

Family Support and Literacy Advisory Committee Meeting
Meeting Notes
 January 19, 2011

Proposed Objectives:

- Launch the Family Support and Literacy Advisory Committee as one of three sub-groups of the Policy and Program Committee.
- Explain the history, background and structure of the advisory committee structure of the FTF Board and how it fits within the Arizona Early Childhood System.
- Provide an opportunity for the committee to review previous work and to define general objectives for FTF in the family support / literacy arena.
- Come to consensus on the purpose, job description and other basics about the committee.
- Get to know one another better.

Agenda:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Call to order ➤ Welcome and Introduction ➤ Setting the Stage ➤ History, Background, Structure and System Model ➤ Consensus of Group Norms ➤ Review of Work Previous Family Support/ Literacy Committees and Projection into the Future ➤ Definition of Family Support and Literacy ➤ Committee Purpose and Description ➤ Future Work and Next Steps | <p>Marilee Dal Pra, Co-Chair
 Colleen Day, Co-Chair
 Linda Cannon, Facilitator
 Rhian Evans Allvin, Executive Director
 Linda Cannon, Facilitator
 Participants</p> <p>Participants
 Participants
 Marilee Dal Pra, Co-Chair</p> |
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Group Discussion Notes/ Follow-up

History, Background, Structure and System Model

Follow-up:

1. Provide the Health Survey information relevant to family support and literacy.
2. Provide the Family and Community Survey results.

Consensus on Group Norms

Follow-up:

1. K Vilay will seek guidance from FTF regarding the definition of a Quorum.

Previous Family Support / Literacy Committees and Projection into the Future

Follow-up:

1. Contact Judy Walruff for the PEW information.

Definition of Family Support and Literacy

Discussion Question: What does family support and literacy include?

- Parenting skills across the developmental stages of young children
- Data driven home visiting programs
- Support services – economic, parenting and literacy.
- Providing optimum environments for young children
- Providing wraparound services to support the success of parents, partners, and professionals.
- A continuum of services.
- Through support services around the family, there is an increase in family confidence and parent competency.

- Families have a trusted source of information and referral
- Family Centered
- Families have tangible materials to support their efforts
- There is a culturally relevant approach to family support services.
- How vast is the “support” area? Parenting skills, library services, food stamps, work force training – we need to determine what is included for our purpose.
- Empowering parents
- What is the view from outside FTF?
- Family support definition must include a.) how families support families, b.) a community context – communities supporting families and c.) families supporting community.
- Our context is families with children birth through age five. We have a connecting role to other services.
- A key to this is having a full assessment and the ability to link with other services needed.
- Literacy includes:
 - Creating traditions/pictures/stories, having books at home as part of the family culture, having material in the home for everyone to read,
 - The importance of talking and singing – doing
 - Communication – talking with each other – creating a rich language environment. Identifying communication needs.
 - Lifelong / modeling.
 - Families understand value of reading, modeling, etc.
 - The love of reading and storytelling

Committee Purpose and Description

Follow-up:

1. Review the Committee process, timeline, key dates, and results from each meeting at the next Family Support and Literacy Advisory Committee meeting.

Discussion Question: What success would look like for this Committee?

Committee’s Answer:

- 80% of the Committee members know the results of this work and can articulate the results.
- Committee members can recall 6 of x number of the products; i.e. we developed, we know, what we did!
- Less is more – no need for great volumes of material
- If we do this, x happens – can articulate the impact of the work they are doing. Committee is focused, work is simple, short and sweet!
- We have not left any organization or area behind in this process. They are represented.
- Regional Councils understand what happened and
- The work of the Committee is implemented.
- There will be a product we will actually hold ourselves accountable to and be proud of.
- Substantive indicators which not only include those things which can be easily measured, but let’s be ground-breaking and determine ways to measure that which has not been measured before – let’s change our world!

Future Work and Next Steps

Discussion Question: What worked?

Committee’s Answer:

- Background information was helpful to the new members.
- The meeting environment was inclusive and collaborative.
- Having Rhian here.

Discussion Question: What would improve the meeting:

Committee's Answer:

- What would improve the meeting?
- Having phone/ web based access to the meeting
- Cookies
- Do not have us sitting in one place for the entire meeting – have more activities and small groups. Other methods to solicit information.

Summary of Follow-up items

1. K Vilay will seek guidance from FTF regarding the definition of a Quorum.
2. Provide information to the Committee about Travel Reimbursement
3. Finalize terms to be used across all Committees; i.e. Outcome, goal, Objectives, Indicators (short term, long term)
4. Discuss use of substitutes – K to ask the Attorney about this.
5. Determine what work can be done by e-mail – be really clear about the assignments and what needs to be reviewed prior to the meeting.
6. Add to the Group Norms that Committee members will come to the meetings prepared. If substitutes are allowed, they will be prepared to participate.
7. Clarify where we are going – at the beginning of each meeting and in planning the next meeting agenda, clearly define what is to be accomplished. Monitor our status at each meeting.
8. Issue a follow-up e-mail after the meeting reminding participants of what they need to do before the next meeting.
9. Information Needs: What is the “face of family support; i.e. current models (see Pima County Model), what are the trends for Arizona families impacting family support; i.e. immigration / legal children with undocumented parents, what services are available now, what could become available. Look at NAEYC web for Arizona snapshot.
10. Review the Committee process, timeline, key dates, and results from each meeting at the next Family Support and Literacy Advisory Committee meeting.
11. Provide the Health Survey information relevant to family support and literacy.
12. Provide the Family and Community Survey results.
13. Contact Judy Walruff for the PEW information.
14. Add foster families to the definition
15. Consider the use of the word “support”. For some families / communities, this is a problem; i.e. “we don’t need support, we can handle it”.