

## **Collaborative Solutions Network General Meeting**

**July 19, 2016**

**9-10:30am**

### **Child Development Council**

#### **In Attendance**

Jasmine Pontillo, Marissa Fortman, Malinda Rees, Sally Manning, Christine Barksdale, Amie Hendrix, Meredith Clarke, Tina Hallock, Melanie Little, Matt Dankanion, Amy Jo DeKoeyer, Jeff Dunlap, Andrea Champlin, Tomas Nozario, Elizabeth Wolff, Pat Vincent, Tommy Miller, Barb Place, Paul Fairbanks, Jaydn McCune, Judy Clay, Jake Parker Carver, Serena Ward

#### **Announcements**

July 21, 8:30-10:30am The Advocacy Center will be presenting a free session on the Enough Abuse Campaign at Cornell Cooperative Extension. The Advocacy Center will do this presentation with any group.

July 26, 9am-Noon Janice Whitlock will be presenting, The Cutting Edge; Understanding Non-Suicidal Self-Injury in Youth. Sponsored by the Tompkins County Youth Services Department.

August 2, 7-8pm Tompkins Learning Partners will present Fighting the Invisible War: A Screening and Panel Discussion on Adult Literacy at Cinemapolis. FREE ADMISSION

The film, It's Not Just Jenna will be screened in Dryden in the future. Date TBA.

The Universal CARE Team Model is being launched in September. Tompkins County and Seneca County are working together and there will be four facilitators from each county to start. The goal will be to have 10-12 trained facilitators per county.

There are plans in the works for a large-scale Trauma-Informed training in December. If you would like to be involved, get in touch with Jaydn or Sally.

The Advocacy Center has been presenting the Enough Abuse program which addresses responding to sexual behavior and sexual assault. Contact Andrea Champlin if you're interested in more info.

FLIC is celebrating the 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ADA. They have planned several activities including asking people, "What does the ADA mean to you?". See their Facebook page for more info.

There will be a study circle in late August/early September around police and community relations. This will involve Courageous Conversations looking for solutions for why we interact the way we do. They will have a balance of police and community and open up the ability to have conversations.

**Should we consider changing our meeting times in order to increase family involvement?**

It can be hard to come to a meeting this early. Later afternoon might be better for families.

Client load peaks in the afternoons. Could we alternate times?

It can be hard to travel far for a meeting. The meetings should not always be in Ithaca.

We need to be careful not to polarize and create a "family meeting" and a "professional meeting".

Cornell Cooperative Extension has offered gas cards to families in the past. Is this an option for the CSN?

There would be a little money available for this, but we currently have no income unless we do some fundraising.

Could we support people in approaching their workplace to get paid an hour or two to come?

Perhaps there are other reasons that families are not at the table aside from time and place. Why? Are we a barrier to people participating?

How much time have we really put into talking up the CSN and inviting/bringing a family member? This will take work and we would need to set aside the time.

Look what is happening in our country. What can we do to bring people together? How can we be more inclusive?

Families need to be ready to come to the table. Keep inviting them.

I have felt in the past like I'm not good enough to be here since I'm not a professional. Everyone else has more education and I felt powerless.

**\*At this point we made a decision to ignore the rest of the agenda and continue the Courageous Conversation already occurring.**

I now feel like the group is a big extended family and they provide a sense of support. People will listen to you.

It can feel condescending to a family. People at the table are constantly checking themselves. Families come because they hope to change something.

How do we help families get beyond their "stuff"? Ask, what can we do to help you? Mind your own triggers.

We need to be understanding of our different experiences. We should be aware of cultural barriers. Change the table sometimes; put yourself somewhere uncomfortable.

We could use the Autism Summit as a model. There was a good balance of family members and they felt heard.

Get families invested by giving them power.

Rather than think of empowering families, we should help them to stand in their power. We should be the support to the families.

Make clear to families that they are the experts on their lives. This is what you can bring to us.

Level the playing field.

When doing Community Cafes, no one introduced themselves as anything (teacher, parent, professional). This leveled things and there were no attachments. People were able to speak in a way they might not have been able to otherwise.

Felt more welcomed when people came up to her. Maybe other families didn't feel welcomed.

We could have a couple of greeters. This could give new people a sense of welcome.

We could try ten minutes of forced mingling at the beginning of the meetings.

We should be aware of different personalities and different ways of processing of the different people around the table. Network building could happen outside of meetings. Agenda has little in the way of action items.

General impression of the meeting: meeting about meetings. Where are we going?

We are getting paid to be here. Why would a family come? What would they get out of it?

Not entirely sure what this group does. Do you do a thing? Network? Give tips? Agenda could include a few statements of, "Talking about \_\_\_\_\_ will lead to \_\_\_\_\_."

Can we set personal goals; what to work on with other people?

Each smaller group (subcommittee) meets and brings info back to larger group.

The subgroups have different projects. There are always opportunities to get involved. We don't want to set people up for failure.

It could be helpful to offer up an orientation (CSN 101) for anyone that might be interested.

Meeting expectations are different for different people.

We can share space and not require people to contribute. Allow them to sit back and experience the meetings.

There could be very specific action steps that we could choose to take. Can we figure out a way to do that?

We need to be cautious about spending resources on just meeting. Action steps would be useful to attending meeting.

Anyone interested in the Family Driven group should contact Barb or Pat.

Action steps could be added to the agenda if helpful.

### **Concrete Ideas Generated:**

- CSN 101 can be offered to anyone who might be interested in learning more.
- We could consider different meeting times and places to accommodate more people.
- Use the Autism Summit as a model to bring more families to the table.
- Greeters could help to welcome new people to meetings.
- Each meeting should have clear action steps.

### **Evaluation Results**

18 evaluations were completed. 15 respondents agreed that the meeting was well planned and organized and 13 agreed that the meeting was well facilitated. 11 respondents felt that there were no clear action steps resulting from this meeting. **Some things I really appreciated about the meeting are...** Warmth of everyone, connections, networking, great facilitation that encouraged and honored multiple perspectives, the discussion around family engagement, new folks joining and their perspective feels important, open discussion, honest conversation, community focused, good ideas. **Some things that concerned me about the meeting include...** Not enough structure/active facilitation, limited action steps, it was a planning meeting vs. an action meeting, need for meeting ground rules/climate setting, we have not moved, where are the people that were involved in the CSN and why are they not here, something to give more reason and purpose, still unclear what the goals/next steps are of these meetings, a lot of talking over my head. **Other Comments:** Looking forward to future meetings, this group is confusing but I see people struggling to make a positive difference in the community, downtown location good to do occasionally, having the committees update the group on what they are doing.