



FAMILY ACTION LEARNING TEAM

Meeting Minutes

Date: June 19, 2017

Meeting Participants: Jodi-Ann, Will, Amber, Keayba, Sean, Pamela, Jackie

Ready/Ready Staff: Rachael Burrello, Mary Herbenick

Facilitator: LaMonica Mitchell

SYSTEMS CHANGE TARGET: Engage families as partners and change agents in the community	
A. Agenda Item: Report out from Steering Committee	
<u>Summary of Discussion</u>	<u>Action Items</u>
<p>One of the 10 key priorities of the Ready for School, Ready for Life (Ready/Ready) Steering Committee is responsiveness to family voice.</p> <p>At their June 12 meeting, the Steering Committee focused on the Guilford County Early Literacy Strategic Plan (attached, more information below). The team broke into groups, went over the proposed strategies, and gave feedback.</p> <p>A member of the Family Action Learning Team sits on the Steering Committee, and on other committees such as the Say Yes Task Force on kindergarten readiness, and works to weave information among those groups.</p>	<p>None identified</p>
B. Agenda Item: Status update on Ready/Ready work	
<u>Summary of Discussion</u>	<u>Action Items</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ready/Ready is working with its partners to begin building a 0-3 continuum of care that will begin at pregnancy. Dr. Ken Dodge, who visited Family ALT's April meeting, is helping to lead the work. • Part of this continuum means more resources at pediatricians' offices, such as navigators and educators who help families connect to resources, and give them information about child development. • The 0-3 continuum will be piloted in 3 pediatric practices in Guilford County with the highest Medicaid participation: Cone Health Center for Children, UNC Regional in High Point, and a private practice to be determined. • At each of the 3 practices, there will be 2 people to help families navigate the system. At the OB, there will be some screening and assessment to determine what programs best fit families' circumstances and needs. • There are 18 well-child visits from the time a child is born to the time they turn 5. At each well-child visit, families will have access to a parent educator who can answer questions about screenings and about parenting in general. These resources will be offered to everyone at the 3 practices. • Families in the pilot will be offered a nurse visit at 15-18 months. Child abuse and neglect tend to spike in that age range. A home visit can be an opportunity for coaching for parents. • The 0-3 continuum will have work groups, one of which will be focused on family voice. 	<p>READY/READY: At the next meeting, share more about the 0-3 continuum work groups and how families can get involved.</p> <p>LAMONICA: Share information about Incredible Years with the Family ALT, for those who have children turning 5 years old.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback from Family ALT has gone into improving developmental screenings, which will help community partners know more about what families need/want, and help them make sure that families get what they need/want. • Families shared that after participating in programs like Incredible Years, they would like to have family-run support groups that continue to meet. • Incredible Years is not offered below age 5 in Guilford County currently. However, it is being implemented for child educators in 60 NC Pre-K classrooms over the next two years. • Families shared that they would like to see health professionals receive training on how to better connect and interact with families. Families want comfortable, personable interactions with their health professionals. 	
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C. Agenda Item: Consultant Role – Feedback on the Early Literacy Strategic Plan

<u>Summary of Discussion</u>	<u>Action Items</u>
<p>Currently in Guilford County, 41% of children enter kindergarten not literacy-ready, and about 1 in 4 are so far behind that they need significant remediation to catch up.¹ To address this problem, the Early Literacy Design Team met for six months to understand the root causes of the problem and come up with strategies to solve them. The team was made up of 25 individuals from 20 agencies, who gathered lots of feedback from 50 families (including Family ALT members) in their process. Their work became the draft Guilford County Early Literacy Strategic Plan (attached).</p> <p>The Family ALT reviewed the Early Literacy Strategic Plan sections on families (Indicators 1-3, pages 3-7) to answer the question, is what’s in this plan sufficient to change the system? Families gave feedback and offered suggestions to strengthen the strategies in the plan (see the end of this document for more details).</p>	<p>FAMILIES: Click here to view “How Wolves Change Rivers,” a video on how a small change can have a powerful effect on a whole system</p> <p>FAMILIES: Click here to view a video on Active Reading</p>

D. Agenda Item: Change Agents Role – Planning work for the rest of the year

<u>Summary of Discussion</u>	<u>Action Items</u>
<p>The annual Smart Start Conference is run by the NC Partnership for Children and Smart Start NC and serves early childhood professionals from across the country. To present at the conference, Family ALT will need to submit a proposal for a session. The proposal process starts in October; proposals are evaluated and may be accepted. The conference has different themes each year, and the theme for 2018 has not been announced yet.</p> <p>Many communities struggle with including family voice. The Family ALT sets Guilford County apart from other communities, and is a model due to families’ commitment to the process. Other communities could benefit from hearing about what motivates families to participate and keep coming back.</p> <p>Families reported that incentives are highly motivating, and that building relationships with other families is also highly motivating. Families want a sense of community, and being able to build that with other families keeps them coming back.</p> <p>Families would like to be able to show the Family ALT videos as part of a Smart Start presentation.</p>	<p>RACHAEL: Send families a link to the Family ALT videos.</p>

Meetings will be the 3rd Monday of each month at His Glory Child Development Center, 3223 Yanceyville St. Greensboro. Here’s the schedule for 2017:

¹ Guilford County Schools beginning of year DIBELS, 2016

- **Monday, July 17, 5:30 to 7:30 pm**
- **NO MEETING IN AUGUST**
- **Monday, September 18, 5:30 to 7:30 pm**
- **Monday, October 16, 5:30 to 7:30 pm**
- **Monday, November 20, 5:30 to 7:30 pm**
- **Monday, December 18, 5:30 to 7:30 pm**

EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEMS CHANGE PRIORITIES – GUILFORD COUNTY

1. Ensure all new parents are connected to critical early childhood information and community supports/services.
2. Connect more young children and their families to needed services by embedding coordinated developmental screening and referral processes into settings that provide services for families with young children.
3. Improve family access to needed programs through the creation of an effective referral and coordination network for young children and their families.
4. Leverage and expand early literacy resources/services to meet community need by determining and launching priority program and system changes.
5. Leverage and expand parenting resources/services to meet community need by determining and launching priority program and system changes.
6. Improve school readiness by addressing affordability and accessibility of high-quality child care in Guilford County.
7. Create seamless and easy transition experiences for children and their families by aligning Pre-K and kindergarten priorities, curriculum, and transition processes.
8. Ensure the local early childhood system is responsive to and respectful of family needs and voice.
9. Increase public demand for school readiness by implementing a public awareness campaign focused on building community buy-in about the importance of early learning and development (0-8).
10. Embed continuous improvement orientation within the local early childhood system.

OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Ways to stay involved in Guilford County once your children reach kindergarten:

- Guilford Parent Academy (through Guilford County Schools) -- visit http://www.gcsnc.com/pages/gcsnc/Departments/Guilford_Parent_Academy
- School-based opportunities through PTA and other school focused activities, or to volunteer through GCS.
- [The Say Yes Guilford Pre-K to Grade 5 Task Force](#) has three sub-groups that focus on different parts of the Pre-K to Grade 5 pathway. Talk with Amber, Mary or Rachael to get connected.
 - Kindergarten readiness
 - Reading at grade level by the end of Grade 3
 - High stakes proficiency in ELA and Math by the end of Grade 5
- Ready/Ready Design Teams, to work on designing parts of the system around each of the 10 Key Priorities. These teams will not have age limits, and family voice will be critical to their success.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS FROM THE FEEDBACK ON THE EARLY LITERACY STRATEGIC PLAN

Indicator 1: % of FAMILIES using effective Active Reading strategies daily with children

- Even parents who are literate may still need help teaching their child to read.
- There are some low-cost programs, like Children Learning Reading, that parents turn to for help.

- In kindergarten, there will be a focus on reading comprehension, where children need to be able to answer questions about what they read.
- Read Charlotte has a video explaining what Active Reading is and how to do it.
- There are lots of ways to encourage reading. Billboards can be used to spread messages about reading. Local parks can encourage reading by providing enclosed areas for reading, and Little Free Libraries (it's important to provide children's books in Little Free Libraries).
- Texting can be a good way to connect with families. It would be great to have a service where families can text in their questions about literacy and reading and receive information – something like 211, but for literacy resources.

Indicator 2: % of FAMILIES reporting confidence in their ability to prepare children for literacy success

- Some of literacy success depends on the background and routine at home. Understanding that low literacy is a problem is the first step.
- Having a trusted mentor or advisor in the community to go to for information and advice is important.
- Families report that they want advice and mentorship to come from someone they already trust, who has a long-standing relationship with them.
- Creating programs top-down is not the way to reach families. Families reported that they respond more positively to those who make the effort to connect to their lives. Community partners have to be relatable and willing to step out of their comfort zone to connect with families.
- Building confidence requires support from the whole community. Peer-to-peer networks of support can be effective in building relationships and confidence.

Indicator 3: % of literacy PROGRAMS effectively building parents' skills to promote literacy at home

- One way to get information out to families is to have flyers, posters, and/or informational brochures in places families with small children frequent, such as libraries, community centers, schools, and day care centers.
- Families can act as change agents by sending information out via group texts, social media, and email among their own networks. Families reported they are more likely to respond to contacts from people they already know and trust.
- Videos and webinars are a good way to get both information and training out to families and service providers. Online curriculum could be advertised at doctors' offices, on local news and community TV, and community bulletin boards.
- Families would like to see a rating system that tells whether a program can prove that it improves children's early literacy, similar to the star system for child care.

Families would like to see free programs for improving literacy offered to all families in the community.