Collaborate PASadena

Notes from Early Childhood Working Group

**Participating:**

Helena Ayala (volunteer with PACTL, parenting workshops); Kristin & Liliana (Rayuela – Spanish Immersion preschool); Elizabeth (Pasadena Public Library); Ellen Pais (runs LAEP – education non-profit, builds community capacity to support education from birth up); Susan Schwartz (PEN, sitting in for colleague Laura Diaz).

**Preliminary Questions**

How does this working group relate to Pasadena’s Early Childhood Policy? What about the Childcare Directors’ group? If goal is to close the early childhood word gap, how do we get ALL childcare providers to own that? If the childcare group not willing to champion this, how does working group accomplish anything? (Are they waiting for new Child Development Director? What can this group do before that person is hired to lay the groundwork for this goal?)

**Selected Outcome** (from August WG meeting)

The 30-million word gap is closed for children before they enter Kindergarten. Goal: increase access to literacy resources for families.

TASKS

**Working Group Structure** *How should we be organized to get the work done?*

Create and continually update WG roster to ensure continuity

Share names and emails via groupsite. Need to know who all is actually participating in these conversations, and make sure that everyone gets a regular update, not just who happens to show up at a given meeting.

* Post update (at least monthly) via Groupsite; Elizabeth will make sure that updates emailed to all group members.
* Meet monthly outside of all WG meetings – Elizabeth can host meetings at Library.
* Assign specific tasks to individuals or ad hoc sub-committees as needed.

What type of leadership is needed?

This group will need to work closely with City’s Early Childhood Development Director, once that person is hired. In the meantime, we need to look at larger pool of working group participants to identify a leader. Role of this group is to build a coalition among early childhood stakeholders…

* Options
* Childcare Center Directors’ group?
* PUSD’s early childhood education director?

Ellen: We need to identify an organization (such as childcare directors’ group?) that will champion this goal.

How do we interact with Leadership Council?

This group needs to come up with an “elevator speech” – a clear, concise description of the selected outcome and specific goal & actions that individuals, groups, institutions can commit to.

How/how often should we meet? How should we communicate?

Meet monthly at library? Or piggyback onto childcare directors group meetings?

Summary of discussion, decisions, next steps (and specific assignments) should be disseminated via email and groupsite within a week of each working meeting.

*How does this working group ensure that it is connecting all providers and key stakeholders?*

Research and data – how do we access it?

Need to hone in on key indicators that we can use to measure the desired outcome (closing the 30-million word gap, greater family access to literary resources). What data matter – for example, doesn’t matter if families receive books if they’re not reading those books with their children.

Roles and responsibilities – how are tasks assigned, followed up?

Make time at end of each meeting to record “next steps” - defined tasks, to whom assigned.

Next Steps

Establish and disseminate (or post) working group roster (Elizabeth?)

Schedule WG meeting between now and next all-working group meeting on Oct 7. (Elizabeth)

Follow up with Options (Connie Aguilar) and others of this WG’s past participants (Susan, Laura)