

WAHKIAKUM COMMUNITY NETWORK

Wahkiakum Networking Cafe'

March 3, 2008 6:00 – 9:00 PM

River Street Meeting Room

Amended May 3, 2008

ATTENDING –

Chris Holmes	Wahkiakum Health & Human Services
Jerry Wetle	Prosecuting Attorney's Office
Anne Snyder	Cathlamet Town Council
Erin Wilson	Wahkiakum Drug Crimes Steering Committee
Lisa Ridout	Wahkiakum School District
Colleen Theisen	Department of Social & Health Services
Beth Hansen	St. James Family Center/Charlotte House
Susan Schillios	Charlotte House Domestic Violence Shelter
Bill Tawater	Wahkiakum Sheriff's Office
Kassy Burdick	Heritage Bible Church
Barbara Skreen	CAP
Sam Kresge	Wahkiakum K-8 Schools
Carole Lewis	Wahkiakum Community Network
Linda Hartung	Wahkiakum Human Services
Pastor Haas	Wahkiakum Interfaith Network
Tammy Peterson	Wahkiakum Community Network
Lia Sealund	Wahkiakum Community Network

PURPOSE –

The purpose of the Wahkiakum Networking Cafe' is to increase networking among service organizations of the community. The benefit to the community to participate in the Wahkiakum Networking Café is to bring these organizations together to increase collaboration and to increase awareness of the others efforts to reduce duplication of services and increase sustainability and capacity. By implementing the Wahkiakum Networking Café, Wahkiakum Community Network will accomplish several outcomes including satisfying the Washington State Review of Community Efforts (RCW 70.190.110); Goal Two of the federal Drug Free Community Grant (strengthen coalition collaboration to prevent and reduce substance abuse In Wahkiakum County); and achieve the mission of Community Mobilization (to effectively address the problem of substance abuse and violence by promoting: collaboration, cooperation, communication, commitment, and cultural competency).

OPENING – Lia Sealund and Tammy Peterson co-facilitated the event; Lia called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. After introductions participants enjoyed a working dinner with a presentation from Wahkiakum Community Network on Emergence Change Theory. Lia provided the presentation with a handout and how it correlates to Wahkiakum Networking Café. By implementing the Emergence Change Theory in Wahkiakum County individual, separate service providers will be linked together to form a larger, more cohesive body with a united goal – *to improve the lives of families and youth in Wahkiakum County*, the primary goal of Wahkiakum Community Network and the Networking Cafe. Time was provided to encourage informal networking.

PREVIOUS SERVICE REPORTS – Lia began by providing a recap of past challenges, asking for updates of challenges presented in the past networking cafes. To date, there have been 10 challenges presented at the Networking Cafes. Thirty percent of the challenges have been resolved without Networking Café assistance; **40% of the challenges have been resolved with Networking Café assistance**, and the remaining challenges will be re-presented tonight to assist the agencies in finding suitable resolutions.

CURRENT SERVICE PROVIDER REPORTS:

Prosecutors Office – Jerry Wetle provided written report on the following services:

1. Consolidated Juvenile Services
2. Violence Prevention
3. Victims Assistance

Department of Social & Health Services – Colleen Theisen provided verbal report on the following services:

4. Family Preservation and Support
16 hours out of 80 hours is actual contact hours; trying to keep child with family. Local facilities not available and becoming less available since the directive comes out of Olympia
5. Crisis Residential Care

St. James Family Center – Beth Hansen provided a written report on the following services:

6. Family Support Services (FSS), including limited crisis childcare as needed
7. Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)

Charlotte House – Susan Schillios provided a verbal report of the following programs:

8. Victims Assistance/Violence Prevention
Red Flag Event was implemented throughout the community to raise awareness. Violent Relationships “Education Piece” now starting with freshmen in high school: Dating violence prevention (sexual assault – the law) a primary focus in teen education.

Wahkiakum School District – Sam Kresge provided a written report on the following services:

9. Readiness to Learn
Working to link families with local services; need help with homework support for kids.

Child Care Resource and Referral – Barbara Skreen provided a written report, as well as a Save the Date for the Regional Senior Connections Fair (March 29) and on the Early Learning CARE Conference to be held April 12th in Longview:

10. Child Care

Wahkiakum Health & Human Services – Linda Hartung and Chris Holmes provided a written report on the following programs:

11. Early Intervention & Educational Services

Wahkiakum Community Network – Lia Sealund provided a written report on the following programs:

12. Community Mobilization against Substance Abuse and Violence

Wahkiakum School District – Sam Kresge provided a written report on the following programs:

13. Drug, Alcohol, Violence Prevention and Early Intervention

Wahkiakum Sheriffs Office – Bill Tawater provided a written report on the following programs:

14. Community Police Partnership

Washington State WorkSource – Sharon Nagle was not present

SOLUTIONS/CHALLENGE NETWORKING

After service reports were presented, the participants broke into small groups to work on challenges presented. Each group spent 2 minutes at each challenge brainstorming to develop solution recommendations. The solutions for each challenge presented, are listed below and will be taken back to the organization for future exploration:

- I. *St. James Family Center is struggling to find sustaining funding for Family Support Services. With the county's recent budget cuts, funding will become even more difficult to obtain.*

Idea's suggested:

- Washington Schools Out grant
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

- II. *As an element of the Community Norms Initiative, Wahkiakum Community Network is working with Wahkiakum School District school board to examine an existing school policy that allows students to participate in the Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed. While exposure to alcohol is limited, the event is billed as an adult-only event. In addition, the Network is planning on meeting with the Chamber of Commerce to request beer gardens be relocated from the Bald Eagles Festival. The Network would like to hear your opinions on this.*

Idea's suggested:

- Kids don't belong there (Crab Feed event)
- Schools need to be aware of making a stand on an issue that is out of their area. Could hurt bond passage (Crab Feed event)
- Keep the beer gardens but relocate them to a less obvious place.
- Alcohol consumption should not be at the forefront of any community event
- Come up with another way to make money other than by alcohol sales

- III. *SRO Officer is currently in place but still may lose county funding*

- Consult applying for a RUaD (Reduce Underage Drinking) grant
- Special levy

IV. *The Public Relations Committee would like to receive your feedback on the past several months of Did You Know articles in the Wahkiakum Eagle. Please rate the articles you feel struck out at you or made an impact in a positive way*

- *Parents Who Host, Loose the Most: County Road* 8
- *Youth say parental disapproval of underage drinking key reason* 7
- *In Washington State its unlawful to sell: Parents Who Host* 6
- *In Wahkiakum 3 out of 5 adults surveyed: furnishing alcohol* 5
- *Developmental assets: 1-40* 5
- *Alcohol, Energy Drinks and Youth: A Dangerous Mix* 4
- *Students say teen pregnancy is their #1 concern: HY Summit* 4
- *December: National Drunk & Drugged Driving Prevention Month* 3
- *Why age 21 was established as minimum drinking age* 2
- *Washington Association of Sheriff's: Proclamation* 1
- *September: 18th National Alcohol & Drug Addiction Month* 1
- *Local students raise money to prevent heart disease* 1
- *Rachel's Challenge* 0

Comments: The articles with photos attract my attention; I like the lists

EVALUATION OF CAFÉ

The final element of the café was a request for participants to complete a anonymous evaluation of the café. Here are the results of the evaluation:

1. I received valuable suggestions and ideas for the challenges my organization is facing.
73% of participants stated they agree or strongly agree with this statement; 27% said they were unsure

2. Attending the Network Café tonight was beneficial to me.
100% of participants stated they agree or strongly agree with this statement

3. Attending tonight's or past Networking Café forums have contributed towards increasing collaboration between my organization and others in our community.
91% of participants stated they agree with this statement; 9% stated collaboration is in development

4. How often would you like to see future Networking Cafes?
73% of participants stated they would like to see the Networking Café's every six months; 27% selected every three months

Please provide the Network with any suggestions you feel would make the Networking Café more valuable to you in the future:

- a. Tonight went too long; please limit presentations to keep event from going to long
- b. Change the event to three hours or alternate presentations to keep the event on time