

# Skagit County Child & Family Consortium

## Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2007

9:15 am – 10:30am

- **Welcome & Introductions:**

- Lyndie Case and Linda Nelson are at other meetings today.
- Bob Hicks called the meeting to order and introductions were made around the table.

- **Consortium Strategic Planning Focus Groups**

- Connecting Communities and Schools The group has met three times and has reached two conclusions. We will work with Brian Humphries, Worksource and NWESD 189, using Dropout Program funds and ideas from this group as opposed to working parallel courses. Dropout prevention and other models will be looked at by SS/HS researcher, Jan-Olov Johannon. The group is having a follow-up meeting following this meeting. Worksource is doing a three-year dropout prevention program funded by Department of Labor grant designed to match education dollars. Sedro Woolley and Concrete selected freshmen who did not pass WASL will have a chance for remedial learning to help them work toward graduation. Out of a class of 300, 270 qualified as at-risk for dropout. As a model 40 Worksource youth were connected to activities and life skills with the result of all but 1 on track to graduate. Worksource applies for the dollars and will work with as many schools as wish to participate. The second issue this group discussed was the possibility of a Skill Center for Junior and Senior students Skagit Valley College will be the main site for the center which is scheduled to begin in 2009. The Skill Center is in need of an Advisory Board and if SCCFC fulfills this role they would have the opportunity as a group to advise the effort.
- Mental Health Issues Jean Champagne, MVSD, reports this group is focusing on the importance of Mental Health services. Talked with Maile Acoba, Skagit Co. Human Services, regarding the strategies to augment mental health services in elementary and middle schools and a proposal was written to request part of the one-tenth of one percent tax funds for this purpose. The proposal was accepted and will start with two mental health specialists for Mount Vernon school district and one in Burlington. The goal is to provide mental health services for elementary and middle schools in all Skagit County school districts by the 2008-2009 school year and all high schools by 2009-2010.
- Pro-social Opportunities for Youth. This group didn't meet over the summer but they are looking at how to link students with pro-social services. They will identify barriers to opportunities for youth and their families.

- **Upcoming Opportunities:**

- SCCFC Coordinator Bob Hicks reminded the group that at the last meeting it was decided to try to find a way to fund a part-time coordinator for this group. There is a natural limit to what members with other full-time work responsibilities can do. The Community Juvenile Justice Coordination (CJJC) is funder of the Northwest Juvenile Justice Council which has members from four counties. Because of the amount of travel time involved it was decided to withdraw from this grant but then it was realized that the areas for which this grant provides support fit well with the goals of this group. Lyndie Case, Linda Nelson and Youth & Family Services put together a proposal which when approved will provide about \$14,000 a year for use for the facilitation role needed to allow SCCFC to continue to move forward. The grant would be retroactive to July and that would give us more dollars per month at start up.

- FASD Advisory Board Bob Hicks explained that FASD program funding was discontinued nationally and Youth & Family Services extended our funding on some of the unspent funds from this program. The Advisory Board said we needed a point person available in Skagit County so Lara Stephens, functional family specialist, works with our offender youth and their families. This year YFS is putting in a request for \$10,000 and need an Advisory Board. If SCCFC takes this role it would require minimal time and effort. YFS would come to SCCFC with an update at meetings similar to what RTL does now. Lara Stephens could also be utilized by this group as a consultant or conduct training through NWESD SS/HS and other member agencies. It was moved, seconded and passed that SCCFC become the Advisory Board for the Youth & Family Services FASD Program.

- **Program Updates:**

- Readiness to Learn (RTL) Nancy Brown, Skagit County Youth & Family Services reported that YFS was fortunate in re-applying and receiving funding for six School Intervention Specialists, Community Action's bilingual tutoring program at Westview and Little Mountain schools and the YMCA summer day camp program.
- Safe Schools/Healthy Students – Dave Ahrenholz, NWESD, reported that Tuesday, October 30, 2007 will be the kick off meeting for the 2007-2008 school year. This partnering conference will review accomplishments and make plans for the third year of this grant which includes planning for grant sustainability. NWESD may be able to get a no cost extension that will be of some help. Nancy Brown said the grant also provided for a Youth & Family Services position for the court to work with youth when At-Risk and Chins petitions are filed. This position is currently held by Colleen Bows. In addition, a Youth & Family Advocate positions and half of a Truancy Specialist position have been funded through the SS/HS grant and need funding to sustain.
- Parent to Parent – Crystal Wagner, CWS/DCFS, gave the update The implementation of Family Team Decision Making (FTDM) to help with placement decisions involving the child's whole community is going well averaging two a day. The Passion Foster Care group agreed to be a partner for foster care support and recruitment. Tribe representation is needed in this group to develop foster care that is culturally sensitive and neighborhood based. The Self-evaluation and assessment piece is partnering with others to collect data and answer questions from the community about what families are being served and where progress is being made. Community Collaboration program needs to be beefed up because of internal turnover.

- **Roundtable Updates:**

- SeaMar – Johnathan VanderSchuur gave details of a new program designed to prevent youth involvement with gangs and drugs. The Tonalli group previously tried to create an after school day treatment program with activities. SeaMar is joining forces with the Tonalli group to provide a comprehensive mental health program that hopes to get kids to come out for group, family and individual therapy through cultural dance, break dance and other adolescent and young adult activities. They are working on insurance issues and writing a program statement. As soon as the insurance issue is dealt with interviews and assessments will be held to move forward. The program will include mental health services at SeaMar, activities through the Tonalli group (which meets at Parker House) and boxing at the homeless shelter. The number one problem with be transportation and they will need a fund raiser to get a van. The program will serve youth thirteen years old and older.
- **Skagit County Parks & Recreation** – Dennis Lind reported the Fall Leisure Guide is available. This summer they instituted the mobile playground program for Allen, Conway, Sedro Woolley and Mount Vernon and it was relatively successful. Because

Best Self program lost funding the will continue the mobile playground program in future summers.

- **Youth & Family Services** –Nancy Brown reminds everyone to mark their calendar for the Friday before Thanksgiving, November 16, 2007, for the ARGUS Fund Luncheon/Auction.
- **Emerson HS/Youthnet** – Parenting program for pregnant and parenting teens “Mother Read/Father Read will be starting Thursday, October 4, 2007. The program will run through December 13, 2007 and will be held at the Youthnet/Emerson Building at 4<sup>th</sup> & Fulton in Mount Vernon.
- **Skagit Valley YMCA** – Karen Rose announced the Legislative Reception to be held November 14, 2007 at the new Burlington Public Library, 8:30 – 10:00 AM.
- **Next Meeting:**
  - **October 17, 2007 – 9:15am - 10:30 am**