



Strengthening Families NW MI Learning Group Notes from 11/1/13

NEXT MEETING Dates: 2/21/14 and 5/16/14 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at GT Circuit in Traverse City

What is happening in our region in relation to Levers for Change?

PARENT PARTNERSHIPS

- FB page for Parent Café/*Online Parent Café
- Parent resource book/A place where parents share their skills and ISO skills
- Parent Board of SF protective factors and Café Q's
- Head Start Newsletters-have protective factor info. Café
- Kalkaska Great Start Parents! Take part in parent café questions at meetings.
- Planning (and have done in the past), building your bounce-parental resilience activity.
- Offer full family events that encourage open ended discussions; have resources for meeting needs and community connections easily accessible; non-threatening parenting questions posted on FaceBook
- Partnering with home to school socializations and workshop

POLICY AND SYSTEM STRATEGIES

- Protective factors agency wide NMCAA
- NMCAA Head Start and EHS using protective factors in partnership with required H.S. Family engagement framework
- Kalkaska Library...uses protective factors to inform services, books, activities, etc. for families
- Policy/Systems=always focus on the positive/strengths; ask parents providers what they want/need before planning programs; have strengthening families materials easily accessible; posting the name and factors for awareness often.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Julie and Jen will be training our Infant/Toddler team in the protective factors throughout the year.
- Organizing trainings on protective factors; open to parents and professionals.
- Getting trained in Parent Café facilitating
- Continue with strengthening families training and other education programs for self; provide educational materials for parents and providers to access easily; post strengthening families and knowledge based facts and information on FaceBook/Social Media.
- NMCAA Head Start Plan to train Head Start teachers in protective factors 2013-14 school year; have two Head Start required forms based on protective factors
- Head Start GSRP GT + Benzie Teachers 1-2013 Protective factor training
- Attended workshop on ACES study/strengthening families @ the CAN conference
- Planning to attend PAM conference-keynote-Building Resilience from Early Childhood to Young Adult

Group Questions/Comments/Parent Cafe

- Where do parents with mandated parent ed go? Could this (PC) be a part of that?
- Support for providers needed too-using café-process
- PC good way to gather and understand parent perspectives
- Challenge to set up and promote PC, but will grow organically-just do it!
- Evaluation? What's important to measure?
- Training really important: being reflective, common calendar, learn from each other
- little groups in the community is better than one big group in the county
- Post a question @ parent socializations
- Focus on one PF and ask a set of questions from what's your favorite candy? To more reflective question. Posted in hall.
- Facilitator training? A road map to follow if we want.
- Social worker in the room
- "Mandated reporter" conflict
- Have people from all over the community come together to offer PC's.
- Kalkaska Library bookmark with PF focus and PC questions; connet to library resources!
- Regional communications pieces available

PARENT CAFÉ WHAT? HOW? GAME PLAN?

- Head Start opportunities to work with families
- Poor parent participation in existing gatherings and events
- Relationships, enthusiasm, incentives help bring people together
- Home visitors could work in the home and then encourage attendance @ café.
- Childcare, food, gas really important for many families to attend "Play group is a luxury-I don't have the gas for it."

NOTES/PARKING LOT

- "Affectionately Curious" open-ended?
- It's ok to feel "uncomfortable"
- Our job to stay up to date on what is safe and share
- Balancing, setting goals and outcomes while meeting families where they are
- Giving parents space/time to share their culture/experience
- Relationships!!

ACTION STEPS

- Library resources
- Common calendar
- Share what you're doing with Robin
- Training (Vicky, Kim, Christi, Amber, Jen B.)
- Where do parents with mandated parent ed go? Could this (PC) be a part?

Questions or Comments? Contact Robin Hornkohl at rhornkohl@tbaisd.org or 231-922-7863