

Strong Families, Thriving Communities!
Strengthening Families NW MI Learning Group
Notes from 2/1/13

Next Meeting: 5/10/13 10 am to 2 pm at The Circuit 225 14th St., Traverse City **Focus:** Using the Parent Café

Our 2/1/13 gathering was based on input gathered from the group in November 2012

Here is what we said we wanted to focus on:

- Materials to put in schools/community
- Branding- what is our common language?
 - Who do we credit?
 - What materials?
- Getting the word out to front line staff, community
- More opportunities to bring others to the table
- Short survey to gather member info.
- Send online resources

Strengthening Families Notes for 2/1/13

We spent the day building our tool box to help us understand Parental Resilience and to talk about it with others. 26 people attended.

State Partner Welcome and Update-Bryn Fortune

“There are a lot of ways families can be strong. These are not the only ones. These are the ones that get us to outcomes faster.”

Overall message:

- The state is grateful and appreciative of any movement and progress we can make at the local level.
- We were encouraged to continue to move forward and share that progress with our state partners.
- Bryn shared that individuals from across the state from Great Start, DHS, and Head Start/Early Head Start were trained as trainers in the Strengthening Families framework.
- Quality Improvement Consultants from the Resource Centers were trained in a coaching model of SF to assist childcare providers in building and understanding Protective Factors.
- The ECIC State Learning group has the following local representation: Robin Hornkohl, Maggie Sprattmoran
- The Center for the Study of Social Policy and Change should be “credited” when discussing SF/PF (www.cssp.org)

Strengthening Families Tool Box:

The directions for these tools can be found on our new facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/strengthenfamilies/files/> or here: <http://www.greatstartkids.com/docs-links/>

- Shape of things to come
- Popsicle Sticks
- The Protective Factors in our Work-7 Program Strategies
- Parental Resilience Activity-blocks

Program Self-Assessment: http://www.cssp.org/reform/strengthening-families/resources/SF_Program-SelfAssessment_2012.pdf

Family Child Care Self-Assessment:

<http://www.cssp.org/publications/neighborhood-investment/strengthening-families/top-five/family-child-care-providers-self-assessment.pdf>

Parent Protective Factors Parent Survey (shared by Tricia Denton, Parenting Communities) can be found here <http://www.cssp.org/publications/neighborhood-investment/strengthening-families/top-five/protective-factors-self-assessment.pdf>

Small but Significant Change-have note cards ready as a closing activity (can print 5 protective factors or “small but significant change” on the note cards) have participants write down their one small but significant change on a notecard with their address, mail the cards in three to four weeks to the participants

Creating Communication/Outreach Materials:

The group spent time reviewing materials from The National Alliance, Center for the Study of Social Policy and Change, SF Illinois, and Char-Em Great Start. Robin will review information collected and put together a prototype to be shared at the next gathering.

Helpful Info:

Center for the Study of Social Policy and Change (www.cssp.org)

<http://www.cssp.org/reform/strengthening-families>

<http://www.cssp.org/reform/strengthening-families/resources/changing-programmatic-practice>

Friends NRC-evaluation tool kit, online trainings, online database: <http://friendsnrc.org/>

The National Alliance

www.ctfalliance.org

On-line Training Course:

<http://www.ctfalliance.org/onlinetraining.htm>

Questions or comments? Please contact Robin Hornkohl at rhornkohl@tbaisd.org or 231-922-7863