



Skagit County Child and Family Consortium

Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2012 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Family Resource Center, 320 Pacific Place, Mount Vernon

Welcome and Introductions

SCCFC Overview - Jenn Angelis

Changes in the Consortium –

- Family Policy Council funding we have received for the last few years has been eliminated from the state budget. We are still designated as the Community Network for Skagit County, but currently that does not come with funds.

Refer to attached document listing SCCFC programs

- We have entered into a partnership with the State's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). Through this partnership, we have received funding to increase the rate of employment among youth with disabilities and/or parenting individuals with disabilities. The Consortium will be working with partners to implement the EYE on Jobs Program that Lyndie will explain in detail later.
- The Consortium will now be the oversight body for Skagit County's High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) funds. HIDTA promotes links with drug courts, community coalitions, public awareness campaigns, and other groups to support initiatives to reduce substance abuse and prevent the initiation of drug use. A workgroup is being formed to assess our community needs in regards to this work and will most likely put out an RFP to organizations/groups in our local community to implement strategies around this work. Stay tuned for more information!
- The next change to the Consortium regards the Community Mobilization (CM) program. Historically, the Skagit Prevention Council has been the Policy Board for the CM funding that has come into our community. Funding cuts has reshaped the Skagit Prevention Council and the Consortium has agreed to transition in to the Policy Board for CM and continue the work plan that was set by the Skagit Prevention Council on these funds. This includes supporting a few Strengthening Families Programs throughout the county and continuing the implementation of the Power in Numbers Social Norms Marketing campaign to reduce underage drinking. In addition to the work in Skagit, the Consortium is also working with Island County to support their local CM efforts.
- Due to the increased volume of work, we have increased the level of Coordinator time to approximately 32 hours per week.

What will stay the same?

- As in the past, we will continue to serve as the advisory board for Readiness to Learn and the Family to Family program, as well as participate as a member of the Varsity in Volunteerism planning group.
- The Consortium will continue to have monthly networking meetings as well as host a few community forums as we have done in the past.
- The Board has developed written expectations of programs for which SCCFC serves as an Oversight Agency. In addition to these expectations, the board stipulated that programs that are overseen by SCCFC must have a representative on the Executive Board as an elected position, or if the representative is not serving in such an elected position, as a non-voting ex-officio position. Elected positions must recuse themselves from votes on issues regarding their programs. Also, as United General Hospital serves as the consortium's fiscal agent, it will be represented by Carol Hawk as an ex-officio member of the board

- Lastly, we are saddened to note that Karen Rose and Lisa Mitchell have resigned from the Executive Board. Karen has served many years on SCCFC and has been a leader and primary force in the consortium's growth and success. We look forward to seeing her at general SCCFC meetings. Lisa joined the board more recently, but her work with the Arthritis Foundation is requiring a level of travel that prohibits Board participation. We also hope to see her periodically at general meetings. If you are interested in serving on the Executive Board, please contact Lyndie.

2012-2013 Goals – Kari Cook

With all of these changes to the Consortium, the Executive Board spent a great deal of time conducting strategic planning for this upcoming year and beyond. We are still going through the planning process and shared with the group where we are so far in the process.

Kari reviewed sheet from the SCCFC website listing our Goals and Objectives (see attached document from website).

EYE on Jobs Program – Lyndie Case

EYE on Jobs. SCCFC received funding for vocational programming for youth with disabilities. This led to a partnership with WorkSource, with programming starting in the summer of 2011 and extending into the fall at Sedro-Woolley School District. We were awarded additional funding from the state. This led to a 2012 program starting in the summer of 2012 with WorkSource, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), and Skagit County Developmental Disabilities serving as primary partners. These partners sought a broader programmatic reach. Concrete, La Conner and Burlington-Edison School Districts agreed to be participants. WorkSource provides onsite workforce preparation workshops for students and sessions with parents so they can support student participation. Employer orientation will be included regarding youth in the workplace, with an emphasis on employing youth with disabilities. School districts check in with the students on an ongoing basis, supporting follow through. In early spring 2013, WorkSource will hold sessions with participants reviewing and debriefing their experiences. Then, county Developmental Disabilities will provide a work fair for youth with disabilities. SCCFC funds will be spent by the end of this year, but leveraged funds will extend support and programming, through June 2013

Varsity in Volunteerism (VIV) Program – Carol Hawk

Thirty youth participated in the program, which started last spring. In this innovative program, students receive training, guidance and support as they seek community service opportunities. Students with 100 or more volunteer hours receive a letter – lettering in volunteerism the same as many students receive letters for sports. In 2012, twelve youth completed the program. United General Hospital provided the program in conjunction with Sedro-Woolley High School. WorkSource provided training for volunteers. SCCFC provided funding for training. The program culminated with an awards banquet. Despite the late start of the program last spring, two students compiled over 200 hours of service! The event was an amazing recognition, with over eighty people attending. The program continues this school year at Sedro-Woolley as a full year program. With the longer program period, even greater outcomes are expected. The vision is to expand the program countywide in the future.

Roundtable

- Kari Cook – CA – Family to Family is participating in a cultural festival (see attachment) on Saturday 9/22/12 at Skagit Valley College.
- Liz Jennings – Skagit County Community Action Agency. (1). National Community Service Program will include Reading Corps, AmeriCorps, and VISTA. (2). Volunteer Center connects youth with volunteer opportunities. (3). The Circles Initiative, which grew out of the Bridges Out of Poverty model, provides individuals and families a plan-building 10-week course on methods to get out of poverty, after which they are supported by community volunteers.
- Evelyn Turner – Launching Success Learning Store – Big Brothers Big Sisters has a Mother-to-Mother program pairing experienced mothers with teen moms. The program is currently in Whatcom, with hopes that it can expand to Skagit.
- Janice Condrin, Youth Net – (1). Recognized many agencies participated in this month's successful Project Homeless Connect, which served 700 people including 300 children. (2). Skagit County Community Services' Truancy Intervention Program is launching its SWAP program. SWAP will place youth in community service opportunities in lieu of detention time often sentenced by Truancy Court, providing the court with a positive alternative. Often, students will be placed at their home school for such community service. This is based on a Restorative Justice model and reconnects kids with schools. Also, in Mount Vernon School District, a Truancy Board is being started which will support youth and families in students re-engaging in school.
- Heidi Fish – Girl Scouts – Girl Scouts has great outcomes! They are looking for volunteers. Due to a lack of volunteers, the waiting list is as long as two to three years. We hope to reduce that length through volunteer recruitment. Financial aid is available, so lack of income is never a barrier for families in poverty.
- Benjamin Jojola – Samish Indian Nation. Benjamin recognized Upper Skagit Tribe's (Mick Rasch) and Samish's participation in SCCFC, but is working toward greater Tribal participation in the consortium.
- Cheryl Iverson – Volunteers of America – Is launching a new program in which Behavioral Health Mental Health consultation is provided to Licensed Child Care so kids with behavioral and mental health issues can continue successfully in child care. They are currently hiring for a Behavioral Health consultant.
- Brain Humphrey – WorkSource – 1. New vocational resources have been funded locally for homeless families through WorkSource Innovation Funds. 2. Aerospace job training is being provided locally.

Attendees:

Benjamin Jojola, Samish Indian Nation
Bob Hicks, Skagit Co Community Services
Brian Humphrey, Workforce Development Council
Carol Hawk, United General Hospital
Cheryl Iverson, Volunteers of America
Elizabeth Jennings, Community Action
Evelyn Turner, Launching Success
Heidi Fish, Girl Scouts
Janice Condrin, Emerson, YouthNet
Jennifer Angelis, Sedro-Woolley School District
Jen Ryan, Secret Harbor

Jennifer Walton, Skagit Co Health Department
Jessica Drain, DVSAS
Jodie DesBiens, NWESD Prevention Center
Joshua Hart, PFLAG
Jonna Zeiber, Catholic Community Services
Kari Jellison, DCFS
Kathryn Lyons, Brigid Collins
Lyndie Case, SCCFC Coordinator
Lynn Christoferson, Community Action
Rob Werner, United Way
Robin Hoover, Skagit/Island Head Start
Wenda Cross, Skagit/Island Head Start