Thurston Coalition for Women’s Health

Meeting Notes

August 7, 2012

Present: Traci Crowder, Behavioral Health Resources; Katie Harding-Mendez, Community Action Council; Colleen Dixon, Stonewall Youth; Christy Peters, Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office; Danielle Koenig, Meghan Sullivan, Amanda Haugen, TOGETHER!; Deborah Allen, Mary Ann O’Garro, Chris Hawkins, Kateri Wimsett, Thurston County Public Health & Social Services (TCPHSS); Kelly Hanson, YWCA of Olympia

Welcome: Introduction and Good News Round

Community Action Council – Continues to be busy serving women and children in their WIC program.

TOGETHER! noted that it had been delivering a program for kids in southern Thurston County that has been enthusiastically received there.

YWCA of Olympia shared that it had recently concluded both the Girls Circle and Girls Without Limits summer sessions.

Behavioral Health Resources shared that they are almost near the end of their process to convert to Electronic Health Records. This will assist their clients and providers with better coordinating their care. They hope to be up and running in December 2012.

TCPHSS mentioned that it had recently submitted an application to CDC for a Community Transformation Grant, part of which would be addressing objectives in social and emotional wellness.

Stonewall Youth recently completed its Queer Rock Camp and is preparing for an activism summit.

TC Prosecuting Attorney’s Office: Excited about their partnership with Family Support Center that just received a $30,000 grant from Junior League of Olympia for the Thurston County Family Justice Center.

Progress

- Communications Subcommittee Update
  TOGETHER! reported back on the progress of the Social Marketing/Media Strategy that they have been developing. The focus of Goal #2 is proposed to be healthy relationships, and within that an initial subtopic focus of romantic relationships (dating). The Coalition was asked what it though of the approach and the listing of additional subtopics for the future (after first year, or when the
first focus is exhausted) – bullying, friendships, parent-child relationships. The Coalition members voiced support for the initial focus and the approach of then moving on to different topics.

- A comment was made about possibly addressing relationships with authority – maybe add as a component of every topic – how to deal with respect in situations of authority or dominant-subordinate relationships (e.g., maintaining respect for yourself in the face of a person in position of authority using that power to negatively affect you).

- Another question asked was how the social media would be implemented – in other words how audiences, if youth, would be recruited for social media contact (would they have to join the social network). One suggestions was to use QR Codes. TOGETHER! responded that the implementation details would be discussed in the subcommittee meeting.

- Next Meeting, August 28, 12:30 – 2:00 PM at TOGETHER!'s offices. TCPHSS will send out details to the whole Coalition.

- Girls Circle Subcommittee Update
  YWCA of Olympia reported on the upcoming work to launch Year 2 of Girls Circle. They will begin the new year of Girls Circle starting the week of Oct. 22.

  In addition to sites at Year 1 middle schools, there are several new schools: Middle schools in the North Thurston school district (Komanchin, Chinook, and Nisqually), and Washington Middle School in Olympia School District. They are also waiting on possible sites at either Marshall Middle School in Olympia School District and Griffin Elementary School in McLane School District. Marshall or possibly Griffin in west Olympia

  New grant from Junior League funds continuation participants (girls from Year 1 who would not otherwise be able to participate in Girls Circle because the research requires new participants each year) at Reeves Middle School and Tenino Middle School.

  One of the facilitators will be leaving, but a new staff person has been hired, Kristin Cannon (has experience AmeriCorps member with foster youth services)

- Behavioral Health for Women and Girls Subcommittee
  TCPHSS updated the Coalition on the progress it has made to focus the development of intervention priorities in this area: targeting girls/women under 21, but not otherwise constrained except by the criteria we discussed with the
Coalition at the May Meeting. University of Washington will be helping to identify the evidence-based practices that fit within these parameters.

As a part of this effort, TCPHSS has been reaching out to additional organizations involved in this area of women’s health, and already there is some interest in joining the Coalition (Catholic Community Services). PIPE was mentioned as another good candidate to be added. It will be helpful for other members in addition to TCPHSS to talk about the Coalition with some of these potential new members.

MOA renewals should be completed sometime within the next month (a process that will begin as soon as OWH confirms our continued funding).

- Opportunity to Receive True Child Training (www.truechild.org)
  TCPHSS discussed this opportunity – this organization was featured at the OWH mid-year national meeting – in relation to our funder’s desire to educate about and transform gender inequities that lead to poor health outcomes. There was some interest in providing this as a service to community providers, depending on available resources and possible involvement of youth who have been doing similar presentations as part of Stonewall Youth.

**Other Items of Interest: suggestions from members**

Members discussed the schedule of meetings for Year 2 of Phase 2 – with the current expectation being to continue quarterly meetings in November, February, May and August. A doodle poll for the next meeting date will be sent out soon.

**Adjourn**