

# Skagit County Child & Family Consortium

## Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2007

9:00am – 10:30am

- **Welcome & Introductions:**
  - Lyndie Case called the meeting to order and introductions were made around the table.
- **Nuestra Familia, Our Family – DVD Clip:**
  - The group viewed the first 15-20 minutes of this 55 minute video that was shown at a two day local Summit regarding Gang Violence. The first day of the summit concentrated on where we are as a community regarding this topic and what services are needed. The second day community leaders formed a local task force to follow up on local needs identified during the summit.
- **DCFS Family to Family Strategic Plan – Veronica Hinojosa & Greg Dootson:**
  - Children's Administration has fundamentally changed the way they are doing business in Washington State. Family to Family is a program developing and utilizing the tools for rebuilding foster care. They have developed a practice model that will give the foundation of consistency across the state through the family to family initiative that is reforming the Child Welfare System. A handout was distributed explaining new goals, strategies and outcomes for children. One very positive development has been the implementation of Family Team Decision Making (FTDM) to help with placement decisions involving the child's whole community inputting information rather than placing the entire decision on a social worker and his/her supervisor with limited outside input. FTDM coordinator, Julian Byrd will be working out of the Smokey Point office and Anna Taylor will be in the local office. Jill Kinney is the Family to Family Regional Coordinator. Local, regional and state level standards will, hopefully, lead to legislative change and broaden the definition of who can be licensed for parenting a child. The Office, Regional and State Infrastructure include an Advisory Committee, Management Team, and Family to Family Coordinator. It is the function of coordinators to oversee the areas of Self Evaluation; Family Team Decision Making; Retention, Development and Support; and Community Partnerships. The local office would like to ask SCCFC to be the local advisory group. Veronica as a member of the consortium would bring issues to this meeting for input to take back to the local management team to decide if an issue should be bumped up to the State level or if it can be handled locally.
  - It was moved that SCCFC become the local Advisory Committee and placed as a standing agenda item. The motion was seconded and passed.
  - Jocelyn Wicks, CPS Supervisor is available to do group presentation regarding mandatory reporting. Contact the main office at 360-416-7200.
- **Consortium Strategic Planning Retreat**
  - The one day full retreat is being postponed and will not occur May 2<sup>nd</sup> as planned. Lyndie will send out a save a date notice as soon as a new date is determined.
  - Linda Nelson reported the sub-committee has been working to make this a successful planning retreat but would like input from the group. A survey was distributed stating the Vision and Mission of SCCFC and requesting input as to the best way for the consortium to affect change in Skagit County to fulfill those goals.

- **Program Updates:**
  - Linda Nelson – NWESD189 - SS/HS working on Early Childhood piece and is preparing to implement the second step which provides Mentors two quarters of training through Skagit Valley College with credit.
  - Ken Van Liew – Skagit County Youth & Family Services – 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. Ken is also a member of the local gang taskforce that was formed after last fall's gang summit. They are in the process of writing a mission and action plan for the Community Gang Steering Committee. He will keep this group updated with the taskforce activities.
  - Karen Rose – Boys & Girls Club – They are very busy with locations in Anacortes, Mount Vernon, Sedro Woolley and LaConner.
  - Janice Condrin – Youthnet/Emerson High School/ Skagit Teen Resources – Reminds everyone the Teen Resource Fair will be held March 27, 2007 at Worksource Skagit. Youthnet continues to help youth transition from foster care to independence. Youthnet is a service provider for Independent Living Skills (ILS) and presents post secondary education options to foster care youth. The building that formerly housed Emerson High is returning to a group care facility for male youth (ages 18-21) who are transitioning out of foster care. The facility will accommodate five to six youth.
  - Worksource Skagit – Reminder that the second annual Teen Job Fair will be held on May 10, 2007 from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM. They are also working with Skagit Valley College conducting the GED program at Worksource. They also help children transition out of foster care as there are a lot of employment opportunities in Skagit County. They are working hard to increase the skill level of the entry level workforce and are now offering Safety Training in Spanish. Microsoft fundamentals are also being taught in Spanish and if this fulfills a need they will continue. Youth & Family Services will be on site and they will meet with youth on their caseload as well.
  - Skagit County Human Services – Jennifer Fix – Over seventy students participated in the Youth Meth Summit held in Everett. They conducted Substance Abuse Training for Oasis Teen Shelter and continue to work with NWESD schools and districts to present Early Substance Abuse Training.
  - Dave Ahrenholz – NWESD 189 – The poster campaign announced previously has been postponed pending evaluation of continued use of the helpline.
  - Chris Tobey – Skagit County Youth & Family Services – Risk and Threat Assessment Training will be presented by Dr. Eric Johnson on March 5-6, 2007. Register for this free training through NWESD189 website. Ron Hertel, OSPI, authorized the hiring of a Youth & Family Advocate to work primarily with Latino families and the Gang Summit Taskforce through the redirecting of the Best SELF program funding as presented at a previous meeting. Victor Rodriguez has been hired to fill this position and YFS will reapply with RTL and SS/HS to continue this position.
  - Doug Argyle distributed 2-1-1 cards in English, Spanish and Russian. They have been very busy with a large number of calls for volunteer tax preparation sites.
  - Lyndie Case – The sub-committee for Membership is thankful for the schools attending and invites others to come onboard. Also, Lyndie has contacted a youth that graduated from SWHS and asked he design a couple of logos that the group might choose from for the consortium.
- **Next Meeting:**
  - **March 21, 2007 – 9:00am - 10:30am**