



FAMILY ACTION LEARNING TEAM

Meeting Minutes

Date: May 21, 2018

Meeting Participants: Damaris, Melissa, Sean, Jodi-Ann, Keayba, Pam

Ready/Ready Staff: Rachael Burrello

Facilitator: Amber Robinson

Special Guest: Latrina Kelly-James, Root Cause

SYSTEMS CHANGE TARGET: Engage families as partners and change agents in the community	
A. Agenda Item: Report out from Blue Meridian Site Visit	
<u>Summary of Discussion</u>	<u>Action Items</u>
<p>Blue Meridian Partners is a team of investors interested in improving the lives of children and youth living in poverty. They make large investments in the most promising change efforts, and Guilford County has a chance to be one of the communities that gets an investment.</p> <p>If Guilford County is selected, the investment would fund the Get Ready Guilford Initiative, which seeks to make sure that all families with young children in Guilford County get screened for needs as early as possible, and get connected to the right services at the right time to meet those needs.</p> <p>On April 24, Blue Meridian Partners came to Guilford County for a site visit, where they learned more about the great work that is happening all over the county and the state, to come together around common goals to address the needs of families. Family voice was represented in the site visit, where the Family PhotoVoice Project was displayed, and PhotoVoice families were present to speak with the partners. A few of the partners came over to view the display and speak with families, and the conversations were rich and rewarding.</p>	<p>FAMILIES: Click here to learn more about Blue Meridian Partners</p> <p>FAMILIES: Click here to learn more about the Get Ready Guilford Initiative</p>
B. Agenda Item: Report out from Smart Start Conference	
<u>Summary of Discussion</u>	<u>Action Items</u>
<p>On Wednesday, May 2, representatives of Family Action Learning Team shared a workshop titled “Empowering Family Voices for Education & Advocacy” at the 2018 National Smart Start Conference.</p> <p>Families reflected on their experience with the conference. Overall, the experience was very positive. The room was full, and participants stayed engaged. They were truly interested in family voice, and valued the information presented. Lots of participants came up and interacted with families after the workshop, and offered positive feedback. One participant said she would change her own practices based on the information presented.</p> <p>Families felt they were able to express what families in participants’ communities feel, and that inspired participants. Families would be willing to present again next year.</p>	<p>None identified.</p>

C. Agenda Item: Update from Root Cause	
<u>Summary of Discussion</u>	<u>Action Items</u>
<p>Latrina Kelly-James of Root Cause gave an update on Root Cause’s planned work with Ready/Ready.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Root Cause is working with Ready/Ready to look at quality of services and how families are accessing them, the level they’re receiving them, the gaps that exist, and whether referrals are being made and completed, etc. • Part of this work is figuring out how to collect data on services and families’ experiences with them. Root Cause would like to get feedback from families with different income levels, race and ethnicity, in different locations across the county (Greensboro, High Point, smaller towns, rural areas), etc. • Root Cause would like to do listening sessions on what it’s like to receive services, and look at barriers that make people fall between the cracks. They would like to do up to four listening sessions over the summer, using places where families already meet. Family ALT will participate in a listening session with Root Cause at a future meeting (likely July). <p>Families gave suggestions of places where Root Cause could hold listening sessions or recruit families. See the end of this document for the list of suggestions.</p> <p>Family ALT members expressed an interest in supporting outreach. If families would like to be involved as volunteers or aides, opportunities will be available.</p>	<p>FAMILIES: See the attached information sheet from Root Cause for more details about how they want to work with families</p> <p>FAMILIES: Send suggestions of places where Root Cause could hold listening sessions with families to Latrina Kelly-James at: lkelly-james@rootcause.org</p>
D. Agenda Item: Feedback on Read Charlotte Family Toolkit	
<u>Summary of Discussion</u>	<u>Action Items</u>
<p>Families reviewed a draft one-page family literacy guide from Read Charlotte, and gave feedback. See the end of this document for details on the feedback given.</p>	<p>FAMILIES: Click here to learn more about Read Charlotte</p> <p>FAMILIES: See the attached copy of the literacy guide, and feedback form. Send Feedback by May 30 to Michelle Chapin at: michellec@getreadyguilford.org</p>
E. Agenda Item: Celebrating Graduates	
<u>Summary of Discussion</u>	<u>Action Items</u>
<p>The Family Action Learning Team celebrated two families who are graduating from the team, and will continue to be involved with Ready/Ready in other ways. We are grateful for their involvement and contributions, and wish them well in their next steps.</p>	<p>FAMILIES: Let us know if your youngest child will be turning 5 or starting kindergarten, so we can connect you to new opportunities and celebrate your graduation</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 2018:

- Monday, June 18, 5:30 to 7:30 pm
- Monday, July 16, 5:30 to 7:30 pm
- NO MEETING IN AUGUST – Happy back-to-school season!
- Monday, September 17, 5:30 to 7:30 pm
- Monday, October 15, 5:30 to 7:30 pm

- **Monday, November 19, 5:30 to 7:30 pm**
- **Monday, December 17, 5:30 to 7:30 pm**

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 Ready/Ready Active Reading ALT focuses on boosting early literacy in Guilford County. Talk with Amber, Mary or Rachael to get connected. This team does not have age limits.
- 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.

LOCATIONS FAMILIES SUGGESTED FOR ROOT CAUSE LISTENING SESSIONS

- Libraries have rooms where they do presentations and events, and they put up a lot of information on the community bulletin boards.
- YMCAs
- Guilford Child Development has Family Success Center, and monthly events at different Head Start & Early Head Start Centers.
- When there are events at LeBauer Park, people do stop at tables for information – good place to recruit families.
- Center City Park – good place to recruit families.
- Barber Park – good place to recruit families.
- Sprayground at Keeley Park in McLeansville – good place to recruit families.
- Lindley Park – good place to recruit families.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS FROM FEEDBACK ON READ CHARLOTTE TOOL

- Families appreciate that the scale of reading levels is on the sheet in a way that is simple to understand, and they wish they had a tool like this before their children went to kindergarten.
- It would have been good to have explanations of the reading levels in the kindergarten orientation packet. Families are often just told what reading level their child is on, but don't know the whole scale.
- Families would like to see a tri-fold version of the tool, with links to social media, or YouTube, something where families can go to get resources, see more information, or connect with other programs and families.
- The tool does not talk about the writing portion of the reading level. If a child is having issues with writing, it can bring down their level. If a child can't answer questions about what they read, it hinders them from moving to the next letter level.
- Families would like to see examples of what kinds of questions they can ask to help their child with comprehension. Many children struggle with comprehension and being able to answer questions.
- Families feel unprepared for what their children will be assessed on in kindergarten. They feel they need additional training in what the assessments will be and what will be expected of their child.
- Families can help other children and families by volunteering in the classroom. One school has higher grade children pair up with kindergarteners as a "reading buddy."