

# STRENGTHENING FAMILIES LOCALLY

## Strengthening Families Locally

### 8/27/20 Bremerton planning meeting notes

#### In attendance:

Leslie Daug (Bremerton City Council/Bremerton School District), Marlaina Simmons (Kitsap Strong), Candy Lester (OESD) Joh Hurley (Kitsap Community Resources), Alyson Rotter (Kitsap Strong), Victoria Hilt (DCYF Parent Advocate), Kody Russell (Kitsap Strong), Ursula Peters (DCYF)

#### Principles:

DCYF is committed to the following:

1. Approaches will be strengths-based, culturally appropriate, and inclusive
2. Mobilization will occur at multiple levels, including state government, local government, local non-profits, schools, families, volunteers, tribes, faith communities, etc., and will occur through a variety of means
3. We will work to develop trust and strengthen shared values
4. Our work will strengthen community organizations
5. Teams will develop a continuum of information, services, and supports to strengthen families
6. Communities will target interventions for families with complex and co-occurring risks

#### What other values and commitments are important to this work?

(Grouped by agreement, as rated through group process)

- 4 - Innovation: testing new ideas; failing forward is still learning
- 3 - What is VITAL is Open Communication to Community. Sharing the Vision, vs having everyone at the table having "Buy In" by all.
- 3 - Definable, concrete goals - SMART goals, making sure individuals have roles and group has objectives
- 3 - Centering on the family voices representing the community served
- 2 - Ensuring partnership with families (parents AND youth) is truly embraced and recognized as an investment, and isn't a checkbox that we are seeking to mark. "Nothing about me without me."
- 2 - Define who/where we are "inclusive" of - geographic boundaries



Washington State Department of  
**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

- 2 - Open-minded- willing to listen and change (flexibility) - Cultural relevance - requires flexibility
- 2 - Use a system thinking approach; seek high-leverage solutions
- 1- Transparency -focused on information flows and communication
- 1 - Clear and transparent strategic plan - have clear and concrete deliverables
- Movement building approach: create a tone that invites people to join, at any point, and feel included and able to influence decisions - Communication tools - talking points, language
- Equity: Not the same approach to everyone
- Provide compensation for voice/insight from critical populations (parents with lived experience, fosteryouth, etc.)
- Be innovative in how we listen and elicit voice and input - ex explore new pathways
- Communication, building coalition, collaboration, inclusion, and communication
- Value “diversity of thought”; encourage disagreement
- Data-driven (stories & #s)
- Lead with values!

## Project planning process



### Process notes:

- We are “planning to plan” right now – building momentum and designing outreach and engagement approaches
- Intentions:
  - Generate community awareness of project and engagement
  - Collect stories and insights about community needs

Family Support Programs Division  
Original Date: 8-27-20 Revised date 9-14-20

- Develop into a more structured advisory committee-style group
- Goal of structured leadership team will be to develop intervention and identify community organization(s) to carry out work
  - Community organizations will focus on
    - 1. Community priorities
    - 2. Community facilitation
- Budget reflects the following:
  - \$72,000/year for priorities
  - \$55,000/year for facilitation
- This is a “pilot” of a bigger approach within DCYF. We are hoping that successful achievement of goals will lead to more funding of similar projects within DCYF. As for specific sustainability of the Bremerton project, there may either be DCYF funding for that or we may seek other funders.

**What questions or thoughts do you have?**

- Mission creep - don't try to do too much with too little
- When to invite other parent leaders?
  - Engage and self-select into the planning process
  - Explain the process - are they able/willing/interested?
- Interest meeting(s)
  - Important to emphasize commitment levels and expectations - meetings, reading/reviewing
  - Attending/presenting at parent groups that are already meeting - see if they want to send a representative
    - Head Start Policy Council
    - KCR parent council
    - Melissa Lund
    - Girl Scouts Service Unit Council - church leaders and moms of kids
    - PTA...don't reinvent the wheel
  - Share with Churches
  - Schools/Colleges
  - PTA
  - Child Care
  - Family Classes
  - Leaders within Community
- Connecting with existing programs in substance abuse, mental health, advisory boards

**Next Steps:**

- Establishing planning meeting time (2x monthly, Joy will send a scheduling tool)
- Reviewing outreach materials and developing outreach plans
- Reviewing Sensemaker tool and developing data collection plans