May 22, 2014  
Time: 1:00PM – 2:30PM  
Location: Thurston County Public Health & Social Services Dept.

In attendance: Deborah Allen- TCPHSS, Chris Hawkins-TCPHSS, Mica Hoeltze-Family Education & Support Services, Christine Hoffman-Boys & Girls Club of Thurston County, Louise Kaplan-Saint Martin’s University, Danielle Koenig-TOGETHER!, Mary Ann O’Garro-TCPHSS, Christy Peters-TCPAO, Mary Pontarolo-Safe Place, Alison Puckett-SeaMar, Hillary Soens-YWCA, Meghan Sullivan-TOGETHER!, Shelly Willis-Family Education & Support Services, and Kateri Wimsett-TCPHSS.

Outcomes:

To share good news and progress on women’s health issues that are the focus of the Coalition

To review relevant Thurston Thrives Action

To update the coalition on the work of the subcommittees

Welcome

• Introductions and Good News Round

Progress and Coalition Action

• OWH Updates and questions from our funder

Earlier today TCPHSS finished up a federal site visit from our grant officer Stephanie Alexander from the Office on Women’s Health (OWH). Main discussion of this visit focused on how the Girls Connection study is being conducted.

• Thurston Thrives Community Engagement Action/Update

As mentioned in previous meetings the county’s community health improvement process, Thurston Thrives, continues. Many of the folks on this Coalition have served on the different sub-committees or Advisory Board. At our last Coalition meeting we discussed gaps we see in women’s health in our community: poverty, access to resources, and rural services. One way to address these gaps is to keep women’s health in the forefront of efforts like Thurston Thrives. The Community Resilience action team is forming now and meeting. Please consider joining this group if you are interested. You can see more information about when their meetings are happening at: http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/thrives/communityresilience.html

The action team will present the strategy at the July 8, 2014 Board of Health meeting.
Coalition Priorities Areas of Action for 2014

Training: Gender Specific Strategies

At our October TCWH meeting the Coalition discussed holding a training to give Coalition members and other groups in our community strategies for moving toward greater gender responsiveness. This was in response to our funder’s request from our 2013 Site Visit and our Coalition’s feedback on wanting to learn more about what being gender-responsive was. The training would be for members of the Coalition and select community partners that may be interested. The One Circle Foundation, which developed the Girls Circle program, has agreed to provide this training and sent the following training description:

*Gender Specific Strategies* is a one-day workshop that provides a comprehensive course on the fundamentals of working with adolescent girls and boys. Participants of all experience levels are introduced to the theoretical framework, philosophy, and theories of female and male adolescent development that form the foundation for implementing a gender responsive and gender transformative* approach in service delivery. Best practices are introduced in a manner that helps providers build capacity and confidence in working with adolescents within a community based prevention model and/or a criminal justice intervention of service delivery.

Utilizing these strengths-based approaches which are culturally responsive, gender-specific to females and males respectively, and trauma-informed, these strategies show promise for improving service delivery to youth at risk for truancy and other school-related challenges, victimization and violence, trauma, mental health, and involvement in the child welfare and/or criminal justice system. Participants explore the framework and rationale for utilizing distinctive male and female gender responsive approaches including LGBT youth-responsive approaches in departmental, agency and community program culture in lecture, didactic, and interactive experiences.

Gender Specific Strategies Training recognizes girls’ and boys’ inherent strengths and capacities, challenges stereotypes, questions unhealthy and harmful attitudes and beliefs about female or male socialization, explores the impact of their own adolescent experiences on current practice, and encourages relationships that are healthy and based on trust and safety.

*Gender Transformative: those policies and practices that highlight, challenge, and ultimately change harmful norms of masculinity and femininity.*

The training will take place sometime before the end of our current grant year (end of August, 2014) and would be a day long 8:30-4:00 PM training.

Good discussion of the training followed. Coalition members stressed the importance of incorporating inclusive LGBT youth responsive approaches in the training and the importance of that to our community. Other members offered the importance of marketing this training as broadly as possible to get as many diverse organizations as possible at the training. The importance of how trainings can help promote gender equity was also raised. The Coalition did approve moving forward with the training and looked at July 9th as the leading
option to hold the training. If you were unable to be at the meeting or have additional feedback about the training please contact Kateri at wimsetk@co.thurston.wa.us UPDATE: Since that meeting the County has discovered that the contract for this training will take longer than expected and due to that they contacted the trainer about new dates. Currently the likely date is Wednesday, August 6th. As soon as this is approved, updates will be coming but please save this date.

- Communications Subcommittee Update:
  Communication Strategy

Together!, who coordinates the Communication Subcommittee, reminded folks about the next Subcommittee meeting on Friday May 30th at 1 PM. The Subcommittee is working on what’s next in healthy relationship communications. Last year the YouTube videos were released and now the committee would like to focus on the same topic but possibly a different audience. They would love to hear your thoughts about what you think. If you’d like more information or have ideas, please contact Danielle Koenig at dkoenig@thurstontogether.org

Meeting Evaluation

Adjourn

NEXT MEETING: August 2014. Look for a poll on the date coming out soon.