



Meeting Notes
Family Success Alliance Council Meeting
Monday, June 22, 2015
Orange County Social Services

In attendance:

Council: Delores Bailey, Colleen Bridger, Ardith Brooks, Loryn Clark, Audrey Spencer-Horsley, Alice Denson, John Dorward, Debra Farrington, Mack Koonce, Liska Lackey, Bernadette Pelissier, Robin Pulver, Nate Broman-Fulks, Luke Smith, Angela Wilcox, Charles Blackwood, Mark Dorosin, Jake Henry

Absent: Aviva Scully, Sharon Freeland, Angie Welsh, Nancy Coston

Staff: Meredith Stewart, Donna King, Melvyn Blackwell, Meredith McMonigle, Stacy Shelp, Beatrice Parker, Angela Clapp, Alizarina Rojas

Welcome

John Dorward began the meeting with a welcome. John informed the council that Nate Broman-Fulks will be taking a seat on the council, replacing David Andrews. He identified Audrey Spencer-Horsley as a new council member replacing James Davis. John also recognized Loryn Clark as a newer council member, replacing Roger Stancil. He also recognized Sherriff Charles Blackwood.

John discussed having Michael Steiner as the council chair for another year and Liska Lackey as the vice chair for the upcoming year. John made a motion to have Michael and Liska as the chair and vice-chair of the FSA Council over the next year. The motion was passed, with all in favor of this motion.

Year in Review & Recent Highlights

Meredith M. discussed and reviewed FSA endeavors and achievements over the past year. She discussed the work the FSA has done over the past year. She reviewed the data for which the FSA priorities were identified.

Meredith M. discussed the most recent FSA editorial in the Herald Sun. She noted that the Achievement Gap article featured Jake Henry and Sheldon Lanier.

Meredith M. informed those in attendance of the Navigator positions that will be in Zone 4 and Zone 6. Meredith explained the expected roles of the zone navigators. She informed the council that during the interview process, candidates were interviewed by Health Department staff as well as zone champions. She invited the Zone 4 and Zone 6 Navigators to introduce themselves. Beatrice Parker introduced herself as the Zone 6 navigator. Angela Clapp and Alizarina Rojas introduced themselves as Zone 4 navigators.

Bernadette Pelissier discussed the Harlem Children Zone (HCZ). She provided reflections on her visit to the Harlem's Children's Zone. Delores Bailey also voiced her reflections on the HCZ visit.

Meredith M. presented a breakdown of the Kindergarten readiness programs in each of the schools that will house the FSA program.

Jake Henry explained the Kindergarten readiness program at New Hope Elementary. He explained the plan to enroll 30-35 incoming kindergarteners for the four week program. Kindergarten registration forms were used to identify children who would benefit from the program and include kids with either no formal preschool education, kids assessed as not ready for kindergarten and children in financially disadvantaged neighborhoods. The curriculum is being prepared by the assistant principal of New Hope, along with teachers involved in the program. He informed that breakfast and lunch will be provided to the students. There will be four teachers, and the program aims to have an 8:1 ratio. The focus of the program will be on literacy, math and social skills. OCS will link the program to a state wide kindergarten assessment tool. The program will be evaluated to assess the impact of the program on levels of kindergarten readiness among participants.

Meredith added that Carrboro and Frank Porter Graham Elementary schools recruited via homes visits and phone calls. Both schools based their recruitment on financially-disadvantaged neighborhoods, where children in their schools live. Meredith explained that all program activities (recruitment, program data, and evaluation) will be documented at the end of the summer for assessment.

Mack Koonce informed the council that United Way will be looking forward to the assessment results from the first two FSA programs. United way looks forward to getting a better idea of how many children and families the FSA will serve. He explained that United Way anticipates being a consistent funder for the FSA.

Alice Denson discussed the Parent Literacy Program. This program will be in the same schools that the kindergarten readiness programs will be featured. She informed that the program will attempt to serve 10 parents per school. The program will be designed to keep parents up to speed with what their children are learning in school.

Strategic Planning & Building Public Will: Council Involvement

Meredith S. discussed plans of moving forward. She explained that the goal for the FSA, from now until August 2015, is to develop a collective strategic plan. The FSA Council, zone champions, zone partners, zone stakeholders, health department staff, and zone residents will all play a part in the development of this plan. The priorities that the FSA will keep in mind when developing this plan, is to stay focused on the community's identified priorities and to continue rendering the HCZ's model. After the goals and the prioritization of goals of the strategic plan are identified, then the FSA administrative team (health department staff) will write up/draft a strategic plan.

Mark Dorosin reflected on the importance of having a common language and like talking points among FSA contemporaries. Mark explained that developing a common language optimizes networking opportunities for spreading the word about the FSA and fundraising. The council agreed to work on developing a common FSA elevator pitch at the next Council meeting.

Meredith S. challenged the council to think about how their organizations or those within their networks can support work in the zones. She indicated that this will be a topic at the next council meeting.

Stacy Shelp noted the importance of a consistent FSA message. She alluded to the FSA-Communication Work Group. She invited the council to send anyone that they know of, or work with to join this work group. She made the council aware of the next communications meeting. She explained that the communications' work group is working to develop a common language and brand consistency for the FSA.