



MEETING MINUTES

April 10, 2019

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Type of Meeting: Monthly Meeting
Facilitators: Denise Hannon, Tyann Withworth, Brenda Sipes, Lindsay Boswell, Trissa Schiffner
Note Taker(s): Luis Gomez
Location: Junior Achievement – 650 University Parkway Yakima, WA 98901

Present:

Lindsay Boswell, YVCF	Maggie Mendoza, ESD 105
Luis Gomez, YVCF	Marilyn Van Oostrum, Memorial Hospital
Denise Hannon, DCYF	Peter Finch, West Valley School District
Tyann Whitworth, Fostering WA	Stacie Marez, ESD 105
Brenda Sipes, CRG	Trissa Schiffner, Catholic Charities
Trissa Schiffner, CCSW	Victor Cardenas, Catholic Charities
Peter Finch, WVSD	Esther Osorio, Heritage University
Claudette Lindquist, Heritage University	Jennifer Macias, Heritage University
Dianne Trevino, YVFWC	Denise Hannon, DCYF
Gloria Jones-Dance, Heritage University	Mary Ann Walker, Central Washington
Karri Jo Livingston, EPIC	Oral Health

Welcome:

Lindsay Boswell started the regularly scheduled monthly meeting at 2:15 pm. A short overview of the meeting was provided.

Family to Family Fostering WA:

Denise Hannon from DCYF provided an overview of the Family 2 Family program and services. The program was developed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and it is designed to increase the number of children safely maintained in the home of the birth families and support care givers in many different ways.

Tyann Whitworth from Fostering WA provided an overview of the program including:

- Caregiver care trainings
- Support groups
- Facebook outreach
- Mentor foster parents

Community Resource Group (CRG):

Brenda Sipes from CRG provided an overview of the services they provide as a foster care nonprofit organization and some background about foster care including:

- On-call crisis case managers

- Work with local schools and community organizations
- Reasons children end up in the foster care system and local foster care needs

Brenda works with Denise and Tyann regarding the services mentioned before.

Coalition members had questions and conversations about:

- Transparency from foster agencies and state departments.
- Caregiver care training.
- Foster parent responsibility.
- Children placement.
- Professional development and retention programs.
- Trends and data.
- Resources in different languages.

Early Learning Advisory Council:

Lindsay Boswell updated coalition members on the last ELAC meeting to include the Child Welfare/Early Learning Project presentation and the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Presentation. Both presentations can be found on the meeting materials for the meeting.

Members broke off to small groups to answer the following questions:

- What elements would be essential to include in such a mechanism?
- What challenges might you foresee if we propose this option?
- What suggestions do you have to help us better serve our families?
- What can the learning communities do to assist us in this effort?

Lindsay referred to Activity #3: Maximizing Parent Knowledge slide (second presentation) and had conversations about Play and Learn Groups in community service offices. About 400 families have been served across Central Washington so far.

Members had questions and conversations about services available to families and success stories of referring families to services.

Awareness & Advocacy:

Lindsay provided updates on active Early Learning Bills. A copy of them are included in the meeting materials.

Early Learning Fair updates:

- Scheduled to be on June 5th 2019
- Location: Henry B. Community Center (OIC)
- Possible Early Learning Fair in lower valley in the future

Washington Communities for Children:

WCFC were awarded the Prizker Grant. More updates will be provided in the future.

Meeting ended at 4:08 pm.