



Skagit County Child and Family Consortium

September 18, 2013

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Family Resource Center, 320 Pacific Place, Mount Vernon

## Meeting Minutes

### Community Development Block Grant Planning

Information was shared regarding this Federal funding source, as there is the potential for many different opportunities to help communities grow with these funds. This program was designed to provide flexibility with funding to address the developmental needs that are unique to the community. In Mt. Vernon, the primary focus is on housing, making a healthy environment, and economic opportunities; these areas will benefit low and moderate income persons/families, work towards the prevention and/or elimination of unhealthy living conditions/environments, and/or address development needs that are urgent because the existing conditions pose serious risk or threat to the overall wellbeing of the community.

### SCCFC: Year Ahead

General membership was provided information regarding changes in funding sources that occurred this year, and there was comparison of how this varied from the past. Members were informed that with legislative decisions Community Mobilization was de-funded. Additionally, programs involving Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and Readiness to Learn are still being explored. SCCFC is still wanting to partner with DVR as we have done in the past with Eye on Jobs. High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) continues to be funded. SCCFC is hoping to help support with county funding that has been made available and HIDTA funding the program of Strengthening Families in our local communities; with the goal of having at least two Strengthening Families courses running in the fall. Skagit County was selected to receive a grant and participated in the ACEs Public-Private Initiative (APPI). At this time the plan is to focus specifically on ACEs and targeting an evaluation of the programs that are already existing in the community for intervention and prevention of ACEs.

SCCFC is planning to be involved with the following strategies to help meet the dynamic needs of our community:

- Communication plan: utilizing forms of social media (facebook, Instagram, etc.), SCCFC's website, and forms of constant contact/e-mail to help engage the community and increase membership.
- EYE on Jobs: continuing interaction with selected school districts who have identified students presenting with developmental disability, but do not qualify for support services, on developing skills for seeking, finding, and obtaining employment, and engagement of employers to be involved in employing these students (coaching, benefits, transition fair, etc.)
- Coordinating Strengthening Families: aiming to have two implemented in the fall, and then to also be able to offer this program in the winter; 7 week curriculum is provided and

- addresses family needs for parents/caregivers with youth between the ages of 10-14 years old
- Varsity in Volunteerism (VIV): this program has been piloting in Sedro Woolley, and will be expanding this year to Concrete; students will work with an identified coach on completing the guidelines of the program; last year it demonstrated to be a great way for the community to have positive interactions with youth in the community
  - Power In Numbers (PIN): this program is still being implemented in the schools, although there is no new funding; based on recent changes in legislation around marijuana, there has been a shift to talk and focus on youth's access and use of this substance
  - Community Forums: these are still in the planning stages, but SCCFC would like to look at hosting community cafés and explore if "Raising of America" is something to introduce to this community
  - ACEs Public-Private Initiative (APPI): will help provide the opportunity to inform others about data gathered for this county; currently in the process of identifying an evaluator with the hopes of having someone identified/hired by the end of the month

#### Updates on Marijuana Legalization and Rule Making

Informal discussion and updates were provided the general members. Communities are close to seeing retail markets open. The Liquor Control Board has drafted some rules; these seem to be primarily geared towards addressing matters that may occur prior to marijuana being sold, and nominally address what will occur after it is manufactured and sold (members can review the drafted rules on the web). Some guidelines include that packaging must be in compliance with poison control standards, proposing a 3 strike rule for the sale of marijuana to minors, store hours can run from 8am-12am for selling marijuana, and that each county will have set number of spots (if more vendors apply to sell marijuana there would be a lottery). Information was shared that for sovereign nations, marijuana is still illegal. Concerns were expressed by the general membership regarding the increase in use of marijuana for both adults and youth, how this might impact driving under the influence and law enforcement's response/need for training, that the drafted rules do not address edible products, and the potential for product marketing being geared towards youth (i.e. packaging that looks like candy).

There is a symposium on Marijuana occurring at the University of Washington on November 13, 2013 (9am-4pm). There will also be public hearings in Spokane and Seattle in October.

#### SCCFC By-Laws

General members were provided with the opportunity to read/review changes to the by-laws proposed by the Executive Board. Motions were made by Janice (1<sup>st</sup>) and Mick (2<sup>nd</sup>) to approve the changes; general members approved the changes.

#### Round Table

General members took the opportunity to share great things that are happening in the community:

- 9/24/13: County showing the film "Anonymous" at the Lincoln Theater at 7:00pm
- 11/22/13: ARGUS – more information to come
- Samish Nation: established vocational rehabilitation services and will be helping tribal members have support during transitional phases; they are working with school; they are certified as employment center for SSI and SSDI persons
- Emerson High School: is looking to fill their AmeriCorps position; this position is full time and minimum requirements is 2 year college degree
- Mt. Vernon School District: the behavioral health services are running and growing, and will be able to take Medicaid starting October 1, 2013; every school district has 1 or 2 therapists
- NW Early Learning: hosting a breakfast at McIntyre Hall (more info to come); ilab speaker presenting
- Friends of Library: bi-annual sale occurring inside fire station #1 from 10-4 (this weekend), and they are still in need of volunteers; willing to divert leftover books to interested agencies
- DSHS (Children's Admin): Heidi Kennedy is providing mandated reporter trainings in the community and also talking with community stakeholders about Family Assessment Response (FAR); Claudia Palomera also has sent out information to begin planning efforts for the Multicultural Festival first meeting will be September 30, 2013
- Adult Education and Literacy: in process of registering students for High School Equivalency Degree (HSED) and ESL; format for HSED will be changing to online/computer testing only beginning January 1, 2014
- Youth Restorative Justice: looking at preventative measures and are in need of tutors
- Launching Success: sells products and also looks for ways to help communities; willing to give items for auctions and/or other forms of fund raising
- Community Truancy Board: will start in October for Mt. Vernon High; their focus is on prevention and they are in need of more board members; commitment is needed every Thursday 2:30-5:30pm through April (there is the option of sharing days if unable to commit to every Thursday)
- Community Coalition: the community of Concrete was chosen, and they are targeting youth prevention; the prevention specialist is Chris Kennedy, and SCCFC is sponsoring youth to attend the Prevention Summit

**Attendees:**

Andy Wheeler, Skagit Discovery / NWESD 189  
Angela Orłowski, practicum student  
Bob Hicks, Community Services  
Brian Soneda, Mount Vernon Library  
Diane Linnell, DSHS  
Eric Holl, Emerson High School / NWESD 189  
Ericka Christensen, Community Services  
Heather Parker, Health Department  
Heidi Kennedy, DCFS FAR  
Janice Condrin, Emerson/Youthnet  
Jean Champagne, Mount Vernon High School

Jed Cates, Burlington PD  
Jennifer Walton, Health Department  
Jodi Boon, Launching Success Learning Store  
Kari Jellison, DCFS  
Kaye Chapman  
Kay Walter, Sedro-Woolley School District  
Lyndie Case, SCCFC  
Mick Rasch  
Sandi York, Community Action  
Sean Conner, Dispute Resolution  
TJ Larrick, Samish Indian Nation

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**Our Vision:**

Skagit County is a community where everyone feels included, hopeful, connected and motivated to maintain a healthy environment for ourselves and future generations.

**Our Mission:**

The Skagit County Child and Family Consortium will promote and strengthen a seamless continuum of support and services to foster safe and healthy children and families within the Skagit County Community.

**Our Purpose:**

Empower Skagit communities to support and respond to the needs of individual families and children. Improve the responsiveness of service for children and families.