

ELEMENT FOUR / EARLY CHILDHOOD GROUP

Members present: Wendy Bleecker, Astri Zidack, Sandra Szambelan, Patt Earley, Sally Pritchard, Stacy Loudermilk, Christie Richardson, Anita Morgan, Mary Schauer, Deitra Sonnabend, Betsy Blake, Nicole White, Rick Phillips, 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 Training (Update)

Related Grant Objective: #1, #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 training • Identify DECA project progress in regards to the various aspects of implementation 	

Activities <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>	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 had to overcome to use this strategy</i>	Outcomes <i>What happened as a result of the accomplishment or what people do as a result of the accomplishment</i>
Element group determined to facilitate a DECA training as a strategy to meet element goals and objectives	Nicole White utilized element group input, feedback, and suggestions to organize and plan DECA training	DECA training scheduled and organized as suggested by element members

Nicole White provided DECA training update details to element group members	Element members participated in discussion and provided feedback to shape current and future training	
<p>Discussion A: Update on DECA Training</p> <p>Basic Certified DECA Training:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clock hours for teachers will be available through ESD 101 2. STARS credits for child care providers will be available through FCR <p>Estimated Costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approx. \$1,000 per day and \$25 per person for materials (kits are not included but some are being purchased through SS/HS grant) • Sharing the costs of first training date with west side • Nine DECA kits and two DECA-C kits have been purchased <p>Demand / Community Need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of interest in initial DECA training • Currently approx. 20 providers on wait list for fall training • Exploring the possibility of having an additional DECA training in the spring <p>DECA-C Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical version (mainly for school psychologists, mental health) • DECA-C training scheduled for October 20th • Sandra (ESD 101) has ordered three DECA-C kits • In the process of identifying potential DECA –C training interest / participants. • DECA-C requires four weeks of direct observation before scoring • Who would be potential candidates for DECA-C training? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Spokane Mental Health * Select private mental health providers * Circle of Security * Spokane Regional Health District 		
<p>Action Item:</p> <p>Nicole White will contact identified agencies/ mental health service providers regarding DECA-C training</p>		

Agenda Item: DECA Local Program Mentors

Related Grant Objective: #1, #2, and #3

<p><i>Needs Related to the Grant Goals</i> <i>Issues that must be resolved so you can reach program objectives</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore potential options for DECA training sustainability • Identify ways to provide recommended support services to providers after DECA training and throughout DECA implementation • Increase overall understanding of the DECA Local Program Role, including approved and restricted activities defined by Devereux

<p style="text-align: center;">Activities</p> <p><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></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Accomplishments</p> <p><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></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Outcomes</p> <p><i>What happened as a result of the accomplishment or what people do as a result of the accomplishment</i></p>
<p>Nicole White provided information, including a handout from Devereux, to element group members on Local Program Mentors</p> <p>Nicole White facilitated discussion between element group members regarding group's understanding, questions, concerns, and possible solutions</p>	<p>Each element group member received a copy of the handout "DECA Local Program Mentors – Agreement of Roles and Responsibilities"</p> <p>Element group members actively engaged in discussion, generated questions, ideas, and possible solutions</p>	
<p><u>Discussion A:</u> What can Local Program Mentors do? (DECA approved activities, role, etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handout: DECA Program Local Program Mentors (LPM): Agreement of Roles and Responsibilities • Can provide some training, i.e., new staff or initial training on how to use the DECA • Enter data and profiles (e-DECA) • Provide support to assist with classroom strategies • Orient new staff in childcare center and be a support person in the community <p><u>Discussion B:</u> Becoming a Local Program Mentor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anyone who attends the basic DECA training will be eligible to attend the LPM training • SPS is looking into providing the LPM training component following the basic DECA training, tentatively planned for spring 2007 <p><u>Discussion C:</u> Other sites use of Local Program Mentors (Snohomish County)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snohomish County has a grant funded LPM position (Bunny). • Does training and data/profile entry • Nicole in the process of connecting with her to find out more about what she does and how that model is working <p><u>Discussion D:</u> Spokane's Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spokane currently has 9 Local Program Mentors • Most LPM's are providing support within their own programs <p><u>Discussion E:</u> Concerns/ Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time constraints; current Spokane-based LPM's have FT jobs in addition to LPM role • Some provider programs simply do not have the infrastructure to implement this type of tool (not just DECA but other expectations such as accreditation) <p><u>Discussion F:</u> Ideas / Strategies</p> <p>As a group, seek out additional funding sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide ongoing mentoring and support to providers; Support could be person to person, mentoring/support network, or web-based • Provide regular DECA and other relevant training for providers 		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make training more relevant and individualized by bringing in providers and classroom teachers who are in different phases of implementation (DECA), identify the developmental process for learning the implementation of DECA • “Chunk” training into format that is more useful and helpful for practitioners
<p>Action Item:</p> <p>Nicole to connect with Bunny (Snohomish County LPM) and discuss role, responsibilities, processes, e-DECA, and how the model is working</p> <p>Element group members will continue to explore potential options for funding</p>

Agenda Item: DECA Data & Evaluation: e-DECA

Related Grant Objective:

<p><i>Needs Related to the Grant Goals</i> <i>Issues that must be resolved so you can reach program objectives</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore available options for collecting and utilizing the data from DECA • Establish a system or format for collecting and utilizing the data from DECA

<p>Activities <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></p>	<p>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 had to overcome to use this strategy</i></p>	<p>Outcomes <i>What happened as a result of the accomplishment or what people do as a result of the accomplishment</i></p>
<p>At previous element group meeting, members identified two possible systems or formats for collecting and utilizing DECA data – Those two were “in-house” or e-DECA</p> <p>Nicole White provided element group members with information from e-DECA including providing each group member with a handout</p>	<p>The element group members generated questions about the e-DECA system</p> <p>Each element group member received information on e-DECA including a handout “Introduction to the e-DECA” to help address questions</p>	<p>Nicole White utilized the element group’s feedback to contact e-DECA vendor and collect information to address the group’s questions</p> <p>Element group members received the necessary information to make a decision on using e-DECA. E-DECA on hold for now, will revisit later</p>

<p><u>Discussion A:</u> Overview on e-DECA tool</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual license fee of \$250.00
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- Requires user to choose an option: A) By child or B) By administration
- One person can hold the license and have other affiliated users/providers
- The initial set up of e-DECA is very time consuming, entering all the profile data, etc.
- One major concern with e-DECA is that the system is not set up for the user to compare year to year data per child

Discussion B: Manual Scoring

- Initial manual scoring takes approx. 15-20 mins; after using a few times, 10-15 mins.

Action Item:

Nicole White to ask Bunny in Snohomish County about their site's e-DECA experience, Which option (by child or by administration) they elected to use, and pro's/con's

Agenda Item: Current Status of Early Childhood Group Evaluation

Related Grant Objective: #1, #2, and #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 element group members have current information regarding the status and/or needs of grant evaluation • Determine the type of data and outcomes that is relevant to the element group's goals/objectives • Clarify how DECA is being utilized as a strategy for achieving group's goals/objectives • Develop element group's consensus on the purpose for using DECA

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<p>Grant evaluator (RP) shared information on the current status of evaluation</p> <p>RP facilitated a discussion with element group regarding the purpose of using DECA</p>	<p>Element group members actively engaged in discussion and generated a list of "purposes" for using DECA</p>	

Discussion A: Current Status of Evaluation / Baseline

- RP has collected data on childcare providers in Spokane County
- 275 Family Home Providers
- 144 Childcare Centers
- Baseline = # of providers that have been contacted (by Nicole)
- # of providers contacted that participate in DECA training
- # of providers that request help and/or support

Discussion B: What is our purpose for using DECA?

1. Classroom support
2. Parent/family support and referrals to get children needed services
3. A preliminary intervention
4. A system and process for getting children into services
5. A tool to communicate and collaborate with kindergarten teachers around strategies and interventions
6. Response to intervention: long-term prevention
7. A way to relate to individual children that is strength based and using that to help educators understand risk/protective factors and ultimately raise the child's protective factors
8. Tool for collaboration and communication within and for childcare provider centers: Internally, Families, Externally (referral system) and School system.

Action Item:

Other Issues/Concerns/Questions:

- Should the Early Childhood group seek additional financial assistance to “beef-up” DECA resources in our community?

SS/HS Grant Budget Update: (handout)

- Individual element groups do not have separate budget; all budget requests come out of main budget categories
- Budget categories include: Personnel, Fringe Benefits, Travel (getting staff to and from trainings), Equipment, Supplies (Incl. Research-Based Curriculum), Contractual (ESD, RSN, Evaluation), and Other (Meeting Expenses, Networking Services, Staff Training, Marketing).
- Previous year carryover exists in all categories except marketing. Carryover is being used to extend grant and services
- Budget Fiscal Year = Federal calendar, which begin October 01
- Wendy Bleecker will bring new fiscal year's budget to element group meeting

Summary of Meeting Discussion:

- Hearing two concerns from group
 1. Need to build and strengthen the Local Program Mentor base
 2. Have a way to score DECA to create child and classroom profiles



Resources/Ideas/Suggestions:

- Unity in the Community scheduled for Saturday, August 19th. Early Childhood will have a booth set up at event



Hand Outs Distributed:

- Meeting Agenda
- DECA Training Flyer
- DECA Program Local Program Mentors (LPM): Agreement of Roles and Responsibilities
- Introduction to the e-DECA
- Safe Schools, Health Students Budget

NEXT MEETING:

TUESDAY- SEPTEMBER 19TH 8:30 AM AT: ST. ANNE'S CHILDREN & FAMILY CTR