



Meeting Minutes – Educational Preparedness Working Group

Date: May 23, 2017

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

Location: Prior Lake Library

Work Group Members:

Roz Addler		Marie Johnson	X	Tamara Severtson	X
Linda Anderson	X	Kim Latterner	X	Emily Skahen	
Kirt Briggs	X	Judy Mack	X	Kami Thompson	X
Lynne Burke		Julie Menden		Barb Weckman Brekke	
Kathy Busch	X	Todd Otis			

Staff Members:

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

Visitors: Kim Isley (New Prague School District), Patrick Glynn (Prior Lake-Savage School District), Karoline Warner (Prior Lake-Savage School District), Rebecca Richardson (Prior Lake-Savage School District), Jenna Eder (Jordan School District), Bonnie Brueshoff (Dakota County Public Health Director) and Connie Garling-Squire (South St. Paul School District).

General Housekeeping

- Reminder that 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).

Scott County Update

Jake Grussing, Troy Beam, and Aaron Kotila traveled to Wisconsin to work with LDV Inc. to design and spec the Early Learning Vehicle. A few final details need to be wrapped up before the order is placed. Once the order is placed it is approximately six months until delivery. Jake is also working with a committee from various departments about designing programs for the vehicle.

Steering Committee Update

Scott County is a place where people are stable, connected, educated, and contributing

The Steering Committee talked about developing a policy for letters of support or recommendation if a work group would like to move forward with an action plan. Points of measurement for action plans were also discussed.

It was suggested that chairs/co-chairs from workgroups also attend other workgroup meetings to ensure that better cross pillar communication is taking place.

The Steering Committee also appointed two co-chairs to the Steering Committee to replace Kathy Nielsen who has stepped into the role of Project Coordinator. The new co-chairs are Bob Coughlen and Michelle Choudek

Dakota County Presentation

Bonnie Brueshoff, Dakota County Public Health Director, and Connie Garling-Squire, South St. Paul School District, came to present to the Ed Prep group about the Birth to 8 Initiative that Dakota County has undertaken.

The Birth to 8 Initiative seeks to align essential service providers (county, school, non-profit organizations, etc.) together to assure children reach key developmental milestones and work collectively toward success.

The initiative started in 2014 when Kelly Harder attended the Harvard Think Tank. The idea was brought back to Dakota County where county staff, school districts and non-profits began to merge their efforts to help provide family supports. The initiative is not about more services, but about aligning and coordinating what is already in place.

Dakota County has ten school districts—four school districts were involved in the initial pilot project. The pilot project focused on residents who were receiving home visiting services from Dakota County Public Health, English Language Learners (ELL), and participants in Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

The initiative decided to focus on birth to age 8 as that is when a large part of brain development and skill development occurs and when there is the biggest return on investment. Research has shown that children who are not proficiently reading by the end of third grade are less likely to succeed in school and as adults which impacts employment opportunities and financial stability.

In their first year of the program (May 2016-May 2017), the birth to age 8 initiative has managed to secure grant funding for a project manager, established key benchmarks to measure healthy development and school readiness, had a successful WIC pilot project with the South St. Paul school district and is currently expanding, commitment to increase early childhood screenings by age 42 months, is applying for \$200,000 IT development and deployment of three projects, and developed collaboration consent.

The initiative is hopeful that funding for technology can be secured which would allow the project to share information between partners part of the Dakota County Birth to Age 8 Initiative, and possibly be able to share with other partners/initiative outside of Dakota County. The initiative also hopes to eventually be able to assign MARSS numbers to students who enter services so that they can be easily tracked if they move, between departments in Dakota County and Dakota County school districts, etc. A system will need to be developed, staff training, etc. before that happens.

Homework

Lisa Brodsky passed out a data sheet of Early Childhood Community engagement that was collected as part of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. A formal report will be released summer of 2017 and can be shared with the group. Ed Prep members should look over the sheet and be ready to discuss at the June meeting.

Next Meeting Date: June 27th, 2017 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at the Prior Lake Library. Minutes taken by Sarah Geffre