



## FAMILY ACTION LEARNING TEAM

### Meeting Minutes

*Date: October 16, 2017*

Meeting Participants: J

Ready/Ready Staff: Rachael Burrello, Mary Herbenick

Facilitator: Amber Robinson

<b>SYSTEMS CHANGE TARGET: Engage families as partners and change agents in the community</b>	
<b>A. Agenda Item: NCIMHA Conference</b>	
<u>Summary of Discussion</u>	<u>Action Items</u>
<p>The NC Infant Mental Health Association (NCIMHA) is the only statewide organization dedicated specifically to the healthy emotional, cognitive and social development of children prenatal to five years old. They work to ensure that every infant, toddler and young child in North Carolina grows up within nurturing relationships, positive experiences and supportive environments.</p> <p>The annual NCIMHA conference will be held on November 3, 2017 at UNCG. At the conference, participants will deepen their knowledge and skills, focusing on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Serving every child from a culturally appropriate, trauma-informed, developmentally-appropriate perspective using a range of skills to promote development, from individual/family assessment to coordinated systems of care</li> <li>2. Caring for themselves so they can provide the best services to all children. The keynote address and break-out sessions will address practical skills, evidence-based approaches and resources to promote social emotional development, so that every child can achieve future success</li> </ol> <p>Ready for School, Ready for Life (Ready/Ready) staff members Mary Herbenick and Rachael Burrello, along with a Family ALT member, will present a workshop on family engagement and empowerment.</p>	<p><b>FAMILIES:</b> <a href="#">Click here</a> to learn more about NCIMHA</p>
<b>B. Agenda Item: Update on the Duke University work</b>	
<u>Summary of Discussion</u>	<u>Action Items</u>
<p>The research team from Duke University will be moving forward with conducting intercept interviews in Guilford County to get input on what would make an integrated data system work in this community. The team will not be able to interview at some previously suggested locations, but will still interview at LeBauer Park, Barber Park, and High Point City Lake Park.</p> <p>Families suggested other locations for intercept interviews:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greensboro Children's Museum</li> <li>• YMCAs (several locations throughout the county)</li> <li>• Rec centers through Greensboro and High Point Parks &amp; Rec</li> <li>• Center City Park in downtown Greensboro</li> <li>• The <a href="#">First Friday</a> events in downtown Greensboro</li> <li>• The <a href="#">17Days</a> arts &amp; culture festival in Greensboro</li> </ul>	<p><b>PAMELA:</b> Send Ready/Ready more information about the fish fry event</p>

Families offered some info on events they're planning to attend, or that they're hosting themselves:

- One Family ALT member's church is having a Bible study and fish fry event November 4 from 1:00 to 5:00.
- YWCA of Greensboro is having an event for their [Passion to Purse](#) program on November 11.
- Mechanics & Farmers Bank is having a [Community Day](#) Saturday 10/21 from 10:00 to 1:00. They are located at 100 S. Murrow Blvd. in Greensboro.

Families had some suggestions about delivery of the interviews:

- A combination of in-person and electronic could be effective. It could help to ask in person if the team can send an electronic survey, and collect email addresses.
- If people trust that the request is coming from a legitimate source, they will be more likely to give their information. Families suggested that people will recognize Duke as a legitimate source.
- Having signage or a table set up that shows that the study is being conducted by Duke University could help build credibility.

**C. Agenda Item: Smart Start Conference**

Summary of Discussion

Smart Start was the first statewide early childhood initiative. North Carolina has been a leader in early childhood with an emphasis on funding early childhood programs. There are 100 counties in NC and 76 Smart Start organizations. Smart Start gives funding to early childhood programs and then monitors to make sure they're getting good results. Some states have built upon the Smart Start model and done great things, but NC has been the leader in this work, and so hosts the annual Smart Start conference.

The Smart Start conference brings together professionals from all over the country who work with children and families; about 10,000 people usually attend. There is a wide audience of people who have diverse interests, and lots of submissions for workshops. Not everyone who submits a proposal for a workshop is selected to present. The conference has a family engagement track, but has typically not had families themselves present workshops.

Families reviewed proposed language for the Smart Start application (**attached**) and made edits. Families decided that Damaris will be lead presenter, with Sean, Melissa, Jodi-Ann, and Amber as co-presenters.

Families suggested that the workshop include the Family PhotoVoice Project display. The presentation could begin with PhotoVoice, talk about what Family ALT has influenced, then include the video campaign, showing how families want practitioners to engage with them.

Families came up with several possible titles for the workshop:

- Seat at the Table: Engaging, Educating, and Listening to Families
- Seat at the Table: Family Voice, Engagement, and School Readiness
- Promoting Family Voices: Engagement, Empowerment, and Education
- Empowering Family Voices for Education and Advocacy

Action Items

**MARY & RACHAEL:** Complete next draft of language for the Smart Start RFP application and share with families (see additional details on final page)

**FAMILIES:** [Click here](#) to read the PhotoVoice booklet

**MARY & AMBER:** Work with presenters to come up with the information for their short bios

**FAMILIES:** Review the attached draft application and send any additional feedback to Rachael Burrello [rachaelb@getreadyguilford.org](mailto:rachaelb@getreadyguilford.org)

**FAMILIES:** Review the list of titles and send your first choice to Rachael Burrello [rachaelb@getreadyguilford.org](mailto:rachaelb@getreadyguilford.org)

<b>D. Agenda Item: Next meeting</b>	
<u>Summary of Discussion</u>	<u>Action Items</u>
<p>The next parent education segment will be an open conversation among the Family ALT, where families will serve as peer-to-peer supports.</p> <p>Families discussed the possibility of moving the date for the November and December meetings. The November meeting will be kept for Monday, November 20; at the November meeting, families will decide whether to move the date for the December meeting.</p>	None identified

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

- **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](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 DISCUSSION OF THE SMART START CONFERENCE APPLICATION**

How are we going to “hook” the audience? What are they going to learn from you that they can take back to their communities? What can they replicate? What applies to them? What tips, tricks, and tools along the way have worked, and what things have not worked?

#### **CONTENT OF WORKSHOP**

- It’s a good start
- Instead of what do families think, what do families need? Hearing family voice is important, rather than assuming what families need or just looking at data.
- We think we know, but we need to find out what the needs are and what the dynamics of the family are. We don’t know what families need unless we hear their voices.
- **Preferred language: “creating a culture where family voice is always heard.”**
- Change the language to “we” instead of “they.”
- Instead of “continue to come back,” language about continuing to engage, to participate, persist.

#### **SUMMARY**

- Missing the piece on preparing children for kindergarten.
- “Our goal as a community is to have each child ready for kindergarten. To do that, (insert the rest of the paragraph).”

#### **Key questions:**

- If you read this in a program, what would you expect to happen coming into this workshop?
- How were we able to partner with families? What did that look like?

#### **Families reflected on the experience of the Family PhotoVoice Project:**

- The greatest thing about the experience is that there are so many different things that have been done, are working or not working, but as a parent going through the process, knowing that your voice actually mattered, that there were people who wanted to know what you thought, it felt like going from how are we going to tackle this to feeling like you’re part of the change. When you see someone later and they remember you, and they took something you said to heart, you got them thinking about something.
- It’s empowering when people interact with PhotoVoice and reacting. There were things that were changed out of our process. And it’s encouraging when you empower members of the community, they’re going to want to be part of the change.
- Leaders really want to know what we need. They think they know what we need, but when they hear it from us it’s different. I’ve been to things that weren’t about early childhood, but leaders say things like contact your local representative and tell them about these issues. This is an opportunity where they’re there, so you know they care about what’s going on, so you give something to take back that gets them thinking.
- Being in the same room with people who have the power to enact some of the changes we need, is empowering.