



Meeting Minutes – Educational Preparedness Working Group

Date: March 28, 2017

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

Location: Prior Lake Library

Work Group Members:

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

Staff Members:

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

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). This is a great resource for seeing what the other groups are doing.

Introductions

We have a couple of new people on the Educational Preparedness Working Group.

Judy Mack, resident, switched from the Transportation work group. Julie Menden from Shakopee Public Schools and Kirt Briggs, Mayor of Prior Lake, will also be joining the group. Kirt has agreed to be co-chair for the group.

Kathy Nielsen is visiting the group tonight.

Scott County Update

The mobile library vehicle is moving forward with beginning talks about purchasing. The purchasing process will be lengthy.

Steering Committee Update

Kathy Nielsen has recently been hired as the 50 by 30 Project Coordinator. The Steering Committee will be looking for a new chair. The Steering Committee meeting was focused on discussing the retreat.

Recap Retreat and Questions From the Retreat

Following the retreat, Kami was curious how table discussions went at the retreat. Copies of notes from the retreat from all tables were passed out and everyone was given a chance to review the notes.

Linda felt that a lot of people still have questions. Several questions were asked during the presentation at the retreat and it felt like there could be even more.

Todd's table talked about shifting focus of the 50 by 30 effort from silo efforts based on issues to a focus on demographics. He particularly would like to see the project focus on young families to start. A family friendly Scott County would be a good draw for people to want to live and work in Scott County.

Lisa said that poverty is a demographic and that children who live in poverty don't perform as well academically. Expanding maternity leave to one year could also improve children's reading scores as countries who have longer maternity leaves tend to have children who perform better. Although a difficult issue, we have a lot of big businesses in Scott County. It was pointed out that big businesses are not at the table and would be good to consider bringing in at some point.

Marie's table talked about the cost of childcare. Will there be enough childcare available in 20 years? Does the issue of cost of childcare reside with this workgroup or with the Workforce workgroup? Is it better as a cross pillar connection between the Educational Preparedness and the Workforce work groups?

Kami explained that the childcare costs information included in the presentation was new information that the Educational Preparedness group didn't have a chance to review prior to the retreat due to meeting schedules, however, it is very relevant to the 50 by 30 effort as cost of housing, transportation, etc. is also factored in.

Lisa's table talked about whether there is information or statistics that show children in childcare read at a higher level than kids who are not in childcare. Where are the parents? The table felt the focus was on improving 3rd grade reading skills and isn't sure the childcare cost issue fits that goal.

Jennifer pointed out that the age of 0-3 is critical in a child's life and that kids are being cared for by someone—whether it be a childcare center, in-home care, parents, family, friends, etc. Childcare settings could help us frame our discussion about where are the kids? Where is our population that doesn't read at grade level by 3rd grade being cared for when they are younger? It could help us focus our efforts if we know where the majority of kids are early in their life.

Marie agrees that childcare setting might allow us to focus our efforts and find the kids we need to target when we get to solutions state. What care settings are they in? Is it all over or is it predominately one setting?

Kami pointed out that interest in childcare settings is a relatively new concept in the field and there isn't a lot of historical information to draw from. Todd referred to several studies that show children in accredited centers are more

ready for kindergarten than the state average and perform remarkably better in all five domains of language/literacy, social/emotional, arts, health/physical and cognitive. A University of Minnesota study showed the correlation of kids ready for kindergarten performing at or above grade level by third grade.

Kami, Kirt, Jen and Sarah met with Prior Lake school district recently to discuss the preschool screening process and see if the schools collect data about care settings prior to attending school. The information surrounding childcare settings the schools collect is voluntary and often not answered accurately (ex. Kids could be in two-three different care settings prior to entering school, but only one is mentioned).

Todd has been on a committee with Hennepin County looking at preschool screening for the last 5 years. He is happy to try and have someone from the committee come to present to the Educational Preparedness group about the Hennepin County committees discussions, findings, etc. so far. Jennifer asked what do we know about kids who are not screened or screened late? The data is hard to obtain. Childcare setting could help provide a framework for our discussions and help us “find” our kids.

Lisa pointed out that quality comes at a cost. Is the issue childcare or access to basic needs (health care services, food, etc.)? Multiple studies show that reading to kids has the biggest impact no matter what setting they are located in.

Kami reminded everyone that resources are available to help afford childcare.

Suzanne recently heard that the Dakota County pilot project is gaining traction in the house and senate. It might be worthwhile to see if they will come and present to the Educational Preparedness group. Marie is also interested in what Dakota County is doing. Why recreate the wheel if what they are doing works?

It was decided the group would like to hear from Dakota County about the pilot program they have been implementing over the last year. It will also provide an opportunity to invite school representatives to come and hear the presentation and connect with the Educational Preparedness group as we will need their input and perspective going forward.

The group will think about when they might want the Hennepin County committee looking at preschool screening to come and present. Jake also mentioned that if the group were to find it beneficial, a conference call with Merita could also be scheduled. The group will think about options moving forward.

Homework

Lisa Brodsky and Suzanne Arntson will work on scheduling Dakota County to come and present to the Educational Preparedness group about the pilot program Dakota County is implementing.

Next Meeting Date: April 25th, 2017 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at the Prior Lake Library

Minutes taken by Sarah Geffre