



May 19, 2010
9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Family Resource Center, 320 Pacific Place Mount Vernon, WA

Minutes

Linda Nelson opened the meeting with introductions and a review of our mission/vision.

Children's Administration—Jennifer Paddock

Jennifer gave an overview of what Children's Administration does/doesn't do. She began by distributing a copy of the WAC defining child abuse/neglect, also available online at <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=388-15-009>. Children's Administration's role is to keep kids safe from abuse/neglect. They can only get involved when a report meets the definitions of abuse/neglect. Jennifer oversees Skagit County and Oak Harbor offices. To better distribute the work, they have moved the Anacortes zip code to Oak Harbor to cover. Silvia Johnson is the supervisor of Skagit's Child Protective Services (CPS) unit, with a staff of 7 social workers. Centralized intake in this 5-county region takes calls between 8am-5pm, then calls go to statewide intake. (see handout "What Happens After the Call?")

What does happen after a report is received?

- Reports can be "for information only" if there is risk that doesn't meet the WAC definitions. If multiple "risk-only's" accrue, CPS can act over time.
- CPS intake occurs when allegations meet the definitions and are considered emergent, with responses within 24 or 72 hours depending on criteria. Police may accompany on some visits. Three options from there:
 - *Voluntary services*: variety of supportive services for families who are really willing to get help
 - *Dependency (Child Welfare Services)*: file in court, generally remove children from home if there is imminent danger. CPS cannot pick up child without court order. Otherwise police have to pick up. Removal is not the preference of CPS. Dependency can be in-home, where children remain in home but are in state custody; or out-of-home. If out-of-home, CWS will first seek out family members who are willing to take the child/ren and do background checks. If no family option, goes to foster care. Deadline of 12 months to return child home or move towards adoption. Usually have 150 adoptions/year, had 300 last year. Next option is guardianship or 3rd party custody where family commits to keeping child until age 18. Licensing section determines suitability of foster/adoption families—can be an intrusive process. Close case—investigation determines that risk is gone. May reopen if risk returns.
 - *Family Reconciliation Services*: for families of children ages 13-18 to prevent eventual placements, placed within Voluntary Services Unit. This is one area that may be reduced/eliminated with budget pressures at state.
- Child Welfare Services Intake: when people call in and WANT Children's Admin to take their children.

Now using Solution-Based Casework model (see handout online at <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/Publications/22-1303.pdf>) with family team decision-making to determine what to do in interest of child.

Question about when to report: class available at Skagit Valley College or available online, just call if you have a suspicion. When in doubt, report. Can download Mandatory Reporters video, Protecting the Abused & Neglected Child booklet at <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/safety/abuseWhat.asp?2>.

Observation about how difficult it is to keep children safe in their homes when services that prevent placements seem to be going away. Region is in the black for services this year. Furlough days and other cost-saving measures are in place to contain budget.

Discussion about how to partner, look at how Whatcom County supports Family to Family.

Announcements

- Big Brothers Big Sisters is hosting a forum on Monday, May 24th from 7:30-9:30am at the PUD Building, Aqua Room, at 1415 Freeway Drive in Mount Vernon. A continental breakfast will be served at 7:00 am. RSVP to 360-671-6400. Sponsored by Leadership Skagit to build up Big Brothers/Big Sisters in Skagit County.
- Emerson HS will be doing summer school, registration underway. Purpose is for credit retrieval.
- 8 young people getting vocational scholarships from Workforce Council—were supposed to be 20. Internship program, sophomores and juniors eligible for free/reduced lunch, contact Brian for this.

Action Item

Janice moved and Rex seconded approval of the Community Partnership Meeting Minutes. Motion unanimously approved.

Business—Lyndie Case

Community Partnership Meeting Debrief: Response summary from survey discussed. 11/27 people responded. Instead of starting up a group to continue discussion, would like to link to existing groups with this as a focus. Need to determine what topic we might want to do in fall.

Future Community Partnership Meetings: Lyndie suggested that subcommittees each host a quarterly meeting. Will invite all members to participate in a subcommittee. Bob suggested inviting “marginalized” youth to have a discussion about their needs for pro-social opportunities, etc. October meeting with youth panel to be planned by pro-social opportunities subcommittee. Karen moved, Brian seconded that the executive committee take responsibility to move forward on planning future community partnership meetings. Brian suggested we also review subcommittee areas to see if needs have changed.

Communication Plan Development: Started as marketing, moved into how we communicate with community at large. Contracted with a communications development specialist who we have worked with previously through Safe Schools/Healthy Students. All are invited to participate. Meetings will be as follows:

- **June 14th** from 2:30 - 4:00pm at Common Ground -- Initial Planning Webinar (Communication Planning Model Step 1-3)
- **June 16th** from 9:15 - 10:30 at the Community Resource Center -- Regular SCCFC meeting - will include any necessary follow up from the webinar

- **June 24th** from 9:00 - 2:00 (tentative), location to be announced -- Communication Plan Workshop with Adrienne Dealy

These meetings would also be beneficial for people who need to develop such plans for their own organizations. We probably won't have a complete plan by the end of June, but should have framework and next steps with plan completed in fall.

Treasurer's Report—Janice Condrin

SCCFC did receive the \$10,000 biennial allocation from the Family Policy Council. Funds are managed through UGH as fiscal agent. Board approved that we will open account at North Coast Credit Union, approved banking procedures. All expenses as budgeted. Funds to be expended by June allocated for Communications Plan consultant. Received check for \$500 for Community Forum on Underage Drinking that will be deposited in account.

Executive Board Update—Lyndie Case

Jennifer Angelis working on nominations, elections will be in October. Vice President, Treasurer and member-at-large (new member welcome position). Please talk with Jennifer or anyone on the Board if you are interested in serving. The rest of the board meeting had to do with Communications Plan and Family Policy Council.

Next meeting: June 16, 2010 from 9:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Family Resource Center

Attendance:

Linda Nelson, President
Lyndie Case, Coordinator—United General Community Health Outreach Programs
Trudy Sathern—Follman Agency
Joe Ruiz—Samish Indian Nation
Kim Grams—Boys/Girls Club
Janice Condrin—Youthnet/Emerson
Rex Dudley—Big Brothers/Big Sisters
Tiffany Caulk—Skagit County Youth & Family Services
John Lum—Skagit County Youth & Family Services
Evelyn Turner—Launching Success store
Jocelyn Palmer-Perry—Skagit County Community Services
Brian Humphrey—Worksource
Karen Rose—YMCA
Jennifer Walton—Skagit County Public Health
Jennifer Paddock—DSHS Children's Administration
Mary Dell Harrison—NW ESD 189 Prevention Center
Bob Hicks—Skagit County Community Services