



A Community of Support for the Social & Emotional Health of Children Zero – Five

Infant & Young Child Mental Health Working Group

Meeting Summary

June 19, 2014
9:00 – 10:30 am
Watkins Center

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Mark started the meeting by welcoming all and reviewing the agenda for the morning. New attendees included:
 - Michael Puckett (Guardian Ad Litem)
 - Natalie Conner (CFCR)
 - Isabel Steen (CFCR)
 - Evelyn Hernandez (YMCA)
 - Vanessa LePino (YMCA)

2. Updates & Announcements

- Lindsey Moss (CDSA) updated the group on the *Nurturing the Brain* train-the-trainer attended in May. The training was provided through the support of the NCIMHA. Lindsey, Laverne Fesperman (Shoreway Family Therapy), and Anna George (CDCP) all attended the training. They will be meeting with Lisa Littlejohn (AHEC) next week to discuss how training can be brought to our community.
- John Ellis (CDSA) reminded us about membership opportunities with the **NC Infant and Young Child Mental Health Association**. For more information, go to www.ncimha.org or contact John directly at John.Ellis@mecklenburgcountync.gov.
- Lee Henderson (Smart Start) was pleased to report that the *Triple P* program is set to roll out in August. There are currently 45 people trained to help educate parents on a variety of topic and issues. *Triple P* offers group sessions, public seminars, and one-on-one support for families. Both Lee and John serve on the advisory council for the program.
- The annual **Smart Start** conference was held this past May in Greensboro, NC. The national conference is attended by providers of Smart Start programs, child care providers and teachers across the country. Dianne Alexander (Smart Start GPS), Elaine Liberato (TCFF), and Ariana Shahinfar (UNCC) presented *That One Kid...* at the conference. If you are interested in learning more about the training or having it presented at your agency, please contact Dianne at dalexander@smartstartofmeck.org.
- Mark Eberhardt (TCFF) distributed a sign-up sheet for **those interested in submitting content for the website** and highlighting their organization/agency. Others interested in signing up should contact Mark at meberhardt@thompsoncff.org.

3. Report on “Phase 2” of the CDSA/YFS Collaboration

– John Ellis & Lindsey Moss (CDSA) gave a comprehensive report on phase 2 of the CDSA/YFS collaboration. The presentation gave a brief history behind the collaborative, reviewed the funding process, highlighted successes and discussed challenges. For a complete update, the presentation is attached for your review.

4. State budgets and what they means for young children’s mental health in Mecklenburg County

- Lee Henderson (Smart Start) reported that their budget was not in; however, no major budget cuts are predicted.
- John Ellis (CDSA) shared that CDSA's are facing a \$ 10 million dollar budget reduction for next FY in both the Senate and House versions of the state budget. Additionally, the Senate version would require the state to close up to 4 state operated CDSA's. The final resolution to these differences will be worked out in a conference committee made up of members from both the House and Senate.
- All Zfivers were encouraged to contact state legislators to advocate for the programs that assist the children we serve. Use the following link to find the contact information your local legislators. <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/representation/WhoRepresentsMe.aspx>

5. OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

- **Send an email to Charlotte’s Mayor Dan Clodfelter** (mayor@charlottenc.gov) asking him to add his support to “The Early Learning Nation Resolution” at the June meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The resolution provides an opportunity to call attention to the role that local communities can play in ensuring children have the opportunity to realize their potential. See the letter sent on behalf of Zfive (attached) and visit <http://buildthefoundation.org/u-s-conference-of-mayors-north-carolina-members/>

*** No July meeting (Happy Summer Vacation!) - Next meeting: August 21**