

**SKAMANIA AND KLICKITAT COUNTY EARLY LEARNING COALITION
SUMMIT
May 22, 2008**

Notes from Afternoon Plenary Session

Coalition, Summit and Work Group notes will be posted on the Community Network's website:
www.community.gorge.net/skcnparentsupport

Summit Work groups being convened in June are as follows:

- **Parent Information and Support:** Thursday, **June 12**, 12 noon, Pioneer Center in White Salmon (convenor: Ginger Plum, gingerp@co.klickitat.wa.us).
- **Early Care and Education:** Tuesday, **June 24**, 9 - 11 am, White Salmon Head Start (convenor: Trina Anderson, weecare@gorge.net)
- **School Readiness:** Monday, **June 23**, 10 am at White Salmon Library (convenor: TBA)

Each Work Group member is urged to identify a parent and invite their participation at Work Group meetings.

Planning for September 18 Summit:

- Testimonials. It was proposed that the "testimony" of parents and/or children be incorporated as part of the Summit program.
- Panel of Investors. A panel of potential investor's in the Coalition's program work will be invited. Potential panel members are the Department of Early Learning (Jone Bosworth; being invited by Karri Livingston and Lorena Lowell); Thrive By Five (Graciela Italiano-Thomas; being invited by Lorena Lowell); Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (a Foundation representative to be invited by Lorena Lowell); OSPI (a staff member who also serves on the DEL Early Learning Advisory Committee); and a Legislator (possibly Rep. Bruce Chandler, R-Granger).

The draft Vision Statement was adopted as presented:

In Skamania and Klickitat counties our youngest children are valued, nurtured and prepared for success in school and life by community investment in early learning.

PARENT INFORMATION AND SUPPORT SMALL GROUP

May 22, 2008

ACTION STRATEGY:

Conduct a Public Awareness Campaign that has the following elements:

- ✍ Electronic screen “reader board” (resources identified - Ads, PSAs, located throughout the community site, waiting rooms, Emergency Rooms, library, McDonalds, DSHS, banks, courthouse)
- ✍ Clear compelling message (bumpersticker): Born Learning (?)
- ✍ Promote community resources
- ✍ Reach public and key stakeholders
- ✍ Disseminate information
- ✍ Product - branding

Build relationships

Key stakeholders/resources:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| ➤ Chamber of Commerce / business | Churches |
| ➤ Service Clubs (Kiwanis, Soroptimist) | Local governments |
| ➤ School Board / PTO/As, Administration | Horizons groups |
| ➤ Media | Child Care Resource and Referral |

What is accomplished by Fall 2009?

- All communities/parents will have heard the early learning message
- Comprehensive parenting-early learning resource list (product) (family vs. agency friendly)
- Increased media presence (regular “town crier”)
- (Health mobile) (Pediatrician)

FIRST MEETING OF WORK GROUP: June 12, 12 noon

Attending: Ginger, P, Karrie L, Shirley D, Kim O, Johanna R

Identified Needs that informed the Action Strategy chosen:

- Information and who to go to
- How to access information and resources
- Transportation and costs (isolation, distance to services)
- Financial challenges for families - meet needs
- Consistent message of where to go (all providers say the same thing)
- Clearinghouse
- Services for parents with mental health challenges
- 1:1 peer contact (parents to parents in communities)
- Isolation
- Community outreach
- Home visiting

Resources:

Skamania Family to Family	Mentoring
Service organizations	Faith community
Schools	

Ideas: Blog

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION SMALL GROUP

May 22, 2008

Action Strategies - in order of Priority

1) Assessment / Transition to School

Action Strategy: Identifying a bilingual Developmental Tool for Early Childhood (age 0 to 5) to be implemented community wide by September 2009.

- Tool could be a portfolio or an existing tool (e.g., ASQ)
- Stakeholders to contact: OSPI, DEL, Thrive By 5 (they have been directed by legislature to identify a potential common Kindergarten assessment method/tool)

2) Staff Training / Networking

Action Strategy: Develop/coordinate current resources towards a more effective, integrated system of professional development that utilizes onsite followup and mentoring

3) Cost of Care

Action Strategy: Develop a unified statement regarding community concerns of cost of care to present to policymakers

- Issues: Subsidy payments, Sliding Scale fees
- Identify key legislators (Rep. Bruce Chandler, R-Granger)

Additional Notes from earlier in the discussion: (indicates # of dots)

(19) Assessment and Transition to School

(10) Assessment

- Documentation of child's learning
- Portfolio development
- Ages and Stages Questionnaire / ASQ-SE
- Developmental delay assessments

(9) Transition to school (Jackie Brock as a resource)

- School readiness / link with schools / meetings with schools / transition teams
- Team meetings/CC R and R
- Packets
- "Roundup" - involve more partners

After hours care / sick care

(15) Staff Training and Networking

(9) Staff Training - Onsite

- Close at 3 pm for 2 hour training or a 2 hour training at 6 pm
- STARS qualified
- 1 hour training / monthly
- Measure impact of training / Implementation
- Mentoring onsite followup
- Technical Assistance

(6) Networking (rotate site visits / training)

(12) Cost of Care

- Subsidy / eligibility contract
- Private pay - sliding scale fees - gather info (United Way)
- Quality rating system

(10) Parent Resources

- Website / information (7) Networking (3)

(1) Licensed care supported by community

SCHOOL READINESS SMALL GROUP

May 22, 2008

Action Strategy:

Increase public awareness on School Readiness

- Kindergarten expectations
- A set of information on Kindergarten readiness (like the SELF brochure)
- Early Learning Fair
- Opportunities for parents to learn how to teach and support their children (including family, friends and neighbors)
- Disseminate FEL's "Getting School Ready" pamphlet
- Rural outreach conducted by parent mentors

Additional Notes from earlier in the discussion:

- (10) Public awareness
- (6) Kindergarten expectations (public awareness)
- (5) Pre school fair (early learning fair)
- (4) Pre-K assessment / screening
- (4) Socializing children to public school
- (3) Play groups (play and learn groups)
- (3) Balance bilingual/bicultural
- (3) Ease anxiety of transition
- (2) Outreach for FFN and Family child care
- (1) Survey families at Kindergarten
- (1) Referral for children not developmentally ready for Kindergarten
- Support for families
- Parenting skills and attitudes
- Linkage between early learning and Kindergarten
- Teach pre-parents about early learning and life skills
- More services for children age 0 to 5
- School readiness - research
- Referrals to early learning community by professionals (doctors, police, faith based)
- Jumpstart
- Clear expectations
- In schools (0 to 5) reading programs
- Transportation
- Home schools