



Strengthening Families

**Statewide Collaboration Team Meeting
March 11, 2004
1:30-4:00 pm
Family Support Network of North Carolina Conference Room**

Minutes

March 11, 2004

Present: Shalisa Baker, Brenda Boberg, Chris Gray, Kathryn Kramer, Barbara Leach, Chris Lee, Betsy MacMichael, Marsha Roth, Julia Searl-Rusert, Sally Sloop, Cindy Wheeler, Marlyn Wells, Irene Zipper

Barbara Leach and Sally Sloop facilitated the meeting. Welcome and Introductions were done.

Project Updates were given by Brenda Boberg (Local Team) and Irene Zipper (State Team)

Local Collaboration Team – Brenda Boberg

- 1st Local Collaboration Team met on March 10, 2004 in Greenville at Boys and Girls Club
- Continuing to identify and recruit partners from Edgecomb, Nash, and Wilson Counties to serve on local team.
- Focus group of family members was conducted to gain information about the concept of the One Stop and to get feedback on prototype and icons. Results were reviewed by the local subcommittee of professionals. Lots of helpful information came out of the focus groups.

State Collaboration Team – Irene Zipper

- There will be a meeting of all project directors April 19 – 21st in Washington, DC. Irene will participate.
- The RFP that we are awaiting has not yet been announced
- The Coordinating Team, a subgroup of the State Collaboration Team, has been meeting weekly to coordinate the various facets of the Strengthening Families Project including monitoring the timeline, developing the implementation plan, and coordinating activities between the state and local collaboration teams.
- The decision has been made to rename the Central Directory of Services to be inclusive of the One-Stop concept. The new hybrid name is “One

Stop for Family Support: The Central Directory of Resources". New publicity materials will reflect the new name.

Barbara Leach encouraged the State Collaboration Team to visit the Strengthening Families website for information about meetings, updates on progress, and meeting minutes. She also encouraged team members to use the discussion forum as a means of sharing ideas and thoughts about project activities.

The group reviewed the focus group feedback and considered how it might shape the next prototype. The complexities of using icons and graphics were discussed, and the need for a "facilitator" to help families, particularly those with low literacy, to navigate the website. There was discussion of shifting the focus from the end-user for the One-Stop Center to the "facilitator."

State Team Workgroup Updates

Policies & Procedures update – Cindy Wheeler

The committee met via conference call. The committee identified pertinent policies & procedures that impact family support and family involvement (see handout). These will be forwarded to Rud Turnbull who plans to begin analysis in mid-April. There was a broad discussion about policies that discourage family support/involvement at both the state and local levels. The group reviewed the document and identified Federal/State level policies. The list of Federal and State policies that have been compiled will be posted to the website. Workgroup updates will be posted to the website as well.

Technology – Chris Lee

Chris and Irene met with Gary Bishop, faculty in the UNC-CH Computer Science department, to discuss technology efforts, and the possibility of involving students in the Computer Science department in the various technology-related Family Support activities. It seems likely that we will be able to involve both undergraduate and graduate-level students in these activities. Dr. Bishop will be available as a consultant to the Family Support project.

Regional Efforts/Marketing & Publicity –Sally Sloop

A flyer from Lutheran Family Services was passed out. There was discussion of how to market these activities. Strategies considered included TV/radio for literacy issues; posters for laundromats. Sally discussed connecting with Steve Sumerel to involve local members of the faith community.

Grantwriting – Irene Zipper

Nothing to report at this time.

Barbara Leach will send out an email reminding team members about workgroup updates and other information of interest.

Discussion – Are all of the partners at the table?

The committee needs to identify and recruit additional team members who represent a cross-section of agency and community partners, including those representing formal and informal resources as well as public and private providers. Alternative ways to increase participation in team activities were discussed, including the use of conference calls and active workgroup participation

Discussion – Utilizing Existing Databases –

This discussion focused on strategies for ensuring that the information in existing databases is available through the One-Stop Center. A strategy for linking to these databases will be devised, but they will continue to be independently managed and operated.

Discussion – Integration of formal and informal resources

There was a discussion about how the fragmentation of services impacts families' ability to get the services and resources they need. Included in the discussion was a discussion about using formal and informal supports and how to integrate the service system so that families have access to both without having to go from place to place

Discussion – Statewide Implementation of the One-Stop

The key questions/processes needed to roll out the project across the state were discussed, with an emphasis on the need for regional teams, developed along existing regional lines. The process will need to be family-driven, and key implementation components will be identified.

Even without on-going funding, information from the project will be useful as the EI redesign continues to be rolled out across the state. NC is committed to serving the diverse families that have children with developmental disabilities and those whose children are at risk. Family support and family involvement will remain high priorities as the state moves toward building a more family-centered human service system. The goals of integrating services, both formal and informal, and of providing better access to family support are ongoing commitments for service delivery in NC.

Future Meetings

The next meeting will be a State and Local Joint Collaboration Team Meeting on April 22. The location is not yet determined, but is most likely to take place in Eastern NC.

There will not be a meeting of the State Collaboration Team in May. The next meeting will take place in June. The date and location is yet to be determined. Plans are for meetings in July and in August.