Thurston Coalition for Women’s Health
January 29, 2015
Time: 10:30AM – 12:00PM
Location: Thurston County Public Health & Social Services

In attendance: Chris Hawkins- Thurston Co. Public Health & Social Services (TCPHSS), Teri Johnson-Thurston County Substance Use Disorder Unit, Danielle Koenig-TOGETHER!, Christina Kressin- South Sound Breastfeeding Network, Helen Kuebel-CareNet Pregnancy Center (CNPC), Mary Ann O’Garro-TCPHSS, Christy Peters- Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office, Mary Pontarolo-SafePlace, Janet Swinton- CNPC, and Kateri Wimsett-TCPHSS.

Outcomes:
To share good news and progress on women’s health issues that are the focus of the Coalition
To discuss fall survey results
To inform and discuss the 2015 work plan
To start thinking about Coalition post 2016

Welcome
- Highlights included Violence Against Women grant awarded to TC Prosecuting Attorney’s Office; Safeplace opening new location in March with expanded space and programming; Girls Circle being offered by YWCA at more high school locations; Domestic Violence Awareness month efforts of the Coalition reached 13,000 people.

Progress and Coalition Action
- Fall Member Survey Results

Thanks to all members of the Coalition who filled out the online survey in October-November 2014. 56% of the members responding supported adding more time on the Coalition agenda to discussing communication campaigns and/or awareness raising. If the Coalition supported a communication or awareness raising effort in 2015, what one or two topics related to women and girls should we focus on? More than one member suggested: Domestic Violence, Behavioral Health, Education, and Outreach/referral. Additionally there were several other topics that members suggested. (See attached Survey results.)

When asked to prioritize the topics and select one members most wanted to raise awareness about in 2015 the following three topics were mentioned by more than one member: Domestic/Intimate partner violence, Emotional violence, and Bullying. Members then discussed
ideas for what a campaign should look like. Areas of importance included:
  o making sure that sexual violence was included in domestic violence
  o helping youth and those that work with them understand and have the skills to know what healthy relationships are (for example, what is consent)
  o Helping those that work with youth on a regular basis have a better understanding of the resources available for youth in unhealthy relationships
  o Helping those that work with youth on a regular basis know the warning signals of an unhealthy relationship and know what to do about it.

• Communication Sub-Committee Activities

TOGETHER! will be hosting the Communications subcommittee to work on the plans for 2015’s projects. Any Coalition member interested in attending please contact Danielle Koenig at Together at dkoenig@thurstontogether.org or 493-2230.

• Service Capacity Assessment Update

In spring of 2011 the Coalition carried out an assessment to look at services available for women and girls in Thurston County. Now that it is four years later we would like to again do an assessment to see if things have changed in our community. This subcommittee will meet for a short time (3-4 months). Your help is needed. If interested please contact Kateri Wimsett at wimsetk@co.thurston.wa.us or 867-2516. Our first meeting will be in February/March.

• Coalition Sustainability post 2016

In 2016 our funding from the Office on Women’s Health will end. The Coalition discussed what might be the best fit for continuing the Coalition post 2016. Member discussion and ideas included: Do we fit best within Thurston Thrives possibly as a sub-group to one of the action teams? Or would that mean the work of the Coalition gets lost? Due to time the discussion had to be suspended but Coalition members were asked to think about what might be the best option. This will be on our next meeting agenda.

Meeting Evaluation
Adjourn