

Childhood Readiness and Success Team Notes
July 13, 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: Nancy Coville, Carol DeLaurier, Howard Cunningham, Karen Gerdts, Ed Labonville, Cyndi Paulin and guest Janine Lesser (TANF Program Specialist, Division Family Assistance, DHHS).

Decisions

- To stay aware of the progress of the 35% Gap Initiative
- The goal for the fall gathering is to build common understanding with ECE and Kindergarten teachers about Kindergarten Readiness, increase awareness of the high level of common concern and the will to work together through highly interactive World Café format. Also, provide “take aways” for participants.
- Look at visiting PTA’/PTO’s in the fall.

Discussion

June Forum Feedback

- Good energy and great questions and input.
- Group should reach out more to parents. PTA’s and PTO’s would be a great way.
- Appreciated interest from John Malm (United Way board member) and feedback about being clearer about the groups purpose.

Fall gathering

- Invitation – include why (what we’ve learned from the school survey, Train the Trainer workshops)
- Looking at last week of September. 6:00-7:30 pm with food and networking at 5:30 pm.
- Location: Runnells Hall is first choice
- “Take-aways” for participants. Karen Gerdts can provide “Help-Check-Praise” clips. Put notecards in them. Karen will draft message for front and we’ll put CCU Childhood Readiness Team info on the back. An, additional idea is to provide a deck of cards with games that can be played at home and possibly a set of dice or cubes.

Parents served in Carroll County as a result of the spring “Train the trainer” workshops. Karen Gerdts reported that many of the attendees from the Train the Trainer presentations followed up with activities with parents. Together they hosted workshops for and/or did home visits with parents in Madison, Wakefield, Moultonborough, Conway, Tamworth and Interlakes this spring with 117 kits handed out to parents (70 in Carroll County). There are some additional workshops planned for the fall. Karen has committed 50 additional kits to Carroll County. Cyndi will email the attendees to let them know.

- The Parent Information Center funding has been cut and they are trying to figure out how to keep Karen on after the end of October.

Committed to Do:

Howard, Carol, Ed & Cyndi to meet to work on fall gathering format on July 29 at 10:00 am. All welcome!

Karen will send #s regarding parents reached as a result of train the trainer session hosted by CCU. ✓

Email Train the Trainer attendees to let them know there are 50 kits available for fall presentations. ✓

- Karen is working with Tri-County Head Start to incorporate teaching parents about Kindergarten Readiness and Language and Literacy into their curriculum and home visits. She will be training the folks who haven't already been trained.

35% Gap Initiative Presentation – a plan to address the chronic 35% gap between the child care fees that parents pay and what quality child care costs. The goal is to create a fund with 70% of resource raised at the state level and 30% raised local that centers that meet quality standards and serve all families (sliding fee scale) can tap into to close their budget gaps. The vision is to create Regional Childcare Councils that would help raise the community profile of childcare and help with the fund; modeled after N. Carolina Smart Start and the Regional Coordinating Councils for transportation in NH. Presented by Janine Lesser, TANF Program Specialist.

Some Facts & NH landscape

- TANF block grant has historically been a significant source of childcare funding. The amount available has decreased over the past 15 years and continues to decline.
- Currently, centers make up 35% gap by fundraising, low staff salaries, deferring building maintenance, reducing programming materials, etc.
- Childcare is fundamental to family development and community development. It supports workforce development for two generations. ECE is part of sustainable community
- Positive outcomes for kids linked to parents' ability to make a living and Mom's education level.
- Understanding has grown about how chronic stress negatively impacts children's development
- \$1 invested yields \$10-14 avoidance of down-stream costs (education costs, juvenile programs, prisons, etc.)
- NH ECE rivals economic output of recreation industry. As many jobs and similar economic output (NH Employment Svs., EMLB – labor market research)
- In travels around state, see Carroll County has higher community engagement around early childhood issues.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, Aug 10 – 6:00-7:30 pm at Tri-County CAP