



Meeting Minutes – Educational Preparedness Working Group

Date: October 24, 2017

Time: 4:45-5:45 p.m.

Location: Scott County Government Center

Work Group Members:

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

Staff Members:

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

Visitors: None

Misc.

The meeting time and location for the October Educational Preparedness group was changed to accommodate the Scott County Health Care System Collaborative Community Engagement IZI being held at the Shakopee Community Center from 6-9 p.m. following the meeting. Several Educational Preparedness group members will be attending the IZI in relation to their day jobs and several others will be attending to experience an IZI as the upcoming 50 by 30 Community Engagement efforts will be based on the same model.

Due to the fourth Tuesday of December falling the day after Christmas, the December Educational Preparedness meeting has been moved to the third Tuesday of the month, December 19th. Sarah will send a placeholder to member's calendars due to the date change.

Project Updates

- **2018 Budget Requests**

50 by 30 is a SCALE initiative and SCALE is working on their 2018 budget. Although it is still very early in the action plan, if we can, it would be good to outline any upcoming project costs we anticipate. It was also pointed out that grant opportunities could be explored as several entities offer matching grants.

Jen suggested possibly thinking about if we need help accessing or finding research that directly correlates preschool screening to 3rd grade reading scores and/or preschool screening to kindergarten preparedness and kindergarten preparedness to third grade reading scores.

- **Legislative Priorities**

Based on our action plans, Kathy has asked if there are any legislative priorities we want considered as we move forward. Although not a direct legislative priority, Jen suggested that improving interagency agreements regarding data sharing would be helpful.

Action Reports From Workgroup Members

The group talked about the logic model Lisa Brodsky presented at the September meeting and while the group liked the big, overall plan, the group felt it was important to start small for now and take the project in manageable chunks.

At the September Educational Preparedness group meeting, Kathy Busch and Barb Weckman Brekke were going to gather information related to preschool screening and report back. More information will be brought to the November Educational Preparedness group meeting as Barb continues to connect with each school district and continues to gather data.

Kathy brought an example of an Early Childhood screening kit (MPSI instrument) for everyone to look at. There are several different types of Early Childhood screening instruments available to use, but the tests are very similar to allow the test results to be standardized. Early Childhood screening is the same as preschool screening, but is the more correct term to use.

Early Childhood screening consists of several components. There is typically a check of the child's vision, hearing, height, weight, large and small muscles and immunization record (or CO). The child also completes activities related to writing/copying, naming colors of blocks, doing activities with blocks, repeating simple sentences, completion of sentences, pointing to different body parts, matching shapes on paper, identifying letters on flash cards, sounds/rhymes/alliterations, counting and motor skills. The test is age adjusted depending on the age of the child. The entire screening process is often 30 minutes or less and is usually administered by a screener and a health staff person or nurse from the school district. A screener is trained to administer the test and is given a manual to refer to after the training. In order for the test to be a standardized experience, the screen administrator is required to do exactly what the training and manual instructs.

According to Minnesota State Statute, Early Childhood screening is required within 30 days after starting kindergarten if the child has not previously been screened. By law, a child must be screened within 45 calendar days of starting at Head Start. In Scott County, the school districts and Head Start are the only authorized screeners to administer Early Childhood Screenings. Head Start reports results to the school district. School districts get different amounts of money depending on the age of the child screened. The districts are not making money on Early Childhood screenings; rather, it is to help cover the cost of the screener. Head Start receives no funding for screening. Parents can consciously object to their child being screened. Parents may sometimes do this out of the fear that their child may be labeled. Parents often aren't aware that the Early Childhood screening is age adjusted. While researching screening, Kathy discovered that of

the parents who wait until their child is 4 to screen, many do so in hopes that the child is more likely to “pass” the screening. An awareness campaign surrounding more specific details and benefits to Early Childhood screening is a possible action item for the Educational Preparedness group.

A benefit of Early Childhood screening is that screening may uncover health or educational special needs for the child allowing them to be helped earlier. Early Childhood screening also gives parents the opportunity to connect with services if needed, as well as provide a gateway to the school district, connections, etc. The school district receives the advantage of knowing that child lives in the district reducing the number of kindergarten surprises.

Barb is working with the school districts in the county to gather information specific to the districts regarding their preschool screening process. She has heard from three districts so far and plans to finish connecting with the other districts over the next month. Barb will report back on all six districts at the November meeting.

School districts offer Early Childhood screening information on their website, but it is often difficult to find or has little information on the website about what the screening is, what the screening covers, benefits of the screening, etc. Interpreters are available if requested. School district screening staff would be willing to come to registration night at childcare centers and bring laptops to help parents schedule screening appointments on the spot.

The group agreed that focusing on screening is a good first goal. Some questions that emerged include:

Of the children who were kindergarten surprises, how many children were screened in the district vs. moved in after they were screened elsewhere (or were never screened)?

Can clinics perform Early Childhood screening? If so, is it one of the screening instruments that is approved by the MDE? If so, do districts receive results? How? Is this true for Scott County or outside Scott County only?

Homework

1. If you have ideas for 2018 budget requests or legislative priorities, email Jen and Sarah.
2. Barb will continue to gather information regarding preschool screening and the districts in Scott County
3. If you think of additional questions that Kathy and Barb should research, let them know

Next Meeting Date: November 28, 2017 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. at the Prior Lake Library.

Minutes taken by Sarah Geffre