



Meeting Minutes – Educational Preparedness Working Group

Date: July 27, 2016

Time: 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Location: Prior Lake Library

Work Group Members:

Roz Addler	X	Renee Hartman		Todd Otis	X
Linda Anderson	X	Amy Hennen		Michelle Rutoski	X
Carla Arrunategui		Candace Kragthorpe		Tamara Severtson	X
Lynne Burke	X	Kim Latterner		Kami Thompson	X
Kathy Busch		Barbara Marschall	X	Lisa Von Bokern	
Mary Erickson		Ibrahim Mohamed		Leanne Weyrauch	

Staff Members:

Suzanne Arntson	X	Jake Grussing		Jennifer Schultz	X
Lisa Brodsky	X	Kari Ouimette	X		
Sarah Geffre	X	Lisa Pollard			

General Housekeeping

- Linda Anderson, a first grade teacher at Five Hawks Elementary, is new to the group.
- The 50 by 30 website (www.livelearnearn.org) is live. The website hosts agendas, minutes, and other information for each of the groups related to the 50 by 30 project (Housing, Workforce Readiness, Educational Preparedness, Transportation and Steering Committee). This is a great resource for seeing what the other groups are doing.
- Kami Thompson was nominated by Michelle Rutoski to be chair. All present agreed. Kami will be invited to attend the Steering Committee meetings (Fourth Tuesday of the month from 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.) to give updates about the Ed Prep working group as well as hear what the other working groups are doing. Kami still needs a co-chair. If you are interested, contact Jen Schultz or Sarah Geffre.
- The Steering Committee met earlier in the day on July 26th. It was the first meeting that the chairs or co-chairs were invited to attend. The Steering Committee and project team felt that having the chair or co-chair at the meeting really helped to bridge the gaps and was the best Steering Committee meeting to date.

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- Jen passed out the Outcome Roadmap. We will come back to this document throughout the process as the different steps on the roadmap will help guide our work.
- The Ed Prep group meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month; however, November and December have holidays around the meeting date so the group discussed how they would like to handle that. The schedule for 2016 is as follows:
 - August 23, 2016 at Prior Lake Library
 - September 27, 2016 at Prior Lake Library
 - October 25, 2016 at Prior Lake Library
 - November 15, 2016—Shakopee Library (meeting moved to third Tuesday of the month)
 - December 27, 2016—Cancelled

Scott County Delivers Update

Jake asked Suzanne to give an overview of Scott County Delivers. Scott County Delivers is an internal focus on program measures and outcomes to ensure that programs are successful.

Jake is working with a group of people to focus on Early Literacy. A visual road map of that groups work was included in everyone's packet. Jake will be presenting their work on August 4th at 9:30 a.m. at the Scott County Government Center. Anyone can attend the presentation if they are interested.

Although there are similarities between the groups, the Scott County Delivers group doesn't direct the 50 by 30 Ed Prep group although, they could be a good resource for data. The roadmap the Scott County Delivers group came up with is by no means exhaustive, but may be a good jumping off point for the 50 by 30 Ed Prep group.

Best Hopes for Target Population

Four statements were emailed to the group to reflect on that were an attempt to summarize the discussion from last month. They were:

1. Scott County children have the skills and community supports needed for healthy development and a readiness and ability to learn.
2. Scott County children and their families have their basic needs met through integrated community supports that promote healthy development and educational success.
3. Children's educational success is supported by integrated educational and community networks that promote the safety, stability and well-being of children and their families.
4. Scott County is committed to the healthy development (physical, social-emotional, and educational) of all children through seamless access to educational and community-supports that promote the safety, stability and well-being of children.

The statement attempts to answer the issue of what do we see as the best hope for Scott County children and their future. The group was asked to reflect on the four statements and to give suggested improvements to them so that it could be used as an internal vision for the group to help get our arms wrapped around this huge issue. The statement can change over time, but is a helpful reflection of our vision or ideal state that we want for kids and families.

The group didn't feel that any of the four statements hit their vision perfectly, but that a few statements edited and put together might more fully capture the goal. Several in the group mentioned that health and well-being are important to keep in the statement as are education, and community ties. Early intervention was mentioned as well as making sure to include infants. Tamara suggested that the group think carefully about how connecting words are chosen. Jen and Suzanne recorded feedback from the group and will use it to wordsmith a new statement which they will bring back to the group.

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Mapping Exercise

Suzanne led the group through a mapping exercise.

The first part of the exercise asked the group to rate the system as a whole on a scale from 0 to 10. Overall, the group felt that the system was between 5 and 6.

The second part of the exercise asked the group to consider the strengths of what is presently working well.

1. **Public Health Home Visits for Teen Parents**—Visits start prenatally, helps increase parenting skills, addresses risk factors for families and focuses on parents.
2. **Help Me Grow**—Statewide referral network for developmental delays in pre-K children. Ages 0-3 focuses on parents and families while 4+ focuses on schools. Early intervention and helps get kids into services
3. **Reach Out & Read**—Literacy program built into child health visits (leverages status of doctor). Ages 6 months to age 5. Currently 4 clinics in Scott County offer the program and reached 2,441 children last year. Program also informs parents about limiting electronic screen time and the importance of reading/talking to their child.
4. **Preschool screening**—Reaches all kids by age 3 or before kindergarten. Early identification of needs.
5. **Headstart**—Focuses on birth- age 5. Income requirements, elevating standards for teachers
6. **ECFE**—Parent Education programs (Parent separation time). Parents feel part of a community, have live examples of how to engage their child with materials, ask questions about other parents' experiences and have a network of parents to lean on.
7. **Follow Along**—Parents monitor child's progress.
8. **WIC**—Nutritional foods for low income families. Promotes breastfeeding which leads to an increased parent-child bond
9. **Minor Parents/MFIP**—Employment services for teen parents. New Beginning Schools
10. **Child Care Aware/Parent Aware**—Rating system to help raise the bar for in home child care and child care centers. Enhances professionalism. Although voluntary for providers to be rated, families have ability to get scholarships to attend a Parent Aware center. Focuses on kindergarten readiness.
11. **Intercultural Liaisons in School Districts** – School staff who specialize in intercultural relationships between families and schools
12. **Camp Esperanza**—Camp sponsored by local church where kids can attend 4-5 days a week and have two meals per day provided.

After the group explored what the system is doing well, they then explored the gaps and challenges of the current system.

1. Program/service limitations—limited resources, financial eligibility narrows the scope
2. Finances—some families make too much money to qualify for some services, but can't afford all of the services on their own
3. Bask Sliding Fee wait list
4. Lack of system integration
5. Child's need for services isn't bad enough yet
6. Poverty—ex. can't access the resources due to limited transportation
7. Lack of Awareness and Education regarding services available. Parent's don't know what to ask for
8. Undocumented families
9. Parent's aren't able to read/navigate the system
10. Language barriers
11. State standards regulating what kindergarten looks like

Next, the group explored possible next steps they could take to start working to break down barriers—a large part of the conclusion was that the group needed data before they could set goals. Data helps provide a case as to what is and is not working and allows us to measure any efforts we choose to pursue in the future.

The group felt it was important to focus on prenatal through third grade for now as they felt that would make the biggest difference if we can get kids started off on the right track.

1. Data Collection Ideas

- ECFE data on parenting skills
- Headstart data on progress being made for optimal development
- Art Rolnick on the impact of early childhood intervention and education for adulthood success
- School District Information—What are the school districts doing already?
- High School Graduation rates throughout Scott County
- Reach Out & Read—cost and outcomes of program
- Demographics of Scott county

Lastly, the group explored the idea that we probably can't fix the system all at once. What are some things we could pursue in order to move the overall ranking of the system up even just one notch?

1. Increase public awareness
2. Expand Reach Out & Read
3. More parent involvement—reduce the stigma of being involved in a program or receiving help
4. Access—transportation and affordability options
5. Building integrated program and connect together to share resources and help make process smoother
6. ECFE—explore having classes in different languages and bringing the program to where people are (churches, apartment buildings, libraries, etc.)
7. Mobile services/programs

Homework

Take some time before our next meeting to think about the following:

1. We need a co-chair for our group. If you are interested, contact Jen Schultz (jschultz@co.scott.mn.us) or Sarah Geffre (sgeffre@scottlib.org).
2. If you agreed to bring data at the meeting, please dig that out over the next few weeks and send to Sarah Geffre (sgeffre@scottlib.org) so that it can be compiled and sent out to the rest of the group.
 - Lynne Burke—Reach Out & Read
 - Kathy Busch and Lisa Von Bokern—Could you bring information related to Headstart?
 - Kim Latterner—Could you bring information related to ECFE?
 - Lisa Brodsky—resources for minor parents and home visiting programs for teens
 - Kami Thompson—Art Rolnick information
 - Jen Schultz—Can you invite Maureen Johnson from Cap Agency to join us?

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, August 23, 2016 from 5:30- 7:00 at the Prior Lake Library

Minutes taken by Sarah Geffre

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