



**Meeting Minutes – Educational Preparedness Working Group**

Date: September 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	
Carla Arrunategui		Candace Kragthorpe		Tamara Severtson	
Lynne Burke		Kim Latterner		Kami Thompson	X
Kathy Busch		Barbara Marschall	X	Lisa Von Bokern	
Mary Erickson		Ibrahim Mohamed			
Marie Johnson	X				

**Staff Members:**

Suzanne Arntson		Jake Grussing		Lisa Pollard	
Lisa Brodsky		Kristy Limberg	X	Jennifer Schultz	X
Sarah Geffre	X	Kari Ouimette		Tawnya Ward	X

**General Housekeeping**

- Kristy Limberg, Youth Services Librarian for Scott County Library, is attending in place of Lisa Pollard tonight.
- Reminder that the 50 by 30 website ([www.livelearnearn.org](http://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.

**Steering Committee Update**

The Steering Committee is still planning on a large group gathering in February where each group will report on the data they have collected and goals they have set. Most groups are on the same track as Education Preparedness Group.

The Steering Committee stressed the importance of making sure there is community engagement throughout the process.

## Scott County Update

None

### Two Passions Activity

At the August meeting, Kami had asked each member to think about two things they are passionate about and be prepared to talk about them at the September meeting. The idea behind the activity is to help put all of our most important passions up on the board to help the group pinpoint common passions to help provide direction to the group.

Roz felt the activity was really hard because each passion has several sub passions. Roz felt that access to quality childcare that is developmentally appropriate and priority towards early childcare (birth-5) as what happens early in life is impactful later in life were her two top passions.

Marie felt it was important to stress that kids learn wherever they are –relative’s house, out in the community, at home, etc. and wants to create opportunities for access. We are resource rich, but resources are often difficult to find.

Kristy felt that developmentally appropriate activities are important. She uses the Every Child Ready to Read curriculum as part of her work with the library and she enjoys connecting with five steps of learning (Talking, Singing, Reading, Writing, Playing) with parents/caregivers. She also believes that we need to create access to resources for people. If people are unable to get to the resource, how do we get the resources to them?

Todd felt that access to quality early learning in a diverse range of settings is important and exposure to language is very important for kids. It’s important parents and caregivers read, talk and spend time with their child.

Linda feels it is important that all students learn at a high level. It will look different for every student, but they should all be learning and that we need to help families, especially families who are too busy with work, activities, etc. and aren’t spending the time reading or talking to their child like the child needs.

Tawnya feels she contributes to the group by bringing an understanding of mental health to group discussions and that for parents who are struggling with mental illness, it is hard to be an effective parent.

Barb feels everything the group mentioned are important factors. It is difficult because parents who weren’t read to when they were children don’t see the importance or value in reading to their own children. Barb agrees that transportation is a problem because sometimes there is no way to find resources to connect too when you don’t have transportation.

All felt it was important to let kids be kids.

### Educational Preparedness Group Intentions Going Forward

Kami has been thinking a lot about ensuring the group is moving in a direction and not having meetings consumed with conversation rather than moving forward toward action, however, Kami wants to make sure all are involved in directing where the group is going so that it truly is a group effort.

One consistent thing we have all come back to in previous meetings was the importance of children being ready for kindergarten and reading at grade level by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Kami asked the group their thoughts about this being our broad, big picture goal.

However, ensuring kids are reading at grade level by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is still a very large, broad goal. Can we narrow the focus of the goal to ensuring kids are ready for kindergarten knowing that tackling this smaller goal plays into the larger goal? Can we break it down into further smaller goals?

Kami feels if the group can identify risks and children who are at risk, the earlier help is received the better the long term success of the children will be. Kami asked the group what their thoughts were for collecting data to start pinpointing possible risks or roadblocks children are facing—ex. Transportation, housing, mental health issues (or parents/caregivers with mental health issues), etc. and creating an intake evaluation system that can identify and track children who are at risk and provide the help and support they need.

Marie asked if we think about the 50 by 30 Initiative, who is our audience? Who are we creating the “product” for? Kids? Parents? What do we need in our county to keep/attract people? Do people move in or out because of our educational system?

Kami feels that with the goal of 2030, the work we do is not for kids who are currently at 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, but rather some type of larger goal/plan is in place by 2030 to help families of Scott County and to hopefully have a helpful impact to kids currently growing up along the way. The intake evaluation system could be a larger goal with many smaller goals along the way.

The group discussed how school districts and the state are moving towards assessment screening tools and the inability to help children if we can't identify who needs the extra help. We won't be able to catch every child to start, but it is better than doing nothing.

Roz and Marie pointed out that in home childcare providers may not be interested in performing an assessment. Often it is only one person and there is not enough time to assess kids or the provider may not feel that is a good use of their time to perform the assessment.

It was suggested we could start with early childhood screening since that is a screening already in place so that we wouldn't have to create a new assessment, however, Kristy pointed out that the children who don't come to early childhood screening are probably the ones who need help the most. How do we figure out who is not getting assessed?

Marie pointed out that we could pull a lot of information and a lot of studies about early childhood and the importance of language and reading to children.

The Talking is Teaching Campaign was mentioned. The campaign aimed at parents encourages parents to talk, sing and read to their children. It also encourages store clerks to interact with kids at stores, etc. The group liked that it would be an initiative that is accessible to all, low cost, and would also include Scott County businesses since it is important to have community involvement. The group also felt that by including businesses on smaller initiatives to start, they could build relationships so that the businesses are eventually brought into larger initiatives down the road.

Roz suggested another initiative could be to expand Reach Out and Read to all clinics in Scott County.

## 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 Kami Thompson ([priorlake@nhacademy.net](mailto:priorlake@nhacademy.net)), Jen Schultz ([jschultz@co.scott.mn.us](mailto:jschultz@co.scott.mn.us)) or Sarah Geffre ([sgeffre@scottlib.org](mailto:sgeffre@scottlib.org)).
2. Sarah Geffre will send out a list of committee members to the group. If you happen to know someone on the list that hasn't been coming to meetings, consider reaching out to them. It is possible that people felt lost or  
[Scott County is a place where people are stable, connected, educated, and contributing](#)

overwhelmed when the 50 by 30 Initiative started and now that the group has more direction, might feel like they can plug in more easily.

3. The Mobile Literacy Vehicle will be on the agenda for October. Think of different ways the vehicle could be used, features to consider for the vehicle itself, etc.

**Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 25, 2016 from 5:30- 7:00 at the Prior Lake Library**

Minutes taken by Sarah Geffre