

Strengthening Families Meeting Summary 9/5/13

The Strengthening Families Leadership Team met on September 5 at the Franklin County Health Department. Members present include: Dr. Tena Robbins, Joe Roberts, Tom Lottman, Kristy Boggs, Marilyn Coffey, Paula Woodworth, Tricia Okeson, Joel Griffith, Beth Jordan, Marybeth Jackson, Brooke Gill, Amanda Flanary, Bill Buchanan, Tracey DeSimone, John Nevitt, Ruth Ann Shepherd, Terry Tolan, Tal Curry and Diana Koonce.

Dr. Shepherd gave an overview of the previous meetings and Terry welcomed everyone. The members of the group introduced themselves and stated what they hoped to get out of this Leadership Team through incorporating the Strengthening Families framework.

What do you hope to get out of this?

- Paradigm shift including: some families to all families around S/E; risk factors to protective factors; not reactionary move to prevention & promotion including system of care framework; view of issues from front in and work beginning there
- Pilot program
- Align with Head Start Family Standards
- Gave example of 5 year plan with 2 generation focus from Aspen Center
- Common lens and language
- Move from deficit model around care to skill and/or performance based model for families
- Increase conversation about families across systems
- Focus on families and quality child care through STARS
- KIDS Now history as strength
- Prevention and promotion
- FRYSC potential with FRYSC Developmental Assets through Search Institute
- Common lens/language for prevention services
- Investigative/ongoing worker
- Assessing strengths vs. survival/reactionary
- Common vision & focus
- Combine resources/leverage funds
- Empowerment

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- We can do something through education/awareness; hopeful message; outreach
- Incorporating prevention and promotion
- Engage all families
- Set policy and evaluation
- CCAP families-increase risk-childcare plays important role-bigger issues with families across programs-prevention/promotion across all families and child care programs-quality rating system-getting more family engagement
- More systematic way for family engagement-more skill development
- Enhance work councils are already doing with families
- All kids come to school ready to grow, ready to learn. Schools involved in CECCS, Seen power of families working together around literacy
- Focusing on all families normal families need help
- Strengths vs. deficit model; Not someone broken
- Building strengths in families

Review of Strengthening Families Six Protective Factors

Dr. Shepherd presented on how other states and national organizations were adding a sixth Protective Factor called Nurturing Relationships. There was discussion on whether to include the Nurturing Relationships Protective Factor. The Leadership Team voted to include Nurturing Relationships as a sixth Protective Factor.

The Leadership Team broke into smaller groups to work on Kentucky's definition of the Protective Factors. The Leadership Team broke into groups to define the five Protective Factors as it relates to Kentucky's framework. Each group presented their definition and the members of the Leadership Team agreed on the following working definitions which will be revisited.

Protective Factor	What Does This Mean to You? –NOTES from Meeting
Nurturing Relationships	People of all ages need a safe, stable and nurturing environment- at least one reliable, responsive, caring relationship- which helps to develop adaptive capacities to rise above adversity. This may include family, friends, and community partners.

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Parental Resilience	<p>Having the skill, attitude, capacity and ability to withstand and meet stressors and daily challenges; and be a problem solver in ways which lead to more positive outcomes for families</p>
Social Connections	<p>An informal network of emotional support provided through an ongoing ability to access positive support and relationships; and the willingness and permission to reach out to others.</p>
Knowledge of Parenting & Child Development	<p>Knowing where to go to find out information on essential parenting skills and realistic expectations of child development; what is expected of professionals to know; having the confidence to validate what you've been told; and step outside of what you know on parenting.</p>
Concrete Support in Times of Need (Group Title: System of supports to assist parents/families in times of crisis)	<p>Support must be trusted, reliable and easy access for both emotional and concrete supports like food, shelter, heat; and must include these four components: availability, affordability, acceptability and accessibility.</p>
Social & Emotional Competence of Children	<p>Developing and engaging in self-regulating behaviors; identifying and communicating emotions effectively; interacting positively with others; using words and language skills; delayed gratification skills; persistence; empathy; at developmentally appropriate level; and include executive functions like cognitive flexibility, impulse control, and working memory.</p>

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The Leadership Team conducted a short SWOT Analysis to determine what areas of strengths that they see that they can build upon as this implementation begins. The SWOT analysis was also conducted to inform the Race to The Top Early Learning Challenge application utilizing Strengthening Families as a major theme.

SWOT Analysis of Global Perspective by Strengthening Families Leadership Team on 9/5/13

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated leadership team • Existing relationships • Multiple/cross systems • Excitement/passion • Early childhood child care infrastructure • Community based - CECC, HANDS • Governor buy-in • Child fatality • Family focus • School readiness definition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal regulation restrictive/conflicting-prohibitive to partnering • No family member/org • Diversity of group • Infrastructure in current agency already very busy • No road map • Collective is difficult vs. agency priorities • Don't build on successes or what we have • Don't evaluate initiatives or look/use data • Limited resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic planning • Collective impact • Add families to Leadership Team • RTT-ELC-leadership agreement • Connect to other social efforts • Shift in paradigm • IV-E waiver integration with SF* • Communication/raise awareness "why it matters" one voice • Health reform opportunities -access to services • Corporate partnerships • Behavioral health re-design • Values alignment/assessment • Future funding efforts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change-process • How do you maintain passion • Lack of resources i.e. time • Assumptions-don't take time to understand local communities • Resources in local communities need to pay attention to uniqueness of communities • Election year-change in leadership • "Blame family" attitude

** The Title IV-E Program is a federal entitlement program established by Congress and administered by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. This program provides financial support and best practice guidance for State's work with children in foster care and adoption.*

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Next Steps

Dr. Shepherd explained the homework assignment for the Leadership Team. Each member is to complete the Protective Factors Assessment form for one of his/her programs to see how one program aligns with the Protective Factors. Dr. Shepherd provided an example of how HANDS curriculum aligns with SF Protective Factors. This assignment provides the Leadership Team with concrete examples of how a variety of programs align with the SF framework. A couple of the members will share how their program aligns with the framework at the next meeting.

The Leadership Team also discussed that they wanted to explore evaluation and what measurements they may want to consider as they are planning for implementation.

Another area of discussion included the train-the-trainer model. The group wants to explore how to proceed without duplicating efforts and aligning training whether they use current program trainers or by having one or two trainers to conduct the trainings for the different systems/programs. It was important to leverage resources to see what common training needs across agencies can be done together.

At the next meeting, the Leadership Team will look at how different program values align with the Strengthening Families framework and develop a values statement.

The next meeting will be held from 1-3pm on Thursday, September 26, 2013, at the Franklin County Health Department at 851 East West Connector.

The meeting was adjourned.