

All Of Us Together... Moving to Inclusion

February 23, 2009

9:30 – 11:30

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - A. Reminder: The Institute is on Monday and Tuesday March 9-10, 2009.
 - B. Trang Nguyen is replacing Anne Schultze on our team. Trang is the program resource specialist for Head Start/Early Head Start who worked closely with Anne.
 - C. Rebecca Foster: liaison for AOUT; LPC Grant Specialist.
 - D. Sue Lomax: CommuniCare Health Centers in family services (child development center, outreach, parenting, etc.)
 - E. Cindy Linhares: parent of special needs child; previously Early Childhood Program Coordinator at UC Davis lab school
 - F. Robert Frank: WestEd consultant for almost 10 years; at UCSF oversees 4 child development centers
 - G. Patrick McGrew: DJUSD Program Specialist
 - H. Stella Flores: RISE in Esparto (K-5); has children with special needs at preschool
 - I. Jonelle Castiglia: WJUSD Administrator for special education; looking for more options
 - J. Yin Myo-Flores: Family childcare specialist (Child Care Services); wants to be an advocate for all children
 - K. Lynn Arner: Child Care Services
 - L. Robbie Townsley: Resource and Referral Supervisor; on site technical assistance for working with child with special needs
 - M. Gail Nadal: Director for ECE at YCOE; she and Trang are taking over for the opening of the Program Resource Specialist opening for Head Start.

2. Housekeeping
 - A. R. Foster reminded to submit registration to WestEd on the form enclosed in the packet. If unable to attend the Institute, write “pursue waive fee” on the form as per conversations with WestEd for members of the team who cannot attend the 2 days in Foster City. R. Foster also informed that because our team is relatively close to where the Institute will be held, that we have been approved to attend the conference day 1 without submission of the registration fees. G. Nadal added that if the hotel costs are an issue, that the LPC could rearrange the double occupancy arrangements in order to support more attendees.
 - B. Additional team member update: Deanna Barrett of Yolo County SELPA is very interested in our project and wanted to be a participant but the dates did not work for her. She will act as an “invisible” team member and will have information shared with her.
 - C. R. Foster reviewed the last meeting: icebreaker, history of the Institute, Yolo County’s goals. At the end of our first meeting, we were just at the beginning stages to develop a common definition of *inclusion* and also

were discussing the development of a county-wide goal, vision and mission statement.

- D. G. Nadal shared that the LPC is providing registration scholarships for the 2009 Yolo County Child Development Conference provided that the participants attend at least one of the special needs strands at the conference. She suggested creating a panel workshop from members of our AOUT team to share our experiences with others in our county and at the Institute.

3. *Project Relationship* video was viewed.

- A. L. Arner shared that one of the challenges in Yolo County is the need for the time for staff to meet and funding for the time to support the meetings. Robert Frank suggested First 5 as a means for funding meeting times as happened in San Francisco. L. Arner also shared that the reflective capacity and ability to reflect on the child and own internal response is critical to everyone's behavior changing.
- B. S. Lomax shared that in her $\frac{3}{4}$ day program there has been difficulty having time to meet. She wants to set a secure environment for her staff and program in order to provide a more nurturing platform for her staff to show that she values their input and that they really care about the staff. Y. Myo-Flores informed about her service to provide quality enhancement through Child Care Services.
- C. P. McGrew shared that he finds it important to have the staff meet often enough to build relationships and become more cohesive. He reminded that it really is a valid question to ask, "Who works best with whom?" in order to best meet the needs of the child to build upon relationships and connections made. L. Arner added that this illustrates the individual needs of the staff as well as the child and subconscious reactions.
- D. Y. Myo-Flores shared the instances of having only one child care adult and not having the opportunity to reflect with other adults about individual children.
- E. S. Flores shared that there isn't an opportunity to have staff discuss what happens at the end of each day. She shared that it is important to allow the time to process and reflect what happens each day and the need to have the staff meet together as a team.
- F. J. Castiglia shared that the majority of the special education staff is not on the same campus where most of the programs are held. Next year it seems that state preschool and Head Start will have Fridays as non-student days which will allow the opportunity for staff to have trainings and discussions to build relationships. R. Frank shared that one effective method that led to the development of the *Project Relationship* was that a staff who formerly did pull-out to work with students individually changed their methodology to have discussions about their concerns about students.
- G. L. Arner shared that when she was a trainer, she learned just as much from the teacher as the teacher learned from her. The reciprocity allows for the

coming together of information in order to see the whole child and best meet their needs.

4. Revisiting Yolo County's Needs

- A. R. Foster informed that the Local Planning Council is currently investigating ways to adapt the Yolo County Child Care Planning Council website to include a calendar that would have information on many trainings and events related to early childhood as well as inclusion. (This is a follow-up from the AOUT team discussion at the first meeting.)
- B. L. Arner suggested that the Yolo AOUT team meet more often to develop encompassing goals and visions and then discuss how to implement in the varied settings across the county.
- C. C. Linhares emphasized the importance of supporting teachers and training them to meet the needs of all children. Recognition and support for the individuals who spend every day with the special needs children is important. J. Castiglia added that her staff has participated in several trainings and she has witnessed some improvements.
- D. J. Castiglia mentioned that she would like to see a greater collaboration/partnership between Head Start and Inclusion programs like the Sacramento County Office of Education and Elk Grove USD model. This would involve having the classes co-taught and having some of the more severe students.

5. Next Meeting:

- A. AOUT Institute
Monday & Tuesday, March 9-10
Crowne Plaza Hotel – Foster City
(registration begins at 8:00a on Monday, March 9)
- B. R. Frank reminded that there will be one more meeting after the Institute with WestEd facilitation which will be driven by whatever outcomes develop at the Institute.