

WAHKIAKUM NETWORKING CAFÉ

MARCH 3, 2009

March's Networking Café was held from 6:00 – 8:00 PM at the River Street Meeting Room.

ATTENDING

Karen Fleming
Carole Lewis
Sasha Silveanu
Dario Langlii
Laura Porter
Erin Wilson
Nicole Tarabochia
Beth Hansen
Susan Schillios
Michanne Sealund
Jon Dearmore
Linda Hartung
Judy Bright
Kelly Guest
Lauren Head
Jody Wall
Anne Snyder
Colleen Theisen
Lisa Frink
Tammy Peterson
Lia Sealund

REPRESENTING

Board of County Commissioners
Media/Public At Large
Family Policy Council (FPC)
Family Policy Council (FPC)
Family Policy Council (FPC)
Board of County Commissioners
Board of County Commissioners
St. James Family Center (SJFC)
Charlotte House
Youth
Wahkiakum Co. Sheriff's Office
Wahkiakum Health & Human Services
Wahkiakum Health Department
AmeriCorps: Wahkiakum Co. Health Department
Children's Home Society
ESD 112 – Child Care Resource & Referral
Cathlamet Town Council
Department of Social & Health Services (DSHS)
Wahkiakum School District Prevention Intervention Education
Wahkiakum Community Network
Wahkiakum Community Network

Focus of Event: The goal of the Wahkiakum Networking Café is to answer two questions – are we doing the work *right*, and are we doing the *right* work. During the Café's held the months of September, December and March, individual services are reviewed to determine if the services are being delivered as intended by the funders. This will answer the first question if we are doing the work *right*. To determine if we are doing the *right* work, data will be reviewed in June to assess the health and welfare of our surrounding community and the needs of our families in Wahkiakum County.

PROGRAM REVIEW

COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL SERVICES

1. Community Mobilization

a. Wahkiakum Community Network (handout provided)

Intended Goals of the Services Provided

Lia Sealund presented the Community Mobilization services funded by WA State Department of Commerce in Wahkiakum County. The goals of this service is to increase mobilization around youth prevention and to eventually reduce youth substance abuse, a risk factor for violence behavior.

Current Status of the Families, Children and the Community

Over the past five years, there has been a significant increase in environmental strategy efforts to increase the capacity of our service providers to reduce risk factors and to increase protective factors related to substance abuse and violence. Recent review of ten year trends on substance abuse has shown a decline of 30 day use, lifetime use, youth perception of availability and increase in perception of parental disapproval.

Collaborative Efforts

In addition to providing a collaborative environment for multiple sectors throughout the county via membership on the coalition, the Network also provides financial and evaluation support to direct services and community mobilization programs, and provides resources to local service providers through coordination of the Wahkiakum Networking Café and Wahkiakum Meth Action Team.

Barriers to Success or Improvements Being Made

Current Challenge: The coalition has a series of activities in their work plan that necessitates membership participation outside of regular board meetings. Regrettably, there is a significant limitation of many of the member's time to participate in delivery of those projects in addition to regular board membership meetings. We are currently exploring creative solutions to this challenge.

Future Efforts: The Washington State budget session is underway. At this point, it appears there could be a 30-60% reduction in funding for Community Mobilization funding. This may be a barrier to deliver future projects and support.

For More Information: Lia Sealund, Director www.wahkiakumcommunitynetwork.org
Phone: 360-795-8040 E-mail: wahkiakum@centurytel.net

b. Family Policy Council (two handouts provided)

Intended Goals of the Services Provided

The council reduces expensive social behavioral problems by involving each community in finding its own unique pathway to thriving families.

Current Status of the Families, Children and the Community

Wahkiakum Community Network has been part of a multi-county study¹ of Washington State to analyze the impact of high community capacity on problem behaviors. Studies show counties that demonstrate high community capacity result in social normative changes such as reduced risk factors and increased protective factors across all community, school, peer and individual levels.

¹ How do High Risk Counties Protect All Youth; Dario Longhi Ph.D. & Laura Porter, November 2009
Social-Normative Changes in Rural High Risk Counties with High Community Capacity that Accounted for Decreases in Youth Substance Use from 2000-2008, Dario Longhi Ph.D. & Laura Porter, December 2009

Collaborative Efforts

Currently, the Family Policy Council partners with 42 Community Public Health and Safety Networks across Washington State to successfully reduce multiple problem behaviors including child abuse and youth substance abuse, and work to improve the state's policies that impact the lives of children and families. Family Policy Council is the founding entity that helped establish Wahkiakum Community Network in 1996 and has continued to mentor and support Wahkiakum since its inception.

Barriers to Success or Improvements Being Made

Data trends reported from Wahkiakum County substantiate the research from Family Policy Council; rate trends have been showing a steady decrease over time in all substance abuse measures.

For More Information Contact: Laura Porter, Director www.fpc.wa.gov
Phone: (360) 902-7880 E-mail: FPCStaff@dshs.wa.gov

c. WSU Wahkiakum County Extension (handout provided)

Intended Goals of the Services Provided

Carrie Kennedy presented a summary of services offered in Wahkiakum County through the 4-H Community Mobilization Project. The goals are to increase community participation in the education of youth, and increase community volunteerism, media literacy and public awareness of prevention.

Current Status of the Families, Children and the Community

As a result of this campaign, there has been a steady increase of volunteerism in adults, and youth participants grew from 40 to 106, despite a 75% budget cut from other funding last fiscal year!

Collaborative Efforts

In addition to working with media, youth have been connected to a variety of adult volunteers throughout the community through service learning projects.

Barriers to Success or Improvements Being Made

Youth are in the beginning skill development stage and working with 4-H program coordinator (and Wahkiakum School District prevention education specialist) Lisa Frink to develop media prevention messages. Youth are posting their work on YouTube (www.youtube.net search 4-H Wahkiakum).

For More Information Contact: Carrie Kennedy, Director
Phone: 360-795-3278 E-mail: cakennedy@wsu.edu

2. Child Care

a. St. James Family Center (SJFC) (handout provided)

Intended Goals of the Services Provided

Licensed childcare is provided to offer the community high quality childcare with staff that is trained according to state requirements. Childcare subsidies are available through the State Working Connections Program and SJFC offers fees based on a sliding scale.

Current Status of the Families, Children and the Community

Childcare needs that have previously been decreasing are now holding steady for the past 6 months. More families are qualifying for childcare subsidies while they work or retrain for the workforce. The Child Care program recently went through the re-licensing process with the Department of Early Learning and received approval for the next 3 years!

Collaborative Efforts

Collaborative efforts with local agencies are a vital part of the success of this program. Parent educators work closely with Wahkiakum Health & Human Service through referrals and work closely with the Public Health Nurse. Program staff participates with the Cowlitz Wahkiakum Early Learning Coalition, the Wahkiakum County/DSHS Child Protective Team and Wahkiakum Community Network. Statewide we coordinate with the Council for Children and Families, Parent Trust of Washington, WA State Association for Head Start and ECEAP, WA State Home Visiting Coalition and the Washington State Association for the Education of Young Children; nationally, Circle of Parents and the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Barriers to Success or Improvements Being Made

Challenges: There needs to be an increase in childcare subsidies by the State so there can be an increase in wages for childcare teachers. Successes: Sustainability of staff, a drop-in program to accommodate families (unique to child care), no wait list and a high quality program.

For More Information Contact: Beth Hansen, Director www.stjamesfamilycenter.org
Phone: 360-795-8612 E-mail: bhansen@stjamesfamilycenter.org

b. ESD 112 Child Care and Family Services

Intended Goals of the Services Provided

Child Care Resource & Referral provides a referral service to families; it does not license, endorse or recommend any particular provider. Only families can determine whether the quality of care is appropriate for their child.

Collaborative Efforts

Through its partnerships, Child Care and Family Services (CCFS) provides referrals, education and support to families, caregivers and child care professionals living in Clark, Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, Skamania and Klickitat

counties. Parents are supported by *Parents as Teachers* – certified parent educators trained to translate scientific information on early brain development into specific *when, what, how and why* advice for families. By understanding what to expect during each stage of development, parents can easily capture the teachable moments in everyday life to enhance their child’s language development, intellectual growth, and social development and movement skills. Child Care and Family Services offers a wide-range of programs and services designed to maximize children’s early experiences through strategic community partnerships thereby by optimizing children’s readiness for kindergarten.

For More Information Contact: Jodi Wall at Jodie.wall@esd112.org or Michaela Jackson at Michaela.jackson@esd112.org. Phone: (877) 803-3287

3. Early Intervention and Educational Services

a. Wahkiakum County Public & Environmental Health Services

Intended Goals of the Services Provided

The goals of the health department are protecting and improving the health of a community through preventative medicine, health education, control of communicable diseases, application of sanitary measures, and monitoring of environmental hazards. Services include immunizations, HIV testing and counseling, WIC (women’s, infants & children’s nutrition), maternity support services, infant case management, children with special health care needs and family planning.

Current Status of the Families, Children and the Community

During the onset and spread of the H1N1 (Swine Flu), 25% of the population was vaccinated in Wahkiakum County, beginning primarily with children and youth. Most recent reports reflect annual services included 198 women and children were served with WIC and 663 educational services were provided. Currently, 65% of youth born in Wahkiakum County are qualified for WIC, an income based service.

Collaborative Efforts

Wahkiakum County collaborates with the Network to distribute education and collaborate with other sector representatives; they worked closely Wahkiakum School District and local emergency providers to distribute the H1N1 vaccine.

For More Information Contact: Judy Bright

Phone: (360) 795-6207

E-mail: bright@co.wahkiakum.wa.us

b. St. James Family Center (handout provided)

Intended Goals of the Services Provided

St. James Family Center provides Family Support Services/Parents as Teachers and ECEAP (Early Childhood Assistance and Education Program). The goals of

these programs include parent education on child development, screening of developmental delays and health issues, prevention of child abuse and neglect, increased children's school readiness, physical well being, health and motor development, social and emotional development, communication skills and literacy development.

Current Status of the Families, Children and the Community

ECEAP has been fully enrolled with 24 slots for the entire school year. Youth on the waiting list have been accommodated through the private preschool with sponsorship until openings occur. The private preschool and ECEAP is a blended program with a total of 34 children enrolled. There has been an increase in sponsorship requests this year due to the economic situation. The number of families participating in the Family Support Program for 08/09 was 52 parents and 58 youth; using the Parents as Teachers model has increased the fidelity of the program.

Collaborative Efforts

See Report from 2a (above)

Barriers to Success or Improvements Being Made

St. James is looking for any ideas for outreach to increase families accessing these services. Additionally, legislators and the public must know that prevention programs do work and our evidence based programs provide verification of that. Currently on a state level, budget cuts may impact services available in Wahkiakum County. ECEAP is looking at a possible \$193,000 cut; there is a possible cut in funding to childcare subsidies which may mean 7,000 families losing child care assistance. Please visit www.CCF.wa.gov or contact Beth Hansen to get involved.

For More Information Contact: Beth Hansen, Director www.stjamesfamilycenter.org
Phone: 360-795-8612 E-mail: bhansen@stjamesfamilycenter.org

4. Drug & Alcohol Abuse Prevention and Early Intervention
a. Wahkiakum School District

Intended Goals of the Services Provided

The district offers substance abuse education through a part-time prevention services coordinator. Primary focus is on tobacco prevention. The coordinator implements service learning and outreach to engage middle and elementary school students in substance abuse prevention.

Collaborative Efforts

The program works closely with Wahkiakum Human Services prevention specialist to deliver curriculum and develop service learning projects. Also utilized is the school district's newsletter to reach out to the general public through education.

Current Status of the Families, Children and the Community

During last school year, there were no referrals made for youth substance abuse. This school year there has already been two. When referrals are made, youth are connected with the coordinator to spend 8 hours working with the program to increase the skills necessary to abstain from substance abuse.

Barriers to Success or Improvements Being Made

Lisa delivered an example of a project used to engage the youth during a middle school lunch break (called the M&M Project). The project was conducted with youth volunteers to demonstrate the impact of second hand smoke and the choices one can make to protect themselves. This was a very powerful example of youth volunteerism and engagement in prevention to reduce community norms favorable to substance abuse.

For More Information Contact: Lisa Frink

Phone: (360) 795-3261

E-mail: lfrink@esd112.wednet.edu

b. Wahkiakum Health & Human Services (handout provided)

Intended Goals of the Services Provided

The goals of the services offered are to reduce risk and increase protective factors to reduce youth substance use. Examples of services include implementing the Youth Mobilization Campaign Cispus project, facilitating Guiding Good Choices, support for the Youth Mobilization Campaign Vista Visions, coordinating prevention activities, media outreach, policy enforcement and development, tobacco retailer education and compliance checks.

Collaborative Efforts

- Collaboration on a national level: American Lung Association, youth training on prevention curriculum, American Cancer Society, SpeakOut, LiveStrong Challenge
- State level: Department of Health, Division of Behavioral Health, Washington State Prevention Summit; a recent success was the securing of a scholarship that paid for 2 adults and 6 youth to attend the Washington State Prevention Summit.
- County level: Cowlitz County Health Department, ESD 112, Lewis County, Clark County, Wahkiakum Community Network and others (listed as acronyms on handout – omitted for this report)

Barriers to Success or Improvements Being Made

Youth Mobilization Campaign was accepted as a Service to Science Initiative! Service to Science (STS) is a national initiative supported by SAMHSA's (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) Center for Substance Abuse Prevention to enhance the evaluation capacity innovative programs and practices. The STS initiative will provide direct assistance to gather evidence about this program's effectiveness through rigorous scientific methods and validating the intervention's outcome claims.

Youth Mobilization Campaign provides the opportunity to work with over 60 youth in developing their leadership skills, finding their voice and bonding with one another through participation on the planning committee. Together, these youth taught substance abuse prevention workshops to an additional 304 youth.

For More Information Contact: Linda Hartung

Phone: (360) 795-8630

E-mail: hartungl@co.wahkiakum.wa.us

BRAINSTORMING/CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

Due to the length of oral presentations, challenge solving time was not available. If challenges were identified on handouts, they are listed in this report accordingly.

EVALUATION

Participant results of the evaluations are as follows:

1. 100% of the participants stated they believe the programs presented tonight are doing the work right to achieve their goals by.
2. 100% of the participants stated they believe the agencies that presented tonight are doing the right work to fill the needs of the community.
3. Recommendations for more flexibility in the use of public funds that might make one of these services more effective:
 - a. None at this time
4. Recommendations to the Network to make the Networking Café more valuable to you in the future:
 - a. Not at this time
 - b. No suggestions – this is consistently a wonderful event
 - c. Thank you for doing this and inviting us to the table – great opportunity!
 - d. Great organization and care went into the evening – good work!
 - e. Very nicely done all the way around. Keep up the great work
 - f. Time for presentations needs to be limited
5. 92% (12/13) of the service providers (who have presented a challenge tonight or in the past) report they “strongly agree” or “agree” that at tonight or past Networking Café’s they have received valuable suggestions or ideas for the challenges their organization is facing; 8% (1/13) is “unsure” and is hopeful to hear back on feedback.
6. 85% of service providers reported they have made or plan to make improvements or adjustments to service delivery, based on suggestions or ideas received at this or past cafes; 8% (1/13) said “no”; 8 % (1/13) said “unsure – waiting on feedback”.
7. 100% of service providers report “Yes” or “In Development”, that attending this or past Networking Café’s have contributed towards increasing collaboration between their organization and others in our community.

Upcoming Wahkiakum Networking Café

June 2, 2010 – Community Outcomes: Answering the question – We Might Be Doing The Services Right, But Are We Doing The *Right* Services For Our Community?
