

ELEMENT FOUR / EARLY CHILDHOOD GROUP

Members present: Nicole White, Ulrike Kaufman, Stacy Loudermilk, Sally Pritchard, Rick Phillips, Nikki Easterling, Kelly Calligan, Patt Earley, Lily Baldwin, Tammie Shaw, Lee Williams, Deitra Miller, Mary Schauer, Kris Miller, Sandra Szambelan, Kim Lyman

New: Michelle Fulton, Kim Lyman, Mina Smith, Camille Paras

SS/HS Grant Reporting Required Objectives:

Goal: Improve outreach and identification of children birth through age five and provide culturally responsive training to increase family access and engagement to high quality early childhood psychosocial and emotional development services

Objective 1: Increase access of children birth through age five to early childcare and education

Objective 2: Improve parents and caregivers understanding of positive parenting and family management that is culturally responsive

Objective 3: Provide outreach to county pre-schools, childcare providers, and early childhood programs

Agenda Item: DECA Project Update

Related Grant Objective: #2, #3

<i>Needs Related to the Grant Goals</i> <i>Issues that must be resolved so you can reach program objectives</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that element group members have current information as to the status of DECA project • Identify DECA project progress in regards to the various aspects of implementation • Continue to identify and address barriers or challenges to planning, training, and implementation • Continue to identify strategies to address DECA project sustainability to ensure services to early childhood community once SSHS grant concludes

Activities <i>Actions, plans, meetings, discussions, etc., that this element or it's members have had that resulted that resulted</i>	Accomplishments <i>What this element or it's members did as a result of the activity or what barriers that this element or it's members</i>	Outcomes <i>What happened as a result of the accomplishment or what people do as a result of the accomplishment</i>

<i>in some sort of strategy or plan to address the need</i>	<i>had to overcome to use this strategy</i>	
Nicole White provided an update on DECA project including responding to questions, concerns, and ideas from the element group members	Element group members actively engaged in discussion, including asking questions, providing ideas/input, and voicing potential concerns	
<p>Discussion A: Next DECA Basic Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next series of DECA Basic Training has been scheduled for two different dates. Participants can chose either the Friday/Friday series (scheduled mainly for school staff) or the Saturday/Saturday series (scheduled mainly for child care providers): Day One – (Friday) February 9th or (Saturday) February 10th. Day Two – (Friday) March 16th or (Saturday) March 17th. • Friday series - Thirty-four confirmed for training – currently have six slots open. Saturday series – Sixteen confirmed for training – currently have 18 slots open • Target for providers recruitment for this training is “in-home family providers” However, if slots are not filled, will open training up to other providers, center providers, etc. • Reminder – DECA training is free to participants, STARS hours provided (also at no cost) and SSSH grant will also help centers/schools with DECA materials and kit. <p>Discussion B: Strategies for keeping DECA participants connected, following utilization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize LPM’s (Local Program Mentors) for a piece of ongoing connection / networking- First LPM meeting for newly trained LPM’s (previously trained LPM’s also invited to attend) • School staff participants – Spokane Public Schools leadership is on board with DECA project – see the benefits of using information we already get from HeadStart. Eary Childhood Coordinators from Titled schools are attending upcoming DECA training. DECA project is becoming more part of the “school conversations” <p>Discussion C: Local Program Mentors (LPM) Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eleven mentors trained at recent DECA training • First LPM meeting on February 2nd at St. Anne’s. Meeting will discuss several topics including asking 1) What are you (LPM) doing in your center, your LPM role? 2) Do you have availability? • Identify In Home Family Providers that could be trained and serve as LPM’s (possibly at next Early Childhood Mtg) <p>Discussion D: DECA –IT (Infant / Toddler)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is scheduled to be released February 2007 • Will be a one day training – looking at the end of April or beginning of May • Nicole White will work with element group to set up / schedule training 		
Action Item:		



Other Issues/Concerns/Updates:

- Continue meetings monthly or move to every other month?

- Element group members voted to continue monthly meetings for several reasons including maintaining consistency, element group input on no-cost extension application process
- SSHS Grant Initiative Update
 - Will apply for no cost extension
 - Focus of this element will be on parent education component and goals.
 - Importance of parent engagement, group may need to help “redefine” parent education
- “County Wide Outreach”
 - This element (Early Childhood) is not bound to or limited to providing services/resources to participating districts – can provide resources/materials/services to county wide



Resources/Ideas:

1. National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center
NETAC: <http://www.nectas.unc.edu/default.asp>
2. Bright Futures
www.brightfutures.org
 - Good resources for families
 - Has social/emotional checklists and packets (free)
 - Section – “What to expect, When to seek help” as well as pocketbook for child exams
3. Safe Schools, Healthy Students website
www.safehealthystudents.org
4. Talaris “Parenting Counts”
 - SPS is working on licensing agreement with Talaris to reproduce some select materials for one year
 - Still pending approval
 - Materials that have been selected are
 - Parenting Counts – 10 Tips
 - Bookmarks – Birth to 5 years “Reading Tips”
 - “What am I feeling?” Five steps to emotion coaching booklet
 - “Speaking Parentese”
 - “Keep Talking” language development
 - Who will receive materials?
 - Childcare providers
 - Community (library or WIC offices)
 - Parents
 - Look into high school “child development classes”



Hand Outs Distributed:

- Meeting agenda

NEXT MEETING: February 20, 2007 12:noon Lindaman's Building