

Childhood Readiness and Success Team Notes – January 10, 2011



Team Goal: In Carroll County, all children are ready for Kindergarten and achieve at or above grade level success by the end of third grade.

Attendance: Shawna Puglia, Susan Wiley, Howard Cunningham, Carol DeLaurier, Cyndi Paulin (Jay McIntire, Jen Karnopp had time conflicts)

Next Meetings: Wednesday, February 16; Monday, March 14; Wednesday, April 13. Meetings will be at Tri-County CAP 6:00-7:30 pm.

- Team focused on Watch Me Grow, what information we have back from the school surveys and any critical gaps, the Kindergarten Readiness workshops as well as the Education Excellence Coalition forming in Mt. Washington Valley.

Watch Me Grow – the team would definitely like to support expanding the use of the Watch Me Grow universal screening tool throughout the county. Need to connect directly with Jackie Sparks before team goes too far.

Ideas:

- Are the brochures in the new parent packets at the hospitals? Shawna will check.
- Child Find is a good time to give information to parents – Susan will check on Child Find dates.
- Do they need any volunteers trained?
- Are there any existing barriers beyond time and funding resources? Is there ‘competition’ from existing programs in other areas of the county that are doing something different already or are people likely to want to collaborate? This team could host a meeting with the various childcare centers or others if needed.
- Could another childcare center do the assessments as well and then pass on the data or would they need to have someone from Children’s Unlimited there?
- Other places already doing some sort of early intervention or early screening:
 - VNA’s
 - Well child clinics
 - White Mt. Community Health Center
 - Wolfboro Area Children’s Center
 - Northern Human Services – Family Centered Early Supports and Services
 - Head Start

Other discussion:

What we would like to see in the end?

- All children access to screening
- Children who need early intervention or supports receiving services
- One place (in their community) for parents to go for screening

There can be huge variations in interpretations in existing screenings (formal or informal) at physicians’ offices, well-child visits, etc. Some would not suggest formal screening or intervention unless they observed a child “way out of the average range”, others prefer to respond sooner so kids aren’t left to fall way far behind before taking a closer look; the idea that children will come along if left alone can be taken to the extreme.

School Surveys – where are we:

We are still missing all of SAU 13. Susan Wiley will check in with Jay McIntire. Howard is willing to go and visit schools in person. Also, check to see who Bill Arnold has connected with and what progress he had made since he had been working with those schools. We still don't have anything back from Bartlett either; Shawna will follow up with them.

The information we are missing probably won't change overall direction but it will help the team to look at specific strategies that are needed in various areas of the county. So far we can see there are huge variations between schools in percentages of kids who have a preschool experience and those who don't which means different strategies to reach kids and families will be needed in different areas of the county.

Kindergarten Readiness Trainings –

The trainings are postponed and we hope to schedule soon. The trainer is submitting her credentials to the state in order to be an approved trainer so that the workshops will count toward the provider's annually required continuing education hours. This would greatly increase the appeal of attendance since childcare providers mandated education hours have increased.

Mt. Washington Valley Coalition for Educational Excellence

Jen Karnopp and David Rudewick (Team 2) went to the meeting. There were about 100 people (businesses, parents, administrators, etc.) and a general agreement that they valued and desired educational excellence. They are still at the beginning of deciding direction and seem more focused (at least initially) on the high school level. Jen did outreach to Dr. Badger and she suggest that we connect with them and think about where our efforts might be combined. The team agreed that it makes a great deal of sense to connect with them, pay attention to what they are doing and see how we might support them, etc. Right now it might make sense to have Team 2 most directly involved and keep an eye on where it might make sense for Team 1 to jump in.

From the coalition's Facebook Page:

Mission:

- To promote educational excellence in the Mount Washington Valley; such that all students' educational needs are fulfilled, and they have access to the most competitive post-secondary school opportunities.
- To promote a reputation for educational excellence as a critical element of our community's economic viability; specifically as it impacts business development and retention, sustained property values, and social diversity.

Tasks

Task	Who
Contact Jay McIntire re: surveys from SAU 13	Susan Wiley
Check in with Bill Arnold & go to SAU 13 schools if needed	Howard Cunningham
Follow up with Bartlett	Shawna Puglia
Find out if Watch Me Grow is in going home packet for new Moms at Memorial	Shawna Puglia
Child find dates	Susan Wiley
# kids born in Carroll County	Carol DeLaurier (done!)
Meet with either Barbara Ross or Jackie Sparks	Carol DeLaurier & Cyndi Paulin
Call licensing for licensed childcare list in Carroll County	Cyndi
Wakefield town newsletter contact info	Carol DeLaurier (done!)

Other

Wakefield has town newsletter – these types of publications can be a good way to reach out in communities.

Prescription Pads – Susan shared they used to have prescription pads with check boxes for items such as screening or parent education that physicians or others could use to ask parents to do specific things.