

# All Of Us Together... Moving to Inclusion

August 27, 2009

10:00 – 12:00

## 1. Welcome and Introductions

Present: Lynn Arner (CCS), Deeanna Barrett (SELPA), Diane Casey (WarmLine), Lana Casper (FRC), Rebecca Foster (LPC), Trish Martin (WJUSD), Patrick McGrew (DJUSD), Yin Myo-Flores (CCS), Sandra Sutor

Guests: Dana Eagan (SCOE/SEEDS), Catharine Mikitka (SCOE/SEEDS), Lorraine Weatherspoon (SCOE)

## 2. *Mission Statement* revisited

A. The mission statement was reviewed. It was noted that the centralized directory has been identified as the WarmLine website (information on sharing information to be posted will be shared at our next meeting). Other items discussed related to the mission statement include administration of a community assessment and hosting trainings for the county as well as for this inclusion group.

## 3. SEEDS/SCOE discussion

A. A brief overview of Supporting Early Education Delivery Systems (SEEDS): It is a training and technical assistance project out of the California Department of Education. This is the 16<sup>th</sup> year for SEEDS. There is a variety of support offered including bringing information and consultants to groups as well as organizing visits to see some of their programs that are best practices for inclusion.

B. *Question: Where is Inclusion happening in Yolo County and who influences those inclusive practices?*

i. WJUSD started four SDC preschools last year and is maintaining them this year. “Typical peers” were invited to go to the sites. The next step for WJUSD is to develop a co-enrolled preschool program with Head Start or State Preschool.

ii. DJUSD has preschool programs and state preschool housed at the same location and are working together. Students are on the playground at the same time, and students go in with staff to the state preschool. This is the second year of the program.

iii. CCS/R&R closely collaborates with WarmLine to refer children if there is a need for additional assessments and observations. CCS also provides trainings to providers and child care workers.

iv. Head Start and State Preschool has built in support for inclusion in their programs. Head Start has a mandate and plan for inclusion.

v. SELPA noted that there may be a disconnect with inclusive practices and opportunities to include children in the preschool programs in Yolo County. SELPA has the goal to work towards bridging the gap for all preschools to have inclusive practices.

- vi. City of Davis, Department of Recreation has an elementary, teen and adult program.
- C. *Question: Who needs to be in the inclusion conversation?*
- i. All school districts (re-invite WUSD), administrators, family child-care providers, parents, children to share their experiences, “Foster and Kinship Care,” State Preschool, Alta-Regional, RISE, Inc., Head Start, Kindergarten representative
  - ii. If you have contacts for any of those who should be in the conversation, please invite them to our meetings.
- D. *Question: What can you do to keep this group going?*
- i. SELPA and Head Start are coordinating trainings/workshops.
  - ii. WJUSD has coordinated with Head Start and state preschool for training days for FY 09-10.
  - iii. LPC agreed to act as a conduit for this group for FY 09-10 and will be able to administer the community assessment and offer trainings related to the intentions of this group.
- E. *Question: Why did other programs go away?*
- i. Funding
  - ii. Time concerns/other commitments
  - iii. With no plan of action, the program dies.
  - iv. High turnover rate (change of personnel in the position)
  - v. Lack of involvement and/or understanding from parents, community, teachers: highlight that inclusion is a philosophy, not a program and looks different wherever it takes place
- F. Action Plans/Goals:
- i. Individually build relationships to support one another
  - ii. Determine families to work with (pilot families)
  - iii. Organize site visits of best practices locations
  - iv. Identify needs/desires of this group for LPC to work on
  - v. Set a regular meeting time
  - vi. Opportunities for workshops
  - vii. Update members if unable to attend
  - viii. Invite those who should attend our meetings
  - ix. Collaborative inter-agency trainings
4. Next Steps: Determine a regular meeting time; focus on action plans and goals from this meeting; determine future collaboration with SEEDS in terms of inter-agency workshops and/or site visits.