

Skagit County Child & Family Consortium

Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2007

9:00am – 10:30am

- **Welcome & Introductions:**
 - Lyndie Case called the meeting to order and introductions were made around the table.
- **Gang Violence Prevention Team Update – Bob Hicks:**
 - The group has developed a mission statement and strategic plan. They are currently working on goals. They are developing powerful ways to engage youth that will complete with gang offerings. The group is well balanced with representation from the Mount Vernon Police Department, Skagit County Sheriff's Office, Northwest ESD, Youth and Family Services and SeaMar. As a plan is developed they will engage key players in the community to help with implementation.
- **Family to Family Update – Veronica Hinojosa:**
 - No update today as Veronica was unable to attend.
- **Consortium Strategic Planning Retreat - Lyndie Case**
 - The one day full retreat will be May 2nd as planned at NWESD 189 in Anacortes. This will be a long day but the intent is to walk out with a definite understanding of gaps that need to be filled. The technical assistant and community consultant for the SS/HS ESD grant will be working with us and facilitating the day. They were given information from the survey and have identified three key areas to address. There will be breakout groups to work the issues and define community needs. Everyone will be able to self select a group and more information regarding this will follow.
 - The sub-committee will be meeting again next Wednesday.
- **Logo Design - Lyndie Case**
 - Lyndie shared two logos designed by a SWHS graduate who is now a professional graphics designer in California. Consensus indicated a logo with the name and graphic that can be used together or separately was preferred.
 - Lyndie will ask her contact to send 2-3 options that she will e-mail the group for their vote.
- **Program Updates:**
 - **Skagit Co. Health Department Jennifer Sass-Walton** reported on the nurse family partnership program. The nurses have been alarmed at the number of pregnant 13-15 year old girls they have encountered. The program for low-income first time mothers requires enrolment in early pregnancy (< 28 weeks). The moms are seen weekly and then on-going for two years. Skagit County can serve up to 75 families concurrently and have about 50 at this time. The Welcome Baby Program is serving about 20 families a week.
 - **YMCA– Karen Rose** - The Early Learning Child Care program Director position is open and they will be sending a job posting out soon. May 11, 2007 they hope to host a community business leader's lunch with William Gates, Sr. for investment in early learning. They will find out today. Camp registration for first through sixth graders will be open April 21, 2007. It will be first come first serve at the building next to the YMCA. The Oasis Pancake Breakfast was the most successful ever netting about \$2,000.

- **Skagit County Youth & Family Services – Chris Tobey** – Approximately forty people attended the Risk and Threat Assessment Training presented by Dr. Eric Johnson on March 5-6, 2007. Victor Rodriguez was hired by Youth & Family Services to work as an Advocate with Latino families and the Gang Summit Taskforce. We will reapply with RTL in May to continue the position.
- **Boys and Girls Club – Kim Gram** They would like to be able to serve the youth in Burlington but dropping eight year olds off at the mall isn't a good thing. Copies of the Spring Leisure Guide were distributed.
- **Youthnet/Emerson High School/ Skagit Teen Resources** – Janice Condrin Reminds everyone the Teen Resource Fair will be held March 27, 2007 at Worksource Skagit. Amy Franklin Emerson AmeriCore Volunteer is seeking donations from community. Vendors will supply door prizes. The March Skagit Teen Resource meeting was held in Concrete and 35 people attended. There is a pressing need for service in that area.
- **Youthnet – Jeri Richards** Youthnet continues to have parenting classes and is now starting classes in Spanish. The Independent Living Program is looking for volunteers to help with a mentoring foster youth from middle school through college.
- **Skagit County Youth & Family Services Kulshan Creek Program – Teresa Reynoza** Located by the soccer fields by LaVenture Middle School, the program serves the Latino community. They offer parenting classes, babysitting classes, computer classes and tutor time. Tutor time has been offered for five or six years from 3:00 – 5:00 PM to help students with their homework. The program helps the entire community from youth to migrant workers.
- **Skagit County Youth & Family Services – Bob Hicks** Currently working on the new RTL application. He thanked the family representatives that were in attendance and said we need more family and community members to participate. A focus group will be starting soon and he will bring information to this group. The FASD program is coming to an end March 31, 2007. We don't have a clear expectation of what we will do. Lara Stephens was the FASD Clinical Coordinator and she will be moving to a juvenile justice research based program working with families. Traditionally this work has been contracted out but there has been a lot of turn over so we will now be doing this work in-house. Lara will attend IEP meetings, make recommendations and help connect the families of youth with FASD to services.
- **Skagit County Youth & Family Services – Ken Van Liew** – Ken is participating on a County wide team that is implementing a juvenile drug court. They are developing forms and defining who is eligible to participate. Funding was secured through the 1/10 of 1% tax and identified youth will be able to have one year of treatment. The A.L.E.R.T. program which is a collaborative program with SCYFS and the Workforce Development Council and others in the community has served primarily YFS youth in the past and is now reaching out to schools and literacy programs to refer youth that need this training. The program teaches steps to economic and personal success. The program has been consolidated into a 3 day program to attract more youth.
- **Skagit County Human Services – Jennifer Fix** – Working on the six year plan Substance Abuse and Violence Prevention. State and County statistics of identified top risk factors and needs for healthy youth are due to be released today and will be available on the website. They will be offering Life Skills Classes in elementary through tenth grade in Concrete this year.
- **Skagit County Youth & Family Services – Nancy Brown** – Nancy explained the three distinct components of the Youth & Family Services Department. The A.R.I.S. Program offers prevention/intervention for at risk youth and their families. The Probation component is for youth in the juvenile justice system and has a rehabilitation focus. The Detention Center is basically jail for kids. There are also programs within

Detention to help rehabilitate youth and assist them upon release, such as, the vocational program which helps youth come out of detention with a master job application. They have the opportunity while in detention to learn about different vocations and plan for the future. If you would like a tour of the Detention Center contact Nancy.

- **Next Meeting:**
 - **April 18, 2007 – 9:00am - 10:30am**