



FAMILY ACTION LEARNING TEAM

Meeting Minutes

Date: November 20, 2017

Meeting Participants: Jodi-Ann, Damaris, Phil, Myrica, Melissa, Sean, Pam, Jackie

Ready/Ready Staff: Rachael Burrello

Facilitator: Amber Robinson

SYSTEMS CHANGE TARGET: Engage families as partners and change agents in the community	
A. Agenda Item: Family Peer-to-Peer Supports	
<u>Summary of Discussion</u>	<u>Action Items</u>
<p>Families discussed concerns and challenges they have raising children in Guilford County. Themes that arose in the discussion included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finding adult friends when we have kids is a challenge. Finding friends with similar cultures and values is important for forming a sense of community. It takes a lot to open up and be vulnerable with other people. Families do not always feel welcome in their child’s classroom. Families want consistent communication from teachers, especially for issues of discipline. Children have many differences in background and culture that affect how they learn and interact with others. Families sometimes feel that medical staff rush to pushing solutions rather than listening to their concerns and letting them just vent. Families want more personal relationships with medical staff. The system does not seem ready for strong family engagement. <p>Families shared resources and advice with one another.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetup.com and the Meetup app can be a good way to connect with other adults through established social groups. Family ALT does benefit families by bringing them together and offering supports. It can be helpful to write down a list of questions you have for your child’s teacher, especially regarding discipline, and request a parent-teacher conference to sit down and go over the questions. It helps to keep the teacher’s perspective in mind (having responsibility for a large number of students), and use an approach of wanting to work together to help the child. Keeping up good two-way communication with teachers can help in addressing discipline issues or other concerns. Families are the best advocates for their children. When you have concerns, address them immediately. Advocacy is a difficult but worthwhile job. 	<p>None identified</p>
B. Agenda Item: Report-out from NCIMHA Conference	
<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</p>	<p>FAMILIES: Click here to participate in Dr. Allen’s study</p>

<p>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 was held on November 3, 2017 at UNCG. Participants deepened their knowledge and skills, focusing on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 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 <p>Ready/Ready staff members Mary Herbenick and Rachael Burrello, and Family ALT member Jodi-Ann presented a session at the conference focused on family engagement. Jodi-Ann discussed family engagement from the family perspective, highlighting how family voice is both powerful and empowering.</p> <p>The conference keynote was delivered by Dr. Rosemarie Allen, an expert on implicit bias and culturally responsive practices. Dr. Allen discussed creating safe spaces for young children, and the issues of implicit bias and racism in care and education environments' discipline practices.</p> <p>Tracy Zimmerman of the NC Early Childhood Foundation shared the latest progress on the Pathways to Grade Level Reading initiative.</p>	<p>about family perceptions of early childhood school suspensions</p> <p>FAMILIES: Click here to view Dr. Rosemarie Allen's TEDx Talk, "School Suspensions Are an Adult Behavior"</p> <p>FAMILIES: Click here to learn more about Pathways to Grade Level Reading</p>
C. Agenda Item: Family ALT Videos	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Summary of Discussion</u></p> <p>Families discussed what the next video in the series should be. Themes that emerged included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video on how families and teachers can have better two-way communication. It is important to have the teacher perspective included, and not be one-sided. • With professionals, it's better to talk about what is effective rather than framing it as a "right" and a "wrong" way. • The different cultures of students, families, and teachers affect the classroom. <p>Families agreed to work together via email to draft a new script for the next video, and do some shooting before the December meeting.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Action Items</u></p> <p>FAMILIES: Stay tuned for more information and instructions on creating the new video scripts</p> <p>FAMILIES: Click here to view the previous video with two dads, which will be re-shot</p> <p>FAMILIES: Click here to view the previous video with two moms, which will be re-shot</p> <p>FAMILIES: Stay tuned for more information on how to participate in re-shooting the 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, 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.