and don't have access to a lot of trainings. Right now is only 150 providers.

Jennifer Slater **Infant toddler subgroup** has been working on supply & demand worksheet so we know what is needed out there. Survey results from last year re: infant toddler care will be shared at next ECPT meeting. May speak at the city club of Eugene in September, still working on what we'll talk about. **May 7 is Family Connections Annual Provider Appreciation event**. Had 60 providers last year, expecting more this year. If you'd like to have a table there, please let me know. Discussion around location, invites suggestions.

- Melissa Smith** Project Homeless Connect is this Friday. We still need donations as they were down this year. Especially looking for coats & new socks. You can drop them off at any St. Vincent de Paul.
- Shae Hardy** DST started hosting advanced trainings for doula community. Now **opening trainings to larger community** on how to work with women and families during the childbearing year. **Thursday, May 14 training: Working with sexual abuse survivors, specifically womyn who are pregnant or post partum.** Full Day workshop, Deb Caplin, Doula and educator. CEU's are avail. Catered. Also serves as a fundraiser for us. Would like to have a diverse community participation, can apply to anyone who is doing direct service work with women and families. Still seeking the space.
- Rose suggests they send flier to Trauma Healing Project listserv.
- Next ECPT may have **updated statistics** on the population they're serving. Has noticed a **rise in mental health issues** amongst the teen parent population, especially Bipolar Disorder. Has discussed this with other colleagues who are seeing it too. Has huge impacts on healthy parenting and safe babies.
- Discussion: Teen pregnancy rate is up locally, county, state, and nationally, after years of decline. 14% is the national rate.
- Iris Bicksler** Heidi Haskall from Health Policy Research NW is working with DST to pull OHP related statistics, 99% of their clients are on OHP, working on getting permission to look back at records to analyze **financial impact of Doula services vs. non.** Working toward long term goal to get third party reimbursement from OHP. There's a national movement to get insurance coverage for Doula services. Mothers day event at Red Agave. Will email out info about it.
- Megan turner** Pearl Buck will be doing ASQ's at PHC this Friday. In working with more DHS moms, the focus in her work is shifting from a previous focus just on the child to looking more at family stability.
- Karen Roth** Chef's Night Out is Mar. 17. The tickets are \$65, available at the Hult Center. They have a lot of tickets left. One of FFLC's biggest annual fundraisers.
- Peanut butter update: It's growing. More brands are being added to the recall. FFLC is holding all peanut products. Dog biscuits have also been a problem. 2100 items on recall right now. The other nut butters are not affected.
- RE: **Early closures for the school year** (re: Summer Food Program), would love to hear more info if anyone has any. South

Lane will be opening their kitchen one week earlier to compensate. Some schools in Springfield might close early, possibility that we can use their kitchens early to accommodate the kids. School districts are still exploring options, re: closing a week early vs. closing on Fridays. Either way will impact kids who are hungry. Summer Food program is exploring possibilities to step in and serve those kids early.

Discussion

Serafina: Wonders if ECPT or CCF may be interested in writing a letter to every superintendant regarding considering child hunger when making decisions about the school schedule at the end of the year.

Rose: It wouldn't hurt to inform them of who manages this issue and who they can talk to if they'd like to plan strategically around hunger. Just a letter saying we're offering assistance if they'd like to take it. If they're not thinking of kids after they leave the school grounds.

Karen H.: May be that a letter to the governor may be more appropriate since this is regarding the budget cuts, about how to not put the schools in this position to begin with. Once the cuts have been given the schools have little options.

Serafina: From a hunger standpoint, Summer Food can open a week early, but if you close on Fridays, Summer Food isn't an option.

Sharri: Community-wide and family-wide, closing early has a different impact not just related to hunger, such as childcare, so I think it might not be the best overarching stand for the ECPT to write that letter for families in LC without including other issues. That would be my concern. It seems the letter would be better coming from FFLC.

Serafina & Karen R. will get together separately to talk about this.

Rose: Rather than saying "Do this" or "Do that," what if we just focused on letting superintendants know what their resources are? That seems in alignment with what this group does.

Nancy: As a team, we do represent all these agencies, and FFLC is a part of that. We can work to make them aware of hunger and this is what will happen as a result. If they have that tough decision to make, that may play into it. We are a part of the social service

safety net, so it seems like it would be appropriate to let them know what their options and resources are.

Discussion around Rainy Day Fund and whether it will be used this year.

Sharri asked whether team is comfortable with a letter, not advocating, just educating on resources. Team consensus is Yes.

Cheryl Henderson We had a successful conference for parents, over 100 in attendance and 30 of them were Spanish speaking. Asks whether other agencies are **interested in looking for classroom space** on the long term for early childhood education space. Such as EC CARES, HS, RN, Eugene Hearing & Speech, etc. We're losing some rooms in June.

Serafina got an email saying that ShelterCare has space for rent. Nancy reminds group of City of Cresswell's 9000 sq. ft. building that they'd like to fill with social service agencies. Sue Norton mentions that ARC on 42nd in Springfield may still have space.

Serafina Clarke **Florence group: Childcare Center** was successful in getting \$100,000 for them to start up. They've partnered with the school district and will be located right next to EC CARES on the school property. Quality Childcare of Florence, it's a nonprofit. Will be ready to get staff in there in a couple of months. There will be a new childcare program starting in mid-April, hoping to do dual immersion Spanish/English, in the old Security First Childcare building.

Terra Roth She will attend the Maternal Mental Health during and after pregnancy training and will bring back info to the group. Perinatal mood disorder group is presenting there.

Nancy Bischofs Update on **Healthy Start 2007-08 Status report** is out (NPC Research). Showing good outcomes statewide, 06-07 substantiated child abuse rates 11/1000 for HS families which is below the National level. RE: Issue around perception that because HS is a voluntary program, that the families aren't really high risk. This is not the case. On the 2nd visit there is a Kempe assessment. 75% are single moms, 18% are teen parents. We want to get this information out, especially while they're looking at the Commission budget.

Sharri da Silva

RN has had 4 **AmeriCorps** workers who have been functioning as FSW workers for Healthy Start. Are in a position to hire 2 of them. This AmeriCorps program has allowed us to serve a lot more LC 1st time parents. Considering applying for more AmeriCorps workers to expand afternoon services for RN care for 5 days a week to see if it makes a difference in family outcomes. It could be a pilot project. If anyone hears of AmeriCorps funding that's out there right now that might fit this type of project, please let me know.

We have **nonperishable food available** to our families at the end of the month if they've already accessed all their options for that month. We also give out info on resources in our community. We're also doing **Family fun and Food night**. Can bring the whole family. Facilitated by staff, activities with kids & their families.

Developing **cooking class & nutrition info night** for adults only. Will be talking about how to cook nutritional food on a low budget.

RE: the **increased need** in our community: our RN outreach folks, who are our 1st contact for public, had a 48% increase in calls to our outreach workers this February over last February.

Rose Wilde

Natalie, our AmeriCorps worker, is going to Adolescent Sexuality conference and will be talking about the project with Healthy Start. Went to **OR Teen Pregnancy Task Force** planning meeting. There was a lot of discussion about Teen pregnancy prevention vs. supporting teen parents. Group wants to address both. Group is a statewide group, volunteer board. Will keep this group posted. If anyone is interested in joining the group, they have quarterly meetings, ask Rose.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – Serafina

Handout: one page legislative agenda that the legislative committee of CCF put together. We took it up to Salem, and spoke with legislature members & attended hearings for OCCF. We presented on these points and listened a lot. While the deficit for next biennium is huge (\$3 billion) and the commission system is trying to get some momentum going around some smaller funding initiatives, which at the moment the members are not enthusiastic about because they don't believe it's going to raise enough money. Handed out information on one possibility, the Beer Tax, which would go directly to substance abuse programs. Also, HB 3121, which just became a bill (the license plate) funding will come directly to each commission for child abuse prevention programs. Has support in the house, but not much in the senate so far. Passed out info & talking points on it.

CCF Update- Sharri & Karen H.

Talked about funding we've traditionally allocated to Safety Net, Family Support & Connections, etc. Talked a lot about how to fund these programs in the face of pending cuts. Talked about not funding FSC if the cuts are 20% or higher, because they have a lot of other funding sources. Discussion ensued re: State funds were for serving TANF families, commission funding allowed them to also serve non-TANF families. Lots of discussion, decided to send the discussion back to the executive committee.

Serafina: The executive committee did talk about it but felt they needed more data on what the various programs do. Some discussion around principles, wanted to look at the FRC's vs. FSC. Some of the smaller FRC's would probably close if they receive a cut. FSC's may have to serve less families but they would survive. Talk around taking some of the FSC \$ and distribute it to some FRC's.

Sharri: Also discussed vital importance of FRC's in some of the rural communities, where they're the only service there. Those are the very ones that would be cut.

Karen. Some of the FRC's get support from their school systems, and some don't.

Nancy: In perspective, the FRC's get about \$15,000 a year. It pays for about 10 hours a week. We give \$25,000 a year to FSC.

Rose: Has talked to one FRC coordinator about possibility of using STARS grant funds, untapped through June, It has to be used to do abstinence curriculum, with teen facilitators and 6th graders, but it can be used to leverage staff.

Nancy: There's a lot of cobbled-together funding for various programs, Strengthening families, Ford family grant, multicultural program, etc.

Serafina: Will connect with Rose about the STARS funding. Decision has to be made in Executive Committee by the April meeting. Contracts have to be signed by then.

Karen R: FRC's, especially in rural areas, have been wonderful partners to the food banks and have worked to connect families with food.

Discussion around how useful FSC is in keeping families connected with services who often fall through the cracks (the non-TANF families). Rose reminds us that TANF is difficult to get onto and difficult to maintain for many families. Serafina: the state TANF money can serve 10% non-TANF.

EARLY HEAD START- Karen H.

This information changes daily. Wants group to be in the loop and to provide info so that you know what moneys are available out there and what resources we might be able to

tap from **the Recovery Act**. Has drafts from HS program and brought talking points. Talked about specific agencies and ways we might be able to partner. There was a conference call last week outlining what they know: 2.1 billion in the act for HS & early HS. It's about 1.1 billion for early HS. Some \$ comes off the top for training, technical assistance, monitoring, and expansion of existing programs.

Funds have to be obligated by Sept. 30, 2010, on the federal level. After the \$ is in the federal register, there's a 60-90 day turn around time to get grants in. So it'll likely be June at the latest that we'd have to have the grants in. The focus is on job creation and economic growth. In normal grants we put 6 -12 months of planning time into that. But with this focus, I don't think a grant with a lot of front end time is going to be attractive. I think it will be a big challenge to try to set up a new program with the grant. We would prefer to use our existing infrastructure and then have to set up a separate program within that. I've put together something that might work and I'd like to share it with the group and get your input.

Primary goal would be to expand capacity for the prenatal services in LC. We could serve moms when they're pregnant and work with them til age 3 then transition into normal HS. We're proposing 64 infants, toddlers, pregnant women. 24 center based (HS based programs in existing sites), 16 home based -including part-day (Bethel and Whiteaker areas), and 24 community childcare center (CCC) based.

We're looking for centers that would have the minimum amount of cost involved. These models are flexible, so we could adjust according to our data. This would be a 50 week program. The focus is on healthy cognitive, physical, social and emotional development of infants and toddlers. Would like to take a collaborative approach to include as many LC community early childhood agencies & programs as possible. Services would collaborate between Healthy Start & Early Head Start (EHS) on parent education, prenatal education, staff training, resource sharing, & transition to EHS & HS. **Invites input from agencies on how they'd like to be included.** We need to make a good case in LC that there's a big need for 0-3 services.

Will put this earlier on the agenda for ECPT next month. Would like to continue the conversation, include DST (who left early today) & others in discussion. Rose suggests they connect with Perinatal Health Team. Incorporate Infant Mortality high risk factors.

Will be asking for letters of support from collaborating agencies. Will bring upwards of 1 million. **Would also like electronic data that may be useful.**

NEXT MEETING

EHS follow up discussion.

Healthy Start survey data will be reported on.