

STRENGTHEN FAMILIES LOCALLY

8/16/21

In attendance:

Shanda Blunt, Stephaine Courtney, Pat Donahue, Tyna Hagood, Cassie Hendrickson, Romyana Kuveda Joy Lile, Jamie Lovato, Crystal MaCurdy, Katie Maish, Krista Malyon, Carmen Pacheco-Jones, Shannon Selland, Bryan Taylor, MJ Taylor, Natalie Tauzin

Important documents:

SFL onboarding document:

<https://dcyf.box.com/s/pirdixemujfr1hw75gj3bp0enhebg1c4>

Spokane Project Overview:

<https://dcyf.box.com/s/8929lbze46wh7ycjxnj50v9adpd3z43t>

Sensemaker “Share a Story” flyer:

https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/FS_0057.pdf

Next meeting: Sept 20th, 1-3 pm

Topic: Strong Community Network planning, Priority Project presentation
3rd Monday of the month, 1-3

Volunteer Honorarium (to value the time of those who are not systems-affiliated or paid to participate):

<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/child-development-supports/sfwa/sf-locally/sfl-giftcards>

Email joy.lile@dcyf.wa.gov with any questions

Project updates:

Community Planning Process:

1. Identify 2 initial Priority Projects (Summer-Fall 2021)
\$40,000 each
2. Develop “Community Prevention Plans” (through Summer 2022)
Facilitator: Health and Justice Recovery Alliance
3. Build and expand “Strong Community Networks” (through 2024)

Priority Projects: Peer Family Supports (2 positions)

1. Martin Luther King Jr. Center
 2. Native Families partnership – still looking for a partner
- May be convening working groups to help plan these programs soon, stay tuned

Health and Justice Recovery Alliance: Local Facilitator Introduction

- Carmen Pacheco-Jones introduced the Health and Justice Recovery Alliance, their interest in the convening local Strengthen Families Locally/Strong Community Network activities, and her own interest in this work as a systems-impacted individual.

Health and Justice Recovery Alliance: <https://www.ppntp.org/>



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Carmen Pacheco-Jones:
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509-294-3892

Meeting Agreement Discussion

Current agreements:

- Relationships first - build community and allyship across identities (racial, Indigenous, class, gender, orientation, ability, systems involvement, etc.)
- Center lived experiences and marginalized voices
- Examine and shift racially and culturally biased narratives and systems
- Speak up for self and others - interrupt harmful power dynamics
- Look for learning and “Commit to Learning in Public”
- Practice self-care and community-care
- Personal confidentiality, agency/organizational transparency

Discussion: Is there anything you would add or change?

- Build Relationships (#1) - something we are still working on - not there yet as a system
- ICWA guidelines - why don't we do this with all BIPOC communities? Using those guidelines to support all children in foster care
- Recognizing cultural harm, engaging in cultural repair and building trust
- Culturally Biased Narratives (#3) - examining the narrative that “some families are better at taking care of their children than other families”
- It's challenging to put these in an order, because they need to be addressed simultaneously to make progress
- “Decentering whiteness”, recognizing and appreciating cultural differences (#2?)
 - Centering racial and multi-racial identities as important and valuable - not minimizing or falling back on simple constructs or stereotypes - how to support the whole child and whole person
 - Note: “De-centering” does not mean minimizing, it just means holding other racial/cultural identities at the same levels/space as White ones – white identities have a seat at the table with others, not assumed as the “norm”
- Multi-cultural families - assumption of lack of bias, but need for more understanding of how to help and support multi-cultural families - how might these families lose peer support, how can we help recognize and support them - supporting children and families
 - Valuing cultural identities and meeting children, families where they are rather than proscribing identities upon them - moving away from euro-centric views
 - Is there a stronger need for supports for multi-cultural/multi-racial families in the Spokane area? (DCYF can bring data to the next conversation)
- Cultural humility - If we adopt a lens of not possibly knowing or being experts in “culture” it can help us be more open and listen to one-another

Discussion question:

As a parent, what's an experience where you and your family felt a sense of belonging, connection, and engagement, or that your voice was valued by your community?

- Feeling a sense of disconnect - not feeling connected to the community as a parent - wanting to

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Family Support Programs Division

- have their children be seen and heard
- Children with challenging experiences in school - feeling like children aren't able to connect – especially for Black and Brown children and those living in poverty
- Simple act of humanity - first day after transitioning to in-person at school, principle recognized her and her son - welcomed son by name - felt belonging
- As a parent who didn't grow up with great role models - connected and supported when son entered childcare - community with other families and teachers - teachers led activities to help parents connect
- A Black parent of a Black son said that she wanted her son to go to a specific childcare center because she wanted him to connect to a person of color as a provider. Participant wants her own child to know that she belongs in the world and to connect to strong role models
- How do healthcare systems and law-enforcement systems respond to families when they see risk? - Handle with Care project - notifying school counselors that child was exposed to law enforcement in some way. Also a way to utilize trauma-informed practices. Still moving forward, just slowly
- As a single parent - having strong, outspoken women around her daughter that she could build relationships with. Because this was role-modeled with daughter, she was able to build relationships with teachers at schools. Having natural connections and role models available
- Recovery Cafe, HJRA - providing peer groups for recovery and support - building connections with peers and mentors through these programs

Reminder to share stories:

Did the discussion prompt inspire a story for you? Share a story about how your family or another family was successful or challenged in accessing supports, resources, and voice in your community.

Don't share identifying or confidential information.

Stories will be used in "Sense Making" sessions with the community.

It just takes 5 minutes to share: <http://ourtomorro.ws/Spokane>

Transitioning to Local Facilitation and the Strong Community Network:

Framing:

- The SFL Spokane planning group has been meeting for almost a year now!
- We have slowly included more community members and parents, but even more parent engagement is needed for the project to be "by and for" the community
- DCYF will step back, HJRA will step in as local facilitator
- Transition to local facilitation:
 - o Building on what we have developed for SFL Spokane over the last year - community partners and collaborations continue and grow
 - o "Look and feel" of local project will probably shift to reflect local preferences
 - o More parent and community engagement opportunities - safe, open and engaging spaces for parents to share and collaborate
 - o Outlining specific structures and strategies for parent and community voice in decision making
 - o Building/supporting a sustainable, community-owned space to plan preventing families from entering

...The result: A Strong Community Network!

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Discussion: there wasn't time for much discussion, but the following idea was proposed:

- Outreach and networking opportunities - a Facebook group? A List serve? Place to share ideas, reach out for help, online setting – Bryan, Stephaine, MJ willing to help

Closing: Plus/Delta

What went well in today's meeting?

- Note-taking tool with boxes - sharing experiences as a parent
- Ability and willingness for people to share their experiences - really valuable - honesty and rawness
- Felt welcoming, great group of people
- Respectful - feeling that we can be vulnerable without being targeted

What would you change for next time?

- Lots of amazing people in these groups - could we have a Google doc where people can share their expertise and share what they are already doing (see existing tool here: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/16CFz6UR3xll1_GBOW9GCgtsIWvEx6bketnYtdz4jjwM/edit?usp=sharing)
- Want more people - want to grow! Want more people to know about the project and the collaborative – all-hands on deck