

School Readiness Committee
Minutes from September 27th 2010 Meeting
Held at United Way of Buffalo & Erie County

In attendance: Lisa Alexander, Antoinette Amos, Melody Baker, Diane Bessel, Jean McKeown, Jill Robbins-Jabine, David Rust, Becky Schicker, Michael Weiner

Michael began the meeting by welcoming participants and calling for introductions. He then reviewed meetings minutes from the August 30th meeting as well as the day's agenda.

Diane proceeded with a status update on responses to Environmental Scan survey as follows:

- Thirty-eight organizations (one-third of survey group) have responded with 49 programs
- Target list has been generated for telephone follow-up.
- Committee member have been assigned and have agreed to contact
- United Way will follow-up with Daycare providers
- Diane will issue the following to Committee members to assist with follow-up:
 - Link to survey
 - Cover letter
- Committee member were advised that it is fine to add new programs that were not included on original sampling frame list (from 2007)
- Follow-up to be complete by October 1st 2010
- Pam Roust indicated that Niagara Day Care should be added to the list and that she will reach out to them

Diane presented draft results statements for Committee discussion. An overview of results statement /population indicator identification process follows below:

- Intent is to have very broad, aspiration statements written in accessible language
- Other national efforts have focused on four results statements while our Committee added a fifth statement around special needs population
- Background information identifying "why" and describing the need for each results statement will be included in documentation moving forward as part of community focus group efforts.
- Need to insure data is publicly available. This limits, to some degree, what population indicators can be utilized.
- One of the committee deliverables will be a data development agenda document
- Shelley Richards noted a gap in the available population indicator data: family involvement. She will ask her staff to examine possible indicators of this type
- Committee acknowledged that the results statements are draft and that the community focus groups/vetting sessions may require changes or result in the identification of other possible population indicators.

Draft results statements were accepted as follows:

Results Statement #1: Children are born healthy and remain healthy.

- David Rust indicated that asthma data should be added to population indicators

Results Statement #2: Children with special needs access appropriate services to reach their full potential.

- Does NYSED have database that includes CPSE data?

Results Statement #3: All children are ready for school.

- Much discussion regarding data, what is available, what isn't, proxy measures, etc.

Results Statement #4: Children are nurtured in a stable, caring home environment.

Results Statement #5: All children are safe in their neighborhoods

Diane will draft a script for the “Talk to Action” exercises to be used for the focus group sessions.

Discussion then moved to a review of preliminary publicly available data on population indicators.

Diane will ask her intern to secure annual data on the community indicators listed below for both Erie and Niagara Counties.

- Abuse and Neglect
- Poverty
- Free/Reduced School Lunch
- Food Stamps/TANFF
- Low-birth Weight
- Asthma
- Lead
- Infant mortality rate

Next Steps:

- Committee members will engage in follow-up calls
- Diane will draft “Talk to Action” script and training materials
- Committee members to identify list of individuals to be included in focus groups
- Committee members to bring calendars to next meeting to schedule focus groups

Michael wrapped up the meeting and thanked everyone for their participation and commitment to this effort.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for: October 25, 2010 from 9:00am – 10:30am at the Family and Children’s Services of Niagara One Stop Center, 1522 Main Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14305.