

All Of Us Together... Moving to Inclusion

January 22, 2009

9:30 – 11:30

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - A. Robert Frank from WestEd has the same job as Barbara Ashby but at UCSF. His background is in childcare, education is child development and passion is inclusion. This is his 9th year with WestEd doing county wide inclusion teams. He has a history working in Head Start programs including in Yolo County.
 - B. Rebecca Foster works at YCOE and is the grant specialist for the Local Planning Council. She is the liaison for our Yolo County Inclusion team.
 - C. Patrick McGrew works for Davis JUSD as a program specialist. This is a new position in the district which he has held for a year. Before that, he was the resource teacher at the high school for 8-9 years. He has 16 years of teaching experience. He has some involvement with the preschool program in the district.
 - D. Gail Nadal is the LPC Coordinator for Yolo County. She plans to assist with this project. The LPC and the R&R plan to be the conduit for keeping this program going. She expressed a need in the county to have greater information sharing within itself to keep a focus on issues like inclusion and learn from each other.
 - E. Anne Schultze is the special services manager for Head Start with YCOE. She receives referrals for those with possible special needs, attends IEPs, arranges trainings with different organizations, goes into the classroom and accommodates those with special needs, etc. She hopes that AOUT will help Yolo County really focus on inclusion and develop best practices. She has a background with Special Quest and sees this program as something similar to developing best practices for inclusion as a team including those working with the children and families.
 - F. Lynn Arner represents Child Care Services. She works with Universal Preschool, West Sacramento. She sees inclusion as a quality issue. Previously she worked at the UC Davis lab school where there was a full inclusion program. That program went away, and she is happy that inclusion is coming back in the spotlight again as it is a passion for her.
 - G. Cindy Linhares is a parent of a 2 year 5 month child who was born with many disabilities. Cindy was an instructor at the lab school in early childhood. Her son hasn't fit into any category. She feels fortunate that she was able to step down from her position at work to be home with her son. Her son has 8 appointments a week, but he is doing well. Cindy really believes in early intervention as her son is doing so well. She hopes that as a parent she can bring some of the issues that she has encountered to our AOUT team and gain more resources.
 - H. Sue Lomax works for CommuniCare Health Centers in West Sacramento. She supervises all of the family services there. The mothers are in treatment for alcohol use and abuse and CommuniCare has the children.

Some of the children have Fetal Alcohol Syndrome or are cocaine babies. There are also moms who have cognitive problems and disabilities themselves. Sue is a member of the LPC and also represents the LPC for this program.

- I. Kathy Tipton is a school psychologist/program specialist for Winters school district. She works with preschool-grade 5.
- J. Jonelle Castiglia she is one of the special education administrators for Woodland JUSD. She has been a special day class teacher, speech therapist, and program specialist.

2. AOUT information/background

- A. Institute history: The institute emerged at a time when special education and early childhood development were far apart. The idea of creating a county-wide kind of team came from the thought that we need to put the two thoughts together and talk. The original goal was to get special educators, EC educators, administrators, funders, and all the important people to come together and plan in a systematic way. It became clear that each county has different needs and operates differently. WestEd worked with each county to facilitate in elevating each county's current work to bring inclusion to a new level. Commitment for counties to come for a full 3 days became challenging over the years, so the time commitment at the institute has been reduced and the two separate pre-institute meetings have been added. This is the first year having a post-institute meeting to refine whatever work accomplished at the institute.

3. Yolo County Application & Goals

- A. Sharing of written application to WestEd to participate in AOUT.
- B. Goals: (1) Develop a plan for inclusive practices that will include all team members and their respective agencies so we can strengthen inclusion practices and knowledge within the community; (2) Create a community of quality childcare programs for all children
- C. Top three questions/issues: (1) Design a vision statement and a measurable strategic plan; (2) Develop a group needs assessment for children with disabilities and research how best to meet the needs of these families and children; (3) Bring recognition and response to classrooms and trainings to the teachers

4. Questions and Answers

- A. In Yolo County, who is charged/mandated with providing special education services? Alta Regional and First Steps (0-3); each district itself for (3-5). First Steps, state preschools and Head Start (mandated to serve 10% with disabilities) are where the county fits into the picture. SELPA oversees all the districts and they use forms from SELPA.
- B. Others to invite to AOUT: representative from SELPA (already invited but unable to attend), Alta Regional (0-3) to talk about transition

[Mechelle Johnson], Esparto, First 5, Warm Line (invited but unable to participate).

- C. The team is not limited to 10 participants. Some participants may not be able to make it to all of the meetings and the institute.

5. Definitions and discussion

A. Inclusion (not special education definition):

- being a part of
- acceptance
- no barriers
- everyone included and involved
- personal rights
- “wanted”
- Recognition
- Supported
- holistic community, togetherness

B. Full Inclusion IS

- balanced
- individualized
- benefits quality
- value differences
- normalizes, collective
- familiarity/community building multi-level

C. Full Inclusion IS NOT

- segregation
- no ownership
- separation
- isolation
- silos
- un-individualized
- exclusion

6. Needs/Challenges and Strengths

A. Challenges

- fragmented
- not universal/standardized
- districts in charge of preschool, not county (because of funding)
- time to develop programs
- migrant families (need to provide services)
- share resources in the county

B. Needs

- options/models for inclusion (family, private, etc.)
- like minds together for a conduit for collaboration
- share information and what is working
- foundations trainings together in county (Yolo is doing this)
- parent training

- communicate whole county for trainings, etc. (email list)
- C. Strengths
 - established relationships in county
 - “First Steps” program (0-3)
 - “Little BITS” program (0-5)
 - Preschool foundations
 - YCCCPC website to share information about AOUT, trainings

7. Vision Statement

- A. Research Elk Grove, El Dorado (view many from other counties, districts)
- B. Utilize LPC for support
- C. Vision goes with Mission, Values and Goals
- D. Develop a collective definition for *inclusion* within Yolo County

8. Next Meeting: Monday, February 23
 YCOE Conference Center, Suite 120
 9:30 – 11:30