

## Childhood Readiness and Success Team Notes – February 16, 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: Howard Cunningham, Nancy Coville, Cyndi Paulin (Carol DeLaurier, Jen Karnopp, Susan Wiley, Shawna Puglia had time conflicts)

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

- Team focused on adopting a description of Kindergarten readiness, Watch Me Grow, and a potential communication about elementary schools making progress even while poverty rates have increased.
- The team also followed up on the school surveys and the Kindergarten Readiness workshops.

**Watch Me Grow** – the team agreed it makes sense to start with priority actions that can potentially reach the most children in the areas that currently have the fewest number of students accessing pre-school.

- The group would like to start with Wakefield, learn from that experience and make final decision on the next school(s)/town(s) to prioritize.
- Cyndi is meeting with Penny Ellis from Wakefield next week and will find out more about potential partners, key contacts to work with.
- Carol DeLaurier, Susan Willey, Jen Karnopp and Nancy Coville are all willing to be training to administer Watch Me Grow. It would be helpful to also identify a person or two from Wakefield who is also interested to have a local resource for the Wakefield community.
- Team members are also willing to help pass out Watch Me Grow brochures in their communities.

### **Kindergarten readiness – working definition**

- The team began with the description of Kindergarten readiness that they had looked at late fall that members really liked and made minor adjustments.
- It was important to members at both meetings that it include not just ready children but also ready families, ready schools and ready communities since a multipronged approach is needed to help children be most successful.
- Likewise, members liked that the indicators were written in a clear way with little jargon so that they would make sense to parents as well as educators.
- The intent is to use this as a base to guide the teams actions.

### **School Surveys – where are we:**

Howard has met with guidance counselor at Brett school and is waiting for information back from her. He is willing to also meet with Madison and Freedom. No word yet from Shawna re: Bartlett.

### **Elementary School's progress –**

The team reviewed statistical information that staff gathered that shows the county trends for the NECAPs taken in third grade for reading proficiencies show an overall improving trend since 2005/06 even while the economic data shows that life has become harder for families and children since there is also an upward trend in free and reduced lunch participation. In 2005 there were 6 schools with 30% or

higher participation in free and reduced lunch and in the fall of 2009 there were 10. Likewise we went from 2 to 3 schools that had 50% or more participation. Staff will update this information for 2010 and also look at the Grade 4 NECAPS which would reflect end of third grade reading proficiencies, the benchmark the team is interested in.