

**Washington Afterschool Network Partnership Group Meeting
Minutes
United Church of Christ, Olympia, Washington
March 6, 2009**

**The remaining dates for 2009 meetings are: Friday, June 5,
Friday, September 11 and Friday, December 4. Stay posted for
locations.**

Welcome and Introductions:

Participants in attendance (total=59): Aaberg, Mandy; Albaugh, Jack; Baker, Doug; Beaner, Cathy; Becker, Judy; Benham, Joanne; Boyd, Debi; Brauer, Jennifer; Brown, Susan; Ceasar, Kelvin; Chidgey, Doug; Comfort, Diana; Cooke, Jennifer; Cornforth, Kara; Croft, Nicole; Edwards, Janet; Falk, Gregory G.; Fernando, Andy; Francom, Mary; Frausto, Elizabeth; Frieling, Janet; Galloway, Krista; Garza, Joe; Garza-Maloney, Esther; Gibson, Kathy; Ginn, Shannon; Gould, Jon; Groff, Debbie; Holbik, Emilia; Iverson, Cheryl; Jainga-Hyllseth, Jackie; Johnson, Daniel; Johnson, Kristin; Kasota, Jean; Kluth, Josh; Larson, Elaine; Luther, Norman; Meeker, Pam; Meyer, Colleen; Mitchell, Lisa; Murray, Christina; Myers, Brian; Norikane, Aaron; O'Brien, Pam; Offenbecher, Mari O'Neal, Josh; Pitts, Beth; Prudente-Holden, Carrie; Riffe, Erin; Rough-Mack, Debbie; Scott, Ryan; Sexton, Colin; Solinsky, Randi; Stoffels, Christine; Tanner, Terri; Trevino, Shellica; Winchester, Melissa; Yancey, Fred; Yoshitomi, Joan.

What is WAN? Janet Frieling, Network Director, gave an overview of the Washington Afterschool Network. The group has been in existence for many years starting out as a subcommittee first within OSPI and then moving over as a formal subcommittee of the Child Care Coordinating Committee. In 2003, School's Out Washington submitted a proposal to the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation to fund a mobilizing effort in Washington. That proposal was accepted and activities identified within the proposal began in earnest that fall. The first task the group completed was the development of a statewide plan. This plan was completed and continues to serve as the roadmap for our work. Washington is one of thirty-eight states across the country working on the same three goals:

Goal 1 – Create a sustainable structure of statewide, regional and local partnerships particularly school/community partnerships focused on supporting statewide policy development.

Goal 2 – Support the development and growth of statewide policies that will secure the resources that are needed to sustain new and existing afterschool programs.

Goal 3 – Support statewide systems to ensure programs are of high quality.

In addition to the networking opportunities among all the states and sharing information with one another, network states have technical assistance from national organizations such as the National Governor's Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the National State Chief School Offices, the Finance Project, the National League of Cities, the Afterschool Alliance and Learning Points. This support gives us access to information and resources as we build the system of afterschool and youth development in our state. More information about the Network and its governance structure can be found on the SOWA website at www.schoolsoutwashington.org

Updates:

Professional Development: As a result of the state plan completed in 2005, it became apparent that we needed to compile more detail information on the afterschool and youth development workforce. The Workforce Study was completed last year with over 900 responses from the field. The full report can be found on the School's Out Washington website. The document contained a set of specific recommendations that would move us to a cohesive system for the afterschool and youth development field. The recommendations have been broken into three phases for easier implementation. The WAN Partnership group has been involved in this completion and prioritization of this work since its beginning. This group is now working on aspects in Phase 1. School's Out Washington is looking for resources to support implementation. Phase 1 of the project involves the following three steps:

- 1) Develop a logic model
- 2) Core competencies
- 3) Unifying the identify of the profession

The plan for how to complete these next steps is being defined right now with experts in the field such as Nicole Yohalem from the Forum for Youth Investment. A letter has been sent out to see who would like to be a part of the process. If you have any questions, or would like a copy of the Roadmap that explains the phases of the work, please contact Jackie at School's Out Washington.

Supply and Demand Study: Another area identified in the 2005 state plan was the lack of good data on the supply and demand of afterschool and youth development programs in our state. To that end, SOWA launched a comprehensive effort to reach out to providers caring for children and youth ages 5-18. The year long project was funded in part by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Pierce County United Way, the City of Shoreline, the Northwest Community Action Center, OSPI and others. The project has now been completed with production of a final report and a shorter snapshot version illustrating the findings from the year-long, grant-funded project. In addition to posting these final two documents on the SOWA website, Shannon Ginn is coordinating an extensive dissemination plan that includes a learning circle for funders, a work session for legislators, broad dissemination to local municipal leaders, local and statewide media stories and others strategies that will get this important information out to the general public. For a copy of the Snapshot of Afterschool

and Youth Development Programs in Washington State, please contact Shannon Ginn at School's Out Washington.

Overview of WAN Innovation Grant: Janet shared information about the 2009 Innovation grant awards. The Innovation Project Mini-Grant addresses the need to build public will to support afterschool programs. Mini-Grants of up to \$2,000 are awarded to groups to plan a community event focusing specifically on raising awareness among a specific sector of the important role of afterschool programs in supporting young people. In 2007 and 2008, the Washington Afterschool Network identified school principals as the sector to work with focusing on the key role partnering with afterschool programs plays in helping students achieve school success. In 2009, communities will again focus their efforts on principals while expanding to other community leaders as well including local law enforcement and municipal leaders. Janet shared a handout of this year's awards with contact names and phone numbers. Members are urged to work with those award winners in your local areas to broaden the outreach for these activities. This idea has captured national interest both within the other state networks and within the National Elementary School Principals Association (NAESP) and the National Afterschool Association (NAA). Janet reported that she and Pam O'Brien, OSPI, will be presenting at the upcoming NAESP/NAA conference in New Orleans the end of March. This project has had tremendous impacts at both local and state levels.

Announcements:

Trainings—Summer learning conference

April 18—SW Region WRAP sponsoring School-age mini-conference at the Lakewood Boys & Girls Club.

April 17—Spokane City-Wide Drop-Out Summit where they are expecting about 300 students and adults, including officials and other community leaders.

April 27—Graduation Summit of Pierce County

April 20-21 Washington Afterschool Association Conference in Wenatchee

April 18—Healthy Kids Day at the YMCA

April 24 Camp Seymour Health and Wellness Weekend

March 21—Early Childhood Education Tapestry Conference at Clark College

October 19-20—Annual Bridge Conference with keynote speaker Earl Martin Phalen (formally with the Bell Initiative, and now starting new initiative around summer learning)

Committee Structure: Co-Chairs Jack Albaugh and Joanne Benham led a short discussion on formalizing the committee structures within the WAN Partnership Group for 2009. Previously some ideas for committees included Professional Development, Communications, Youth Development. The group was asked for further suggestions and one on Summer Learning. The following people signed up to be a part of the following committees:

Afterschool/Youth Development Workforce Committee (Professional Development):

- 1) Mandy Aaberg
- 2) Brian Meyers
- 3) Janet Edwards
- 4) Cheryl Iverson

- 5) Doug Baker
- 6) Travis Smith

External Communications Committee:

- 1) Diana Comfort
- 2) Shellica Trevino
- 3) Kelvin Ceasar
- 4) Pam O'Brien

Youth Development

- 1) Christina Murray
- 2) Norm Luther
- 3) Cheryl Iverson

Summer Learning

- 1) Wendy Woodard
- 2) Jean Kasota
- 3) Pam O'Brien
- 4) Mari Offenbecher

The WAN Co-chairs will work with SOWA to identify either appropriate staff or other committee members to facilitate these committees. It is anticipated that some work may be completed outside of the usual meeting time via emails or phone calls. Meetings will contain committee time when relevant. Others interested in joining any of the above committees should contact Janet Frieling.

Legislative Session Update by Jon Gould:

Jon Gould, from the Children's Alliance, provided a very nice summary of the legislative session to date. Three principal bills affecting afterschool:

House Bill (HB) 1943—authorizes continuation of the Professional Development Consortium. The bill passed the House and is in the Senate. There is not a lot of controversy since there is no funding attached, rather, it provides the legislative mandate to continue the consortium.

HB1754 (no longer) —Limits the amount of school lunch co-pays to 10% of family income, extends the # of paid absences from 5 to 10 days, and authorized subsidies for 12 months. They expect to keep this in the budget even though the bill disappeared. Look for a WAN alert requesting that this stay as a part of the state budget.

Collective bargaining bill—If this bill passed, it would mean that child care center directors and staff would be able to be in a union together and bargain with the Governor over the child care subsidy rates. This is a controversial bill because it authorizes potential for unions in child care, allowing them to leverage for higher subsidy rates.

A different bill that was introduced this session would have raised the subsidy rates through legislation did not pass the ways and means.

Jon also discussed current budget cuts. The Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) is in a state of suspension (put on hold when the Governor did not include it in her budget). Other legislation around quality rating systems was introduced by Senator Kaufman. She was interested in limiting all models to one QRIS system/standard. This bill did not get out of committee.

WAN Work Plan

In 2004 the Washington Afterschool Network Partnership group created the state plan. The plan included four recommendations that continue to serve as the annual work plan for this group. As a result, in 2007, a bill was passed that allotted \$3 million of state funds to OSPI for as an initial investment in the top recommendations from the state plans. Those recommendations included funding to communities to start or expand afterschool programs, support for professional development opportunities, support of a statewide infrastructure and resources to implement a campaign that would create greater awareness around the importance of afterschool programs.

Four communities received these state funds for school year 07-08 and 08-09. The idea was that the funding would mirror the federal grant dollars which are to be allocated for five years. Due to the tough economic situation and budget shortfalls, the funds have been suspended for the 2009-011 biennial budget. Over 3000 kids benefit from these funds in the following four areas of the state: Grand Coulee, Seattle, Everett, and Nooksack. Most likely, these programs will have to close if the money is not put back into the budget. WAN has been doing a lot of advocacy on maintaining this funding stream; however the outlook is rather bleak. It is hoped that by suspending the funding, the policy portion will remain intact and when the economy turns around, it would be easy to restart the state resources.

Other activities funded through these state resources were work coordinated by School's Out Washington around professional development and building the infrastructure. This work will be suspended without continued funding as well.

Federal Stimulus Package (see handouts)

Janet is participating in weekly phone calls hosted by the Afterschool Alliance with other network states. The main topic is how can we position afterschool programs to receive some of the funds that will be coming to the states as a result of President Obama's economic stimulus package. There are two main categories of funding, one for education and one for general use by the Governor to make up for weak state economies.

Education stimulus dollars will come through OSPI but then go to local education agencies to distribute to Title 1, IDEA and other targeted education funds. The best source of information on these dollars can be found on the Afterschool Alliance website at www.afterschoolalliance.org. The state will also receive some additional dollars in the Child Care Development Block Grant fund for subsidies, and quality activities. The Early Learning

Action Alliance is finalizing information to go to the Governor. They are putting forth things that were cut from the budget as suggested areas for investment of these federal dollars. These dollars will be available for two years only, so need to be allocated wisely.

Former WAN Partnership Co-Chair, Joan Yoshitomi, volunteered to lead the effort around submitting for the next three years of funding for the Washington Afterschool Network by the C. S. Mott Foundation. It was learned at the recent Network meeting that Mott has decided to continue investing in state efforts. These grants will be called “*Achievement Grants*.” The grants will be for three years, will need to take the work in states deeper and will require a two to one match. The grants are a maximum amount of \$225,000.00 for the three year period.

Joan led the discussion on preparing for the application by first recapping the great work that has happened as a result of the Network’s accomplishments since 2003. The following items were listed:

- 1) Created state network
- 2) Developed state plan
- 3) Created Panel of 50
- 4) Enhanced sessions at annual Bridge conference
- 5) Created electronic WAN alert system
- 6) Strengthened regional meetings within the WRAP system to both offer professional development and engage providers in advocacy efforts
- 7) Advocated for state money to add to federal money for 21st Century programs
- 8) Implemented media strategies
- 9) Created activities to strengthen partnerships between schools and programs through Innovations Grants.
- 10) Implemented supply and demand and workforce studies.

To complete the application, we need to have a match of \$150,000 per year. SOWA is hoping to engage new partners and increase its ability to leverage resources from its many partners. The grant application is due on May 8th.

Joan then led a brainstorming session that was designed to provide more detail from a previous brainstorm session coordinated with members of the Network Steering Committee. The Steering Committee represents all organizations that provide a match to the current grant. They met in February to begin the brainstorming session on ideas for the *Achievement Grant*.

The Steering Committee came up with several broad topic ideas, but then suggested that we focus all of the following under a healthy behaviors effort to change behaviors in youth around health and nutrition.

Joan had written each of the three C.S. Mott Foundation Network goals on flip chart paper and asked the Partnership Group members to brainstorm additional activity ideas that might fall under the global big idea of “Healthy Youth, Healthy Communities.” Joan also asked

groups to note any new potential partners that we could contact to increase the number of stakeholders involved with the work of the Network.

Information from flipcharts:

Goal #1: Create a sustainable structure of statewide, regional local partnerships particularly school/community partnerships focused on supporting statewide policy development at all levels.

- Community building event, e.g., ...community mapping
- Working with OSPI to build support for students to complete projects required for graduation that might include a health focus
- Focus on foster kids
- Offering businesses a chance to do more mentoring in afterschool programs
- Professional development—continued conferences, meetings, and workshops encouraging and participating in issues and initiatives including scholarships, QRIS, career and wage ladder etc., continued engagement at local, regional, and statewide.
- Public will—Needs assessment—surveys, focus groups, meet with other organizations as to not compete or replicate efforts.
- Educational reform—Legislative action, networking and collaboration at local, regional and statewide levels. Grassroots efforts. National networking.
- Impacted population—looking at targeted populations, populations most in need.

Potential new partners and stakeholders:

- Business partners

Goal #2: Support the development and growth of statewide policies that will secure the resources that are need to sustain new and existing school-based/school-linked afterschool programs.

- Promote programs that reduce childhood obesity and improve health, nutrition, and physical activity, movement for all, including children with diverse physical activities
- Professional development for programs wanting to add these aforementioned types of programs
- Promoting programs for children/youth aged 10-15 (including kids with special needs)
- Transportation to afterschool programs or programs on site at middle schools
- Quality standards for programs that are driven by youth
- Networking with other programs and schools
- Provide/demonstrate growth in students and programs
- Parent/community forum
- Volunteer/mentoring programs
- Internships at college/university level
- Visibility in community

Potential new partners and stakeholders:

- Police/Law enforcement
- City Council
- Public health
- Middle school principals
- Local businesses
- Nike
- 4-H
- Radio stations kids listen to (PSA)
- Sport teams
- WSU

Goal #3 *Support statewide systems to ensure programs are of high quality:*

- Support for programs statewide to become accredited
- Support to recruit and retain quality staff
- Substitute pool for afterschool programs
- Offer *Healthy Habits* curriculum to afterschool programs
- Create more awareness in programs on the importance of kids having 5 fruits and vegetables and 2 hours or less of screen time, 1 hour of physical activity
- Eliminate difference between school/daycare safety regulations and overall regulations
- Make trainings/professional development high quality (standards for trainers)
- Identify best practices on summer learning
- Link summer school to community based organizations for health and recreation (share resources)
- What is the standard? Is there an assessment? Benchmarks for quality
- Common standards tied to agreed upon outcomes
- Draw upon national best practices like YPQA and NYSAN program assessment tools
- Framework and planning for: youth-led fitness activities, and school-based health resource planning

Potential Partners and stakeholders:

- Department of Health
- School districts that offer summer school
- Local cities
- King 5 TV 5.2.1 programs (Powered by You)
- Health clubs
- Health groups: Group Health and other HMOs, Regence, etc. as well as local nurses and doctors
- Child adolescent nutritionists
- Gates Foundation (focus: food and shelter)
- United Way of Washington

Present back from small groups:

- This is a timely issue—the need to focus on health.
- Professional development and ways to support high quality trainings (we need a wide range to get systems in place to ensure high quality.)
- 10-15 year olds are not well served by current system, so we need to expand here to better serve them and provide activities. In addition, support programs to serve children with special needs.
- Securing resources—lack of money available, so networking with other programs, working with colleges and staying visible in the community
- Community health—what does it mean? It is a good idea to have events to educate about what was needed to have a healthy community.
- Develop ideas around health and fitness involving youth to lead younger kids. Local conversations at schools to see what health resources are available to the families so that they can take advantage of them.
- Encouraging and participating in needs assessments, educational reform conversations to see how the Network can ensure that needs of afterschool programs are represented.

Joan then closed this session of the meeting by detailing next steps for the grant application. All of this information will go back to the grant writer and the small committee working on the proposal. A question was raised about the funds and how they are allocated. Janet commented that this is not designed as a grant for direct service but rather as a systems building grant. There will be some funds to communities to facilitate local efforts as designated in any mini-grant opportunities. The C. S. Mott Foundation has determined that these funds must go to supporting infrastructure and doing the work, not directly to afterschool programs.

The group then broke for lunch. Due to technical difficulties, a DVD that was scheduled to be shown during the lunch hour around global literacy was not shown. It is hoped that it will be shown at the June WAN meeting instead. After lunch, those members not staying for the school-age child care licensing re-write discussion were invited to join the Co-Chairs, Joanne and Jack on a field trip to the Capitol to speak to legislators about the need to maintain the funding for afterschool programs.

The minutes from the school-age child care licensing portion of the meeting can be found in a different section on the SOWA website. Go to Programs and Projects and you will see a link to the School-age Rewrite project.

The next WAN Partnership is June 5th. This meeting will be held in Vantage, WA, halfway between Spokane and Seattle on I-90. Check the SOWA website for more information.