



FAMILY ACTION LEARNING TEAM

Meeting Minutes

Date: April 24, 2017

Meeting Participants: Sean, Keayba, Melissa, Myrica, Tanyetta, Will, Amber, Pam, Jodi-Ann, Octavia

Ready/Ready Staff: Rachael Burrello

Facilitator: LaMonica Mitchell

SYSTEMS CHANGE TARGET: Engage families as partners and change agents in the community

A. Agenda Item: Dr. Kenneth Dodge

<u>Summary of Discussion</u>	<u>Action Items</u>
<p>Dr. Ken Dodge is the William McDougal Professor of Public Policy and Professor of Psychology – Social and Health Sciences at Duke University. Dodge is the first director of the Center for Child and Family Policy at Duke. In this role, he leads an effort to bridge basic scientific research in children’s development with public policy affecting children and families. The center provides an integrated system of research, debate and dissemination, public service and teaching, addressing issues of child and family policy. Dodge is also the founder of the Family Connects program, which sends a nurse to perform a free home visit with parents of newborns.</p> <p>Dr. Dodge spoke with families to gather feedback about a proposed project for Ready/Ready in Guilford County. Ready/Ready would like to reach every young child in Guilford County – no matter what background – to have a positive impact on children prenatal to age 5. Dr. Dodge is helping Ready/Ready to plan ways to have this positive impact on all 6,000 babies born every year in Guilford County, beginning from the moment a mother learns she is pregnant.</p> <p>Families gave feedback on proposed ideas for the project in Guilford County:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families do not think that giving out money directly is a good idea, because it might not be used properly. Families would prefer money be used to create supports. • All families need support systems. • Families want to make sure the people who serve their children are safe – that they have passed background checks and have good mental health. • Families would like to see more 24-hour daycares and transportation offered. • Going into neighborhoods and having one-on-one conversations is a great way to engage fathers and other male caregivers. • Families trust pediatricians, but rotating staff and demands on doctors’ time make it difficult to start relationships. • Families would like to see other families involved as part of their support systems. • Services that come without cost should be offered to every family in Guilford County, not just targeted to minorities; services should be presented in a way that does not make them seem like a “handout.” 	<p>FAMILIES: Click here to learn more about Dr. Dodge and his work.</p> <p>FAMILIES: Click here to learn more about Family Connects.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services should come with supports for languages other than English and Spanish. • When providers do not have the resources to support families, or cannot connect them to supports, it breaks trust to the point where families may not seek support services at all. • Families do trust hospitals and other health care providers, and would be willing to give information to them in order to get support services. • Seeing or hearing from families who have been successful with support services builds trust. • Service providers can invest in families by sharing their own stories (in addition to listening to families), to build trust. Investing time in building relationships is crucial to supporting families. • Families like the idea of peer-to-peer supports like mentoring and support groups, to build trusted networks of support. • Some families trust organizations like churches, libraries, GCS, Head Start, and pediatricians' offices. Some families prefer to put their trust in the community, and build peer-to-peer supports. • Families have connected to Family ALT mainly through personal relationships. • Families would like to see preschool available to all children. <p>(See the end of this document for more details on the conversation.) Dr. Dodge will return to share more about possible projects in Guilford County and gather more feedback from families.</p>	
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B. Agenda Item: Filming video segments	
<u>Summary of Discussion</u>	<u>Action Items</u>
<p>Families reviewed the presentations from the parenting education segments of previous meetings, and filmed new video segments.</p>	<p>FAMILIES: Stay tuned for more information about the Family Action Learning Team 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:

- **Monday, May 15, 5:30 to 7:30 pm**
- **Monday, June 19, 5:30 to 7:30 pm**
- **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 CONVERSATION WITH DR. DODGE

- In Durham, there is a program where senior citizens volunteer to be matched as “volunteer grandparents” for parents with young children. They commit to at least an hour a week or 4 hours a month, and serve as a support for families who need a break, or child care, or just advice and general support. These volunteers must pass a background check and complete training before they can begin doing the work.
- Durham Connects recognizes that all families are different, and have different needs. They talk to families during home visits and find out what their needs are, then work to connect them with resources. A possible goal for Guilford County is to build relationships with families starting from the moment a woman comes to an OB-GYN to begin prenatal care, and to connect the family with resources beginning prenatally.

- While many languages are sometimes not represented in resource materials and services, Guilford County is able to use a language line. Service providers are able to call in and connect to an interpreter for most languages (except for rare dialects).
- In Durham, an idea is to provide a service like Family Connects for pregnant women, and at age 2. The needs are different at these stages. A nurse would make a home visit and interview the family to determine their needs, then through an iPad or tablet be able to connect the family to services on the spot. Additional supports might include things like help filling out applications, or transporting the family to service providers. Families would need to provide personal, and possibly sensitive, information for nurses to understand their needs, so building trust is crucial to make a service like this work.