

ELEMENT FOUR / EARLY CHILDHOOD GROUP

Members present: Nicole White, Stacy Loudermilk, Laurie Bradford, Mary Schauer, Sally Pritchard, Wendy Bleecker, Lee Williams, and Nikki Easterling

*New:*

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

Related Grant Objective: # 2 and # 3

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

<b>Activities</b> <i>Actions, plans, meetings, discussions, etc., that this element or it’s members have had that resulted that resulted in some sort of strategy or plan to address the need</i>	<b>Accomplishments</b> <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 had to overcome to use this strategy</i>	<b>Outcomes</b> <i>What happened as a result of the accomplishment or what people do as a result of the accomplishment</i>
Nicole White provided an update on DECA project	Element group members actively engaged in discussion,	

including responding to questions and concerns from the element group members	including asking questions and voicing potential concerns	Element group members identified an outline of the roles and responsibility of LPM's for Spring training
<p><u>Discussion A: DECA and DECA-C Training</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants for upcoming DECA-C training have been identified <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Early HeadStart</li> <li>○ Children's Home Society</li> <li>○ All SPS school psychologists</li> <li>○ SSSH Mental Health Therapists</li> <li>○ ESD 101 staff</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Second half of DECA Training on Saturday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Extra center staff attending this training (staff are using DECA and had 1st half of training at previous dates). Staff are coming from centers that are currently utilizing the DECA. Feel it's important to support those centers.</li> <li>○ Will be approximately 36-38 participants at 2<sup>nd</sup> half of training</li> <li>○ Rachael Sperry will be trainer (same as 1<sup>st</sup> half)</li> <li>○ In second half, will address time mgmt strategies for implementing and using the DECA at centers</li> <li>○ Important to address time issue. Looking at how much time teachers spend per day one addressing behavior issues vs. finding the time for using the DECA observation tool</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Looking at dates for Second DECA training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Have identified February 9<sup>th</sup> / 10<sup>th</sup> or March 23<sup>rd</sup> / 24<sup>th</sup> as potential Spring training dates</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>Discussion B: Local Program Mentors (LPM's)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nicole White now has current list of area LPM's</li> <li>• Training additional area LPM's has been identified as an important strategy for sustaining the DECA project. Also important for building DECA project capacity in the community</li> <li>• Plan to add 5-6 people to area LPM at Spring DECA training</li> <li>• LPM training is a 2 day, 12 hour course. Costs about \$550.00 per person</li> <li>• Looking into a Friday / Saturday combination for LPM training</li> <li>• How does the Early Childhood Group see the LPM role being utilized? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Before staff/people are identified for Spring LPM training – Important to have a discussion around <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Commitment (Discuss expectations up front)</li> <li>▪ Plan of Action</li> <li>▪ How would LPM be accessed</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ LPM Geographical Representation: Maybe have LPM serve certain geographical areas (North, Valley, Downtown, South, County)</li> <li>○ Wait on more specifics for the “plan of action” for LPM role until after 2<sup>nd</sup> half of DECA training, staff are identified, etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>Discussion C: DECA Project and School District Staff</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There has been some movement around school staff and DECA but not quite there yet</li> <li>• School district will not have a LPM support person at Spring training session (no eligible staff at this time, have not attended the DECA training)</li> <li>• Ongoing challenges with school staff and DECA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Special education departments feel stretched thin</li> <li>○ Serving large percentage of student population right now, see this tool as potential to increase referrals for special education services</li> <li>○ Ongoing emphasis on academics through WASL, not able to absorb additional</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

tools/training right now

- Having success stories and narratives about the DECA will likely help to address some of those challenges
- At the county level – Nicole White has made a connection with Riverside School District’s Mother’s Group (through Janet Kemp)

**Discussion D:** DECA – IT (Infant/Toddler Version)

- Should be out and available very soon
- Infant version 0-18 months
- Toddler 18-36 months
- SPS will purchase at least one copy once it is available and will bring to group to review
- Will allow this element group to use the DECA tool to address the full birth to five spectrum
- Will be able to more fully incorporate partnerships with community’s birth to three programs

**Action Item:**

Nicole White will bring list of time mgmt strategies from second half of DECA training back to Early Childhood Group at next meeting



Other Issues/Concerns/Updates:

- Question about when Patt Earley’s project’s program evaluation be available for year 2 of her project? The DECA outcomes from that evaluation may be helpful for this group to review
- Please email agenda items or topics for discussions to Nicole White



Resources/Ideas:

- Book and Workbook “Bright Futures in Practice” a mental health resource for early childhood. This may be a good resource for centers to use for parents, it has some good parent handouts. HeadStart is currently using, Nicole will follow up with HeadStart staff to see how they are using it and if they find it valuable.
- Upcoming Training: Born Learning Training. Two sessions, either Thursday November 2<sup>nd</sup> or Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm at Family Care Resources. Training will cover how to present Born Learning materials to parents. Call 482-0996, ext 106 to register or for more information.



Hand Outs Distributed:

- Meeting Agenda
- “End of Year Group Member Survey” SSHS Evaluation Survey

**NEXT MEETING:**

Look at changing the regular meeting time to connect either before or after the childcare initiative meeting (Spokane Regional Childcare Initiative Meeting)

Next meeting will be

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> @ 12:NOON LINDAMAN'S CTR 314 WEST MISSION