

2/8/07 WECCP Southern Region Meeting Minutes

Participants: Elaine Strom, Martha Hested, Diane Bloecker, Annette Kornell Susan Donahoe, Martha Kniffin, Elizabeth Olsen, Janna Hack, Ann Ramminger, Kathleen Huber, Daphne Knox, Kathryn Ward, Amy Moll, Jen Vogel, Helen Arriola, Lisa Buechner & Joan Rice

Next Southern Region Network Meeting Dates

- April 2007 -Action Team meeting, Exact date TBD - plan for May 10th meeting & retreat
- May 10, 2007, Videoconference Pyle Center (tentative 9:00 – 2:00) state focus on interagency agreements in collaborations, regional focus will be on social/emotional development projects/outcomes
- June 27, 2007, Action Team Retreat, location TBD, 10:00 – 3:00

WECCP Statewide Redesign Summary

- WI Early Childhood Collaborating Partners (WECCP) and the Early Childhood Comprehensive System (ECCS) have combined efforts and are in the **process of redesign**. There is a PowerPoint and descriptive document on the WECCP web site at the following link: <http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/contact.html>.
- The **key purpose and vision of WECCP** is to look at comprehensive services for children birth to six and their families and provide integration wherever possible. This vision includes early care and education, family support, parent education, mental health & social-emotional development, health & medical home, inclusive early learning environments and any other aspect that touches the lives of children and families. IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) has helped to move this vision forward.
- The **basic changes** are:
 - There will be a state ACTION team with regional representation
 - There will be regional ACTION teams
 - There will be a revised state action plan that guides the regional action plans
 - Regions will customize their action plans based upon their needs and interests
- The **meeting structure** may change
 - Statewide videoconferences will continue to be held
 - Web casts will be continued to be explored as a communication tool
 - Committee meetings will be held at both state and regional levels
- The Collaborating Partners web site will continue to be a key source of information
- The WECCP listserv will be evaluated to see how it can be more effective

Southern Region and Redesign Implications

- It was agreed to have **objectives and intended accomplishments on the regional agenda** for each meeting and leave with tasks to accomplish or next steps.
- We plan to have a more **defined purpose and outcome** in our regional action plan.
- We will revise our action plan to **break down outcomes into committees** (possibilities include Early Learning (WMELS, Preschool Options/Transitions), Early Care and Education Initiatives/Programs, Professional Development, Parent Support/Education, Screening & Health Systems, State action team report, etc.)
- These committees will report at each meeting what has been accomplished and next steps.
- **A priority goal of the southern region is to address social/emotional partnerships, training and issues.**
 - Janna Hack has contacted the WI Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Initiative (WIECMHA) to discuss how the southern region can collaborate with them. We would like to invite Therese Ahlers to attend our next meeting to talk about ways to collaborate. To learn more about WIECMHA visit: <http://www.wiimh.org/>
 - We may review social/emotional resources, curriculums, scales and tools at our next meeting.

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Resources

- **Wisconsin First Step** is a statewide Information and Referral (I&R) hotline that serves families with children who have special health care needs. The line is operational 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Parent Specialists with specialized disability expertise and having a child with a special need answer the line Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
<http://www.mchhotlines.org/web/mch/home.nsf/Menu/F4D23B10BEE74AC486256F3F0072B0BC!OpenDocument> or 1-800-642-STEP (7837)
- First Step has a **resource link** at www.resourcehouse.info. A great resource for anyone across the state looking for specific resources in their area.
- **Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR)** <https://www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/PR/portalInfoManager.do>
Parents and providers can obtain their child's immunization record on line with the proper information.

Upcoming Workshops/Trainings

- March 14 & 15, 2007, Preserving Early Childhood, Madison.
<http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/docs/pecregistration.pdf>
- March 26, 2007, CESA 2, Lost In Transition.
<http://www.wcww.com/earlychildhood/lostintransition.pdf>
- March 29 & 30, 2007. 15 hour WMELS training. CESA 3, Fennimore.
http://www.cesa3.k12.wi.us/pdf/Keynotes_02-07.pdf - refer to page 5
- June 28, 2007. Transition Merry-go-round. Part of Summer Institute. More info. to come
 - If you would like to share an upcoming workshop with the regional group please send it to Ann and I can get the word out!

Screening/Assessment/Outcomes

State wide discussion

- The **power point** on screening and assessment that was shown by Julia Herwig is available at the following site under February 8, 2007 video conference.
http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/Early_OSEP.htm
- Screening, assessment and outcomes have **varying meanings** depending upon your role in the birth-to-six system. In order to support learning for all children, no matter what our setting or role, we need to take part in some sort of on-going assessment and review outcomes of children, programs or services.
- OSEP (Office of Special Education Programs) and the IDEA legislation have specific requirements. More info. on this at http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/Early_OSEP.htm
This affects many collaborating partners in the early childhood systems as children with special needs are required to be in inclusive settings.
- There have been statewide mini-grants to develop **demonstration sites** of collaborations between early care and education providers and early childhood special education services. These community collaborative efforts can be viewed at:
<http://www.cesa4.k12.wi.us/programs-services/special/ec/mini-grants/demoprojects/index.htm>
- **Child Development Days** were discussed and collaborative approaches were emphasized. The purposes of Child Development Days are to educate parents about early childhood development; provide information to parents about community resources and identify needs for further assessment. The link to child development days is not finalized yet but will soon be at:
<http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/EarlyCSE.htm>

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- WI Early Childhood **On-going Assessment Mini-Grants**. Each CESA was given the opportunity to collaborate with partners in the birth-to-six system to provide unique training opportunities around on-going assessment. In the next year watch for training opportunities to advance your knowledge on assessment, screening and outcomes. Bookmark this page: <http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/> and it will soon contain a side bar for screening and assessment with more information on the mini-grant opportunities.
- **Developmental Screening Infrastructure work group and WECCP involvement**. There is a PowerPoint, screening initiative summary and screening schedule documents that Lorraine Lucinski used. They are attached with these minutes as I could not find it on the web. Many participants requested receiving a copy of this.

Screening/Assessment/Outcomes

Southern Region Discussion

- **Information Collection**
 - Extensive training and education of health providers to conduct regular developmental screenings and be aware of resources for children and families is critical to the system.
 - A screening registry much like the immunization registry would be a system wide way to ensure that every child is screened. Do any other states do this?
 - Revise the required child care health exam report to ask for screening information in designated categories.
 - Strengths are: we have a code for screening and have many dedicated people in the birth to six system who feel this is important. Documents created in the health systems work group are giving us a starting point.
 - Barriers are: communicating the need to all system partners; having parents value the screenings and not feel that it is a violation of privacy; and having better screeners for behavior and social/emotional issues.
- **Strategic Planning**
 - Screening schedule should also include the following items: dental screening, behavior screening, parent/child interaction scale (with open-ended questions) and additional parent wellness checks. Under maternal depression screening, the research supports this screening between 8-12 weeks, please check on this. We want to know what WIC screens for? At the age 4 level we feel there could be readiness screening inserted there.
 - We suggest a pilot program in a poor county like Crawford or Lafayette to work with health care providers on better screening systems. (Martha Hested from CESA 3 had this idea)
- **Identification of Supports**
 - We may want to take a look at Minnesota or Iowa because they are Birth to 21 states and offer a seamless system for special needs issues.
 - We may want to look at the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Grant for the system (Elizabeth Olsen had this idea)
 - Use the Strengthening Families approach by keying in on the main professional relationship to the child and family and linking the screening to that network.
 - Ensure that whatever system we implement it is user-friendly to parents.
 - Build on the child and parent strengths instead of focusing only on deficits.