

Childhood Readiness and Success Team Notes – September 15, 2010

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: Carol DeLaurier, Howard Cunningham, Nancy Coville, Karen Gerdts, Cyndi Paulin
(Communicated unable to attend: Jen Karnopp, Bob Gadomski, Jay McIntire, Shawna Puglia)

Information gathering from schools

- The team finalized the questions that they will ask the schools at this time. They agreed they do not want to overwhelm schools with questions and decided some could be asked down the road. They removed questions that don't need to be asked at this time and adjusted wording to be as clear as possible.
- The team will reach out to fellow members Jay McIntire and Bob Gadomski to see if they can gather the information from the schools in their districts (some information they have gathered already) and to Mike Lancor from the steering committee for Moultonborough for starters with team members following up as needed and also reaching out to the other districts.
- Karen Gerdts offered to reach out to Wakefield and Jen Karnopp offered to reach out to either Bartlett or John Fuller.

Outreach & Conference Call:

- The team will hold a conference call with two other counties (initially) to learn more about their education efforts, especially around increasing children's success in the early grades by addressing school readiness, etc. using a coordinated regional approach. The team's preference is to schedule it on their next meeting date (October 13). The call will include Irma Brooks from Decatur/Macoun County, IL and Susan Ferguson from Shelby County, IN answering the team's questions about their efforts and lessons learned. *(The call is set for October 13 at 5:00 pm).*
- The team's goal is to include as many team members as possible at a central location so we can follow up the call with a team discussion. Members who can't physically get to the meeting but have time to join us by phone will be welcome to do so. Team 2 members are also invited to participate.
- Karen Gerdts offered to be a link with Manchester so the team can hear more about how the efforts are progressing there. They have spent the past year on a definition of school readiness; Karen shared a DRAFT of their work. She also shared a sample kit that a school or community effort might provide to parents to engage with their child in activities that will help him/her be more 'ready for school'.

Existing screening efforts:

Carol continues to gather information on Watch Me Grow and is attending their Stakeholders meeting on September 24th and will bring what she learns back to the group.

Other information/announcement:

- Karen Gerdts believes that the Parent Information Center has some funds available that they could use to support pieces that Team 1 might produce (ex: materials for parents or materials about the definition of being ready for Kindergarten, etc.). Karen will check with her director and get back to the team.

- Carol shared that Laura Knoy's recent piece on The Exchange, "Are Our High Schools Preparing Students for College?" had ties back to the work that Team 1 is focusing on. Here is the link to listen or print the transcript <http://nhpr.org/are-our-high-schools-preparing-students-college#>.
- The MWV Children's Museum will host the second annual "**Come Play With Me!**" **Early Childhood Conference**, Saturday, September 25, 2010 at Kennett Senior High School, in North Conway, NH. The conference features a number of sessions covering many aspects of early childhood education, and will draw dozens of educators and interested individuals from across the region. For more information about the "Come Play With Me!" Early Childhood Conference or to register, please visit www.mwvchildrensmuseum.org and click on "Special Services".
- The team noted that their action plan needs to be updated.

Next meetings: October 13 at 5:00 pm for conference call (location TBA) and November 17, 6:00-7:30 Bearcamp Valley School