

Washington Afterschool Network Partnership Group Meeting

Meeting Minutes

June 5th, 2009
Riverside Resort
Vantage, WA

The remaining dates for 2009 meetings are: Friday, September 11 and Friday, December 4. Stay posted for locations.

Attendance:

Mandy Aaberg, Jack Albaugh, Doug Baker, Danielle Baer, Joanne Benham, Janet Frieling, Joe Garza, Kathy Gibson, Shannon Ginn, Emilia Holbik, Cheryl Iverson, Jeannie Kiehn, Dale Larson, Karri Jo Livingston, Norman Luther, Racie McKee, Pam O'Brien, Laurie Sherfey, Travis Smith, Linda Stone, Melanie Willis, Samantha Burns

Announcements:

- 1) Danielle Baer-Announced the awards for FYB—15 programs; She also announced the Youth Service America Disney Mini grants (see handout). They are due June 15.
- 2) Emilia Holbik, Director of Childcare and Summer programs for YMCA of Greater Seattle said that currently they operate 36 afterschool childcare sites and several early learning sites, but are in the process of closing a few and expanding in others.
- 3) Pam O'Brien, OSPI, will be doing a workshop on Century CLC grants with Janet in Tacoma on June 10 and June 12th in Spokane at the Red Lion
- 4) Travis Smith, OPSI, is doing a math and science training with 42 sessions on June 22-24 in Kennewick, WA for staff. They are expecting over 200 participants.
- 5) Melanie Willis, Northwest Community Action Center, right now supervises 22 afterschool program sites in Lower Yakima Valley—all of them will be running during the summer, but in the fall, they will only have 12.
- 6) Dale Larson, WSU 4-H Kittitas County, is interested in having people use their science and engineering technology (SET) curriculum that is research based for afterschool programs.
- 7) Jeannie Kiehn, WRAP Specialist in North Central WA, is putting on a training for the SET curriculum on July 24th in Kittitas with capacity for 48 seats.
- 8) Racie McKee, Omak school district, Panel of 50 member, was newly named regional Director for Action for Healthy Kids
- 8) Linda Stone-Children's Alliance partners with WAN to work on the Children's Action Network and with SOWA for the Feed Your Brain project.
- 9) Joanne Benham, Co-Chair of WAN, Chase Youth Commission, held a graduation summit in the City of Spokane with over 300 people, involving 60 kids. They were able to collect information around healthy youth indicators. They did a presentation on Youth Empowerment and produced a toolkit that includes how to do community youth mapping, how to find funding for youth projects. They are working on putting the

materials on their website: chaseyouth.org; including the toolkit and curriculums. Americaspromise.org has a lot of material on addressing dropout prevention as well. 10) Jack Albaugh, WAN Co-Chair, Puget Sound ESD, operates afterschool programs in 4 middle schools in the Tacoma and Franklin Pierce school districts.

Updates:

Supply and Demand Study: SOWA just recently put on two dissemination events for community leaders and key stakeholders in the afterschool and youth development fields on June 1st. Partnering with SOAR, helping kids reach for the sky, and the Gates Foundation, they held one event in Seattle at the Bell Harbor International Convention Center. The second event took place at Bellevue College and was sponsored by the City of Bellevue and Bellevue College. They were able to invite a guest speaker, Jeff Jordan, founder and director of the Rescue Social Change Group, who inspired attendees how to think outside the box on way to better engage youth. He shared cutting-edge strategies on youth engagement, including how to tap into youth subcultures so that we youth most at risk become interested in participating in programs.

School-Age WAC Rewrite Project: The contract between SOWA and DEL was approved in late April and since then, SOWA held one successful large group meeting: on May 11. At this meeting more than 40 providers, licensors, and others gathered and began work on the project, developing group protocol and establishing guidelines for the process. The group was divided up into 4 geographic regions to begin working in small groups on specific topics. The first topics, staff qualifications and licensing, will be presented to the large group for discussion at the next meeting June 29th.

Bridge—SOWA's 7th annual Bridge Conference will be held October 19th and 20th at the Hilton in Vancouver, WA. Early bird registration closes June 30th. You can register now on SOWA's website, www.schoolsoutwashington.org.

YPQA- Youth Program Quality Assessment update: On Thursday, June 4th, there was a meeting in Seattle was hosted by the Raikes Foundation, SOWA and High Scope with fourteen programs going through the YPQA assessment that work with middle school youth. There were both external and internal assessments included. Programs got together with the external assessors to look at the data and then developed goals for what to work on in the next year. They will have access to trained coaches. Then they will go through a follow-up assessment. 21st Century programs will pilot the YPQA assessment next year.

Lights On—This year it will take place Thursday, October 22. Help encourage programs and communities in your areas to plan an event. SOWA will also be sending out nomination forms for the *Lights On* Hall of Fame awards for champions in the field of afterschool to be recognized. Thank you in advance for your help in identifying individuals whose work should be recognized.

Innovation Grant Awards—This is the third year that SOWA has awarded innovation grants through the C.S. Mott Foundation grant. In the first 2 years the target was

principals, but this year it was opened up to other community leaders. This year's awardees include:

- 1) YMCA of Snohomish County Mill Creek area, Mayor and city council, Superintendent, Volunteers of America. They had a panel for people sharing information about the importance of afterschool programs
- 2) YMCA of Tacoma
- 3) City of Shoreline
- 4) Northwest Achievement Learning
- 5) Martha and Mary Kitsap Peninsula

Melanie from NCAC shared with us the impact of the Innovation grants in raising awareness about the importance of programs and what they are doing in their area.

Department of Early Learning update: Kerri Livingston shared updates about the DEL's new director, Bette Hyde who received a Hall of Fame award for being a champion for afterschool. Bette wants to partner and has solid connections with the afterschool arena. DEL has taken some cuts in the state office, but the numbers change all the time. Bette is changing the structure of the state office. They will be organized by the core customers that they have. In the service areas, no cuts have been made. The state office is doing all of their contracting right now. They all have to be negotiated and she wants to see outcomes resulting from all of these. She will be naming a deputy director in the next week or so.

Children's Alliance update: Linda shared information about the school nutrition programs. They are all entitlement programs (including the summer feeding service). After a number of years of trying to increase summer feeding programs, there has been a drop in the number of programs. Only 12% of programs continue to operate during the summer. There are many challenges with kids in rural areas getting to the programs. The summer food service nutrition programs are built around other programs in the area and the funds for these programs are drying up. School districts that have been long time providers of these programs are not able to find funding to go on right now. So, the Children's Alliance is trying to build public support around this through a campaign to mobilize people around summer meals. They want to talk with families that are struggling to find access now and hear from others who have been successful in finding programs. They are going to create a "storybook" to document this.

They are hoping to submit a legislative request to get a second grant program to help fund programs in the summer next year. They are going to do targeted media during this summer and a report in the fall to get media around this. If you have families that you know are benefiting from programs or if you know others that are struggling now, please contact Linda so that she can see about including their story to help raise awareness about the issue. They are collaborating this year with SOWA, OSPI, and Within Reach.

Janet mentioned that if there are any policies that the Children's Alliance is working on to let the WAN know so that we can include it as well.

Linda is also really interested in hearing about what is going on the different communities around the state this summer. Also, if anyone has good connections with local political leaders, we should connect.

National Afterschool Association has developed Core Competencies for Trainers:

There are lots of toolkits that accompany it. SOWA is going to begin using the toolkits with its trainers at this conference. They should also be up on the NAA.org website soon. Additionally, those interested in increasing their training skills should look into attending the Trainer Educator Conference happens each May. This conference is a great place to be exposed to new ideas on presenting materials to adults who work with children and youth.

One of the successes from the legislature was passage of the Professional

Development bill. The Early Learning Action Alliance was very instrumental in helping to get a bill passes that will support the work in a formal way on our states' professional development system. The Department of Early Learning is now required to convene a Professional Development Consortium and have this group complete specific tasks. This group had been meeting previous to passage of this bill, but will now be required to complete tasks and reports based on the legislation. Mari Offenbecher, SOWA, and Sally Holloway, Whatcom Community College have agreed to co-chair this group. They have been charged to develop core competencies, create requirements for articulation agreements between two and four year institutions, create a registry for the workforce, complete an analysis of gaps in the system, discuss incentives and supports for the workforce and look at compensation strategies. There are specific people that must serve on the committee and the first report is due Sept. 2009 and final recommendations for the system by Dec. 2010. They are in the process of developing the group's protocol. The minutes from these meetings will be available on the DEL website. They work involved is huge and there is limited funding to this work.

The efforts completed and those planned for the Washington Afterschool Network Partnership group meetings and other stakeholder events around specific issues faced by afterschool and youth development workforce will be shared with this legislatively created committee to ensure that the AYD workforce needs are met within the development of this system. WAN has many scheduled activities around its workforce efforts in the next two years.

Pam needs readers for 21st Century grants. In order to qualify, you cannot be involved with any of those organizations applying and cannot be receiving any monetary benefits. You would read between 7-9 grants in July and need to be available July 21. Please contact Pam O'Brien, 725-6052, pam.obrien@k12.wa.us if you are available and interested.

Committee work: Everyone broke up into the following 2 committees groups to brainstorm these questions: What would like to see this group do? What is it that would best benefit people working with youth that this group could do?

1) **Youth development**—In addition, this group discussed Summer Learning Day and ideas for events that could happen. www.summerlearning.org has lots of research and ideas for organizing events.

2) **Communications/Summer Learning**

Achievement Grant: We are in our last year of our second round of 3 year funding. We submitted our proposal for our third C.S. Mott Foundation Grant. The focus is Healthy Youth, Health Futures Washington. We have had to have a 2:1 match for \$75,000 of funding. Our partners include the Children’s Alliance, R&R Network, the UW Center for Public Health and Nutrition, the WA Association of School Principals, United Way of Pierce County, among others. Key goals and core activities are spelled out in the a 2-page document (and are on our website). All 38 network states share 3 Network goals. The plan for today was to take the first goal and look at the first achievement activity—*recruit and engage new partners from the medical/health and environmental education sectors at the local, regional, and state levels* and flush it out by conducting a **SWOT Analysis: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats.**

Here are the results of what the group developed at the meeting:

Strengths: (activities already happening in local communities)

- Pioneering a Healthier Spokane
- Rev it up Yakima Co.
- Understanding the link between health and learning (data)
- Healthy Youth Survey
- Local health with child care
- DOH and OSPI and DEL
- Increase education and awareness
- Movement to Coordinated School Health
- Diverse networking, pre-12 & the community
- Movement toward coalition building: nation, state, and local.
- We have a framework to invite new members (WAN) on a state level
- Gives medical health sector a gateway into the school-age sector
- Schools are now having to partner for health education
- Direct networking for health information already exists.
- Statewide partnership (WAN)
- Connected to national organizations and resources e.g. Center for Summer Learning at Johns Hopkins U.
- Other SOWA/WAN projects focused on promoting health behaviors
- Flexibility in OST programming as compared to school day programming

Weaknesses:

- No one from that sector involved now
- We need inventory of that sector
- We need to know how to market to them
- What and how do we get them involved?

- We need a strategy
- Organizations spread thin with weakening economy and budget cuts
- Disconnect within local efforts
- Limited knowledge of “their language”
- Look like a bureaucracy
- How to really get information to programs and kids
- Adequate staff support
- Overwhelming
- Lack of youth involvement
- Spread thin by scope of health→environment
- Have not traditionally thought of or sought out such partnerships
- Data to support connection/links?
- Early entry point to this discussion
- Who are the experts, champions, where is it happening?

Opportunities:

- Reauthorization USDA-Child Nutrition
- New curriculum and resources with existing partnerships e.g. WSU Extensions/
- 4-H Sustainable Design, Stem Initiative
- Health, WSU, Family Resource partnership in Kittitas County
- WSU Food Sense programs-nutrition education
- Farm to Schools
- Ability to partner with local public health jurisdictions
- Statewide coalition→Action for Healthy Kids, local regional coordinating funding sources
- Federal healthcare system changes
- Funding priority changes for foundations and some federal grant money, 21st Century CLC
- Increased creativity due to less money
- Collaborate with Healthy Youth Summit and regional summits
- To change the school lunch program
- Re-evaluate the lunch programs
- Start healthy education/habits of children at a young age. “School gardens”
- YMCA is doing a Food n’ Fun curriculum to promote health awareness (national level) and the Boys & Girls Clubs are also involved in similar campaigns
- Hook up with WSU Master Gardener Program

Threats:

- Lack of money, staff, time, resources, and coordination
- Educational system changes (assessment)
- Federal healthcare system changes

- Education of learning standards
- Conflicts between beliefs and issues
- Limited partners in rural areas
- Public versus private/ For profit versus non-profit
- Territorial competition
- Current economy and budget cuts
- Pace of change in these sectors
- Impact of economy on foundation support/priority
- Competing priorities, especially with limited resources
- High staff turnover
- Lack of communication
- Lack of motivation
- Duplication of what is already in place
- Lack of gap analysis

Afterschool and Youth Development Workforce Activity: From the following core competencies: 4-H Professional research domains, YPQA, Kansas, and Washington’s Skill Standards for School-age Professional, attendees were asked to look at the documents and 1) identify if anything is missing, and 2) in those that are named, identify areas that need the most work.

Group 1)

Missing in all four:

1. Physical safety
2. Transportation
3. Staff safety
4. Outdoor activity
5. Qualified to assist academically (help with homework)
6. Program evaluation
7. Risk management
8. Diversity
9. Special needs
10. Addressing learning styles
11. Youth development training for staff
12. “Whole child” training

Need work:

1. Relationship with families
2. Connecting with community resources
3. Positive interaction with youth
4. Cultural competency
5. Emotional development
6. Academic standards (tutoring/instructional)
7. Links to standards(program) and curriculum
8. Volunteer retention

Janet shared an update about this process—that SOWA was able to redirect funds in their budget to contract with the Forum for Youth Investment to conduct an assessment that will entail focus groups (similar to what we did today in small groups) across the state to come up with our core competencies.

The group identified some missing pieces in all 4 core competencies, including safety, curriculum, and outdoor environmental education.

Legislative session update/wrap-up: We lost the state funding for Community Learning Center afterschool programs, but the policy is still in place. We plan to go back and request funding when the economy improves. The other piece of legislation that we are tracking is the *No Child Left Inside* bill which also lost funding. A copy of the bill (which passed in 2007) report was distributed.

Interim work: Invite your legislators out to sites in your area. Start with a staff person. Have your kids invite them. SOWA can provide some assistance with media. Our lobbyist has told us how important it is to find out where your funding is coming from. SOWA will be doing more research to identify all of the funding sources for afterschool programs. We are also going to track the 4 communities that received state dollars and see the difference now that they are not receiving those funds. On our website you can download tips on how to invite legislators to your sites and communities.

SOWA and its action arm, WAN, were members of the Collaborative that helped to pay for a lobbyist in Olympia. The Collaborative will cease to exist, and instead will now be involved with the Early Learning Action Alliance (ELAA). ELAA will now have a provider caucus which will be a voice for providers. ELAA was responsible for getting the Professional Development bill passed. We will still have a lobbyist in Olympia. It will be more important for all of us to work to get people signed up for the Children's Action Alerts so that we can push for any bills that pertain to school-age only since the Early Learning Action Alliance will not prioritize any legislation that works towards school-age only issues.

Agenda items for next agenda:

1. Core competencies
2. Asia Society
3. Mott Achievement grant
4. Light On
5. OSPI report on all money going
6. School-age rewrite update

Reminder that the Hall of Fame Award nominations are due October 2nd. In the next WAN News and Information, you will receive nomination forms.

Next meeting will be Friday, September 11th in downtown Spokane at the YMCA-YWCA joint building.

Thanks to all of you who made the trip to Vantage to participate in the meeting!