

WAHIAKUM NETWORKING CAFÉ

SEPTEMBER 2, 2009

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

Attending were:

Karen Fleming	Board of County Commissioners
Carrie Kennedy	WSU Wahkiakum County Extension
Chris Holmes	Wahkiakum Health & Human Services
Andrew Weiler	Town of Cathlamet
Jordyn Wirkkala	Wahkiakum School District
Ashley Helms	Wahkiakum School District
Erin Wilson	Board of County Commissioners
Christina Marneris	Southwest Washington Agency on Aging and Disabilities
Shelby Felton	Wahkiakum School District
Jon Chambers	Youth Guest
Cody Olsen	Youth Guest
Linda Hartung	Wahkiakum Health & Human Services
Michelle Jackson	ESD 112
Colleen Theisen	Department of Social & Health Services
Lauren Head	Kinship Navigator
Evelyn Clark	Wahkiakum School District
Tammy Peterson	Wahkiakum Community Network
Lia Sealund	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 – FAMILY RETENTION

1. Family Preservation, Support and Crisis Residential Care
 - a. St. James Family Center was unable to be present; a written report (attached) was provided. Goals for this program include enhancing parental knowledge, early detection and prevention of child abuse and neglect and increased school readiness. This is delivered via a variety of services including evidence based home visiting (Parents as Teachers), play and learn groups, developmental screenings and parent education. Collaboration is a vital part of the program.

Challenges Presented

- *How to sustain long term funding.*

For More Information Contact: Beth Hansen, St. James Family Center

Phone: 360-795-8612

E-mail: bhansen@stjamesfamilycenter.org

2. Colleen presented a report (attached) on Family Support Services and Crisis Residential Care serving Wahkiakum County. Goals for this program are to maintain the family while reducing abuse and neglect. This is delivered via a variety of services including development of safety plans, family preservation, family team decision making (includes extended family members, counselors and professionals), family resources, reconciliation services, at risk youth petitions.

Challenges Presented

- *Turmoil within agency due to staffing changes, reductions and budget cuts.*

For More Information Contact: Colleen Theisen

Phone: 360-501-2613

E-mail: THCO300@dshs.wa.gov

3. Christina provided information and a handout on the Family Caregivers Support program (attached). The goal of this program is to provide the support and tools needed to empower family caregivers to provide quality support for their relatives to provide continuous care for disabled adults. This is delivered via caregivers support services, respite services, education, training and counseling.

Challenges Presented

- *This program is being delivered from outside the county. The challenge is getting the word out and conducting outreach in a community without a local satellite office. Being delivered from outside the community, local citizens are hesitant to utilize or hear about the service.*

For More Information Contact: Christina Marneris

Phone: 360-735-5728

E-mail: MarneCR@dshs.wa.gov

4. Lauren reported on services of the Kinship Care Program available to Wahkiakum County (attached). The goal of this program is provide the support and tools needed to empower family caregivers to provide quality support for their relatives to enable children to live with family members. This is delivered via resource and referral services and funding to family members to assist with care expenses.

Challenges Presented

- *This program is being delivered from outside the county. The challenge is getting the word out and conducting outreach in a community without a local satellite office. Being delivered from outside the community, local citizens are hesitant to utilize or hear about the service.*

For More Information Contact: Chris Hulings at 360-501-8362 or

Lauren Head: Phone: 360-501-8362

E-mail: LaurenH@chs-wa.org

5. No presentation was provided for Employment Services

BRAINSTORMING/CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

After review of the services available in Wahkiakum County, the participants broke into small café tables to brainstorming three key questions with results of discussion following:

A. *What is working in our community to improve the lives, well-being and retention of our families in Wahkiakum County?* This question helps determine if the participants feel the services presented are the right services for our community. Participants listed the following:

- Food and clothing banks; housing projects
- Wahkiakum on the Move public transportation
- School sports
- Churches
- Elochoman Valley Partners
- High School Key Club
- Health Clinic; Health Department's new mom support
- 4-H; FFA
- Strong sense of community
- Wahkiakum Community Network
- Charlotte House; Girls Group; Domestic Violence Education
- Healthy Youth Survey to promote focus on health & safety
- St. James Family Center; Parents as Teachers
- Elementary and middle school family nights
- Accessibility of mental health services

B. *What would you like to see in place to improve the lives, well-being and retention of our families?* This question helps the community shape programming that may be vital to the community, but it does not necessarily distinguish if the services are absent. Rather, it can mean the services are vital to the lives and well-being in our community and a necessary element of the continuum of services needed for families and youth living in Wahkiakum County.

- Accessible information and sources such as health, community outreach
- Child protective services
- Strong community
- Strong school district
- Family caregivers support
- Kinship program
- St. James Family Center
- Website for advice and to connect parents
- Mentoring support to children and at risk youth
- More family activities for all ages

C. *What can we do as a community, and as a coalition, to support the programs presented tonight to help them reach their goals?*

- Help with transportation to trainings such as the Family Caregiver Support training in Kelso
- Share a resource list

- Connect with schools, especially high school
- Assembly or after school get together
- Develop email network among Networking Café participants, such as a blog
- Incorporate program information into Network Newsletter
- Communicate the Family Caregiver Support Program to the assisted living and nursing homes to help get the word out
- Post information on community bulletin boards, at the clinic, DSHS, courts and schools
- Plan family orientated activities; Help sponsor more activities
- School online web page
- Newspaper articles
- Distribute information to the library
- Join existing teams

EVALUATION

The event was concluded by presenting a summary of each brainstorming session to the group as a whole to share ideas and suggestions. The Network will summarize each table discussion and distribute it to the participants along with contact information of each service provider to promote collaboration. Participants completed a brief survey at the conclusion of the event.

Results are as follows:

- I. 100% of the participants stated they believe the programs presented tonight are doing the work right.
- II. 100% of the participants stated they believe the agencies presented tonight are doing the right work to fill the needs of the community.
- III. Three generalized suggestions were made to make services more effective:
 - a. Recommend investing to get connected with the families locally
 - b. Host family events
 - c. Utilize the Wahkiakum Community Network newsletter to get information out
- IV. 100% of the service providers reported they “strongly agree” or “agree” that at tonights or past Networking Café’s they have received valuable suggestions or ideas for the challenges their organization was facing.
- V. 86% of service providers reported they have made or plan to make improvements or adjustments to service deliver, based on suggestions or ideas received at this or past cafes.
- VI. 100% of service providers report 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

December 2nd: Intervention/Prevention Services

March 3rd: Community and School Services

Consolidated Juvenile Services	Community Mobilization
Violence Prevention	Childcare
Community-Police Partnerships	Early Intervention & Educational Services
Victims Assistance	Drug & Alcohol Abuse Prevention & Early Intervention in Schools