

ELEMENT FOUR / EARLY CHILDHOOD GROUP

Members present: Nicole White, Wendy Bleecker, Kris Miller, Linda Loomis, Stacy Loudermilk, Mary Schauer, Lee Williams, Dietra Sonnabend, Rick Philips, Lily Baldwin

New: Shirley Riley (Spokane Guild School), Mina Smith (ABC Childcare)

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

Related Grant Objective: #1 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 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

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>
Nicole White provided an update on DECA project including responding to questions and concerns from the element group members	Element group members actively engaged in discussion, including asking questions and voicing potential concerns	

Discussion A: DECA Training

Barriers to school staff participation in DECA training

- Explore questions and concerns about school staff participating in DECA training
- Some of the barriers with the initial training revolve around union contracts and the training dates and times (outside of the school day / school hours)
- Also challenges with access to teachers and the time of year (Fall is especially busy)

On going connection with DECA training attendees

- Nicole has a sign in sheet with contact info from attendees
- May offer a support/networking session at EWAYC (Eastern Washington Association Young Children) “Gift of Childhood” Conference on Saturday February 24th or at Family Home Childcare Providers conference “Reach for the Stars” on Saturday, March 3rd
- Possible stand alone event or ongoing – support or networking session for DECA implementers. Format: evening session with food and STARS credits

Discussion B: Upcoming DECA-C (Clinical) Training

Who Should Attend DECA-C? (*Group feedback to give priority to*)

- Private clinicians
- School district staff (Primary Teachers)

Birth to 3 programs

- Discussion around partnering with Spokane Guild School. Due to 0-3 years population, group feels it’s important but may not be a priority.

Discussion C: DECA Local Program Mentors (LPM)

- Important to push for LPM’s in our area. It would be an investment for childcare centers
- LPM’s have different or “privileged” website access (DECA Website)
- Important to have a conversation with Patt Earley about the group of LPM’s in Spokane area that have already been trained

Action Item:

- Nicole White will discuss existing LPM’s with Patt Earley and create a list to bring to the element group’s next meeting.

Agenda Item: Evaluation “Perception of Change and Planning Form”(Rick Phillips)

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>
<p>Clarify the focus, direction, and targeted outcomes for the element group</p> <p>Provide a conduit for all participating element group members to contribute to establishing the short and long term goals for the coming academic year and beyond</p>

Ensure all participating element group members are aware of and have a comprehensive understanding of the short and long term group goals

Provide a means to establish and justify the need for continued support beyond the projected grant funding end date

<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>Rick Phillips gave brief background on the purpose and need for the survey data and group feedback</p> <p>Rick Phillips distributed copies of the Perception of Change and Planning Form</p> <p>Rick Phillips solicited group feedback on question #1 and question #3</p>	<p>Element group members completed the survey</p> <p>Element group members actively engaged in discussion and provided feedback</p>	<p>Element group members submitted completed surveys to Rick Phillips</p> <p>Nicole White generated list of short and long term element group goals based on group member input and feedback</p>
<p><u>Discussion A:</u> Purpose of tool and discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create specific focus and direction for the upcoming academic year • Collect group feedback and data for “no-cost extension” application for Safe Schools Healthy Student Initiative Grant. The continuation/carry-over must be justified through ongoing work toward unfinished goals. Need clearly identified rationale for extending the funding year. No-cost extension application will be submitted this Spring <p><u>Discussion B:</u> Group feedback and discussion on “Perception of Change and Planning Form”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What changes have you noticed, if any, in the past twelve months, or during the time you’ve been involved with this group? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am able to speak to our parents about functional change in our community. I can tell them there is a group working toward real change. It gives hope for the public perception of childcare providers • The group has narrowed the focus over the past year • Getting it staffed! Having a person with specific roles and responsibilities • New membership (in the group) • Increase in the consistency in overall attendance • Deeper communication and commitment • It’s moving. I see real change • Knowing everything available (resources) for families and children. An excellent and much needed information and resource group • We have developed a shared focus and vision. Less about the individual agenda 		

<p>of different people or groups. In the beginning there were multiple and competing agendas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating short term (DECA training) and long term goals for the group • Having a “product”, the DECA training. It’s something tangible to show we have moved beyond just talking <p>3. What goals or accomplishments should this group target over the next three months? Over the next 12 months?</p>	
<p><u>SHORT TERM GOALS</u></p>	<p><u>LONG TERM GOALS</u></p>
<p>Connect with county schools</p> <p>Completion of DECA training</p> <p>LPM role</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Begin coordination of LPM b) Identify current LPM’s in Spokane area c) Look at the role and activities of current LPMs and how are we supporting them d) Identify who may be interested in becoming an LPM (Spring training session) <p>Get school staff on board (with DECA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Identify and eliminate barriers <p>Present DECA at ESD 101’s IDEA’s Conference. Presentation to Special Education Preschool Teachers</p> <p>Collect stories and tangible experiences around working with the DECA “Success Stories”. “Why this works” and “How this works”</p> <p>Create a resource book for providers to utilize with parents. A reference and resource guide to help child care centers and in-home childcare providers in parent education involvement</p>	<p>Direct service connection. Provide ongoing support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Create and describe model for achieving <p>Increase awareness and promote DECA (Generate interest and momentum)</p> <p>Continue to translate DECA into parent education materials</p> <p>Continue to connect with Mental Health element (SSHS). Get more mental health providers to become involved in the Early Childhood element group</p> <p>Teach parents how to advocate for their child and work with system of providers (Seems that we often lose children/families after identification, families can feel isolated and “blamed”)</p> <p>Begin to collect stories on DECA tool implementation. Create a picture which illustrates the impact of using DECA</p> <p>Find ways to utilize mental health therapist for early childhood</p> <p>Child Find process. Identify the key contacts</p> <p>Longer term (3-5 yrs) – strategic planning and sustainability of DECA in our community</p> <p>LPM networking</p> <p>How to engage parents around the use of DECA</p>
<p>Action Item:</p> <p>Utilize goals as a planning tool for group direction</p>	



Other Issues/Concerns/Updates:

- 211 Data base
 - Agencies should have received a form by mail from Spokane Mental Health. Current agency information is needed for 211 data base. The goal is to have 211 up and running by the end of the calendar year. If you need an agency form, contact Jan Dobbs at Spokane Mental Health

- Agency List
 - In progress, some data lost in computer change. Will email list to group once complete

NEXT MEETING:

TUESDAY OCTOBER 17TH, 2006 8:30 A.M. @ AT. ANNE'S