

Notes from Helena Area Early Learning Collective Impact Steering Committee – July 6, 2017

Attending: Alison Munson, Jane Arntzen Schumacher, Ross Duncan, Jim FitzGerald, Ann Lynch, Ashley Pena Larsen, Melanie Reynolds, Greg Upham, Trina Filan, Drenda Nieman, Deb Halliday

Excused: Andy Hunthausen, Ron Whitmoyer, Jilyn Chandler

Overview: The first convening of the Helena Area Early Learning Collective Impact Steering Committee included introductions and discussion of Steering Committee interests in this topic, an overview of Collective Impact, and the beginning of the development of a shared vision for the work moving forward, including a discussion about current areas of focus in the Early Childhood Coalition.

Next Steps:

- Backbone staff (Trina & Drenda) will meet with the ECE Leadership Team to discuss this initiative
- Backbone staff will meet with Jilyn Chandler and Ashley Pena Larsen to discuss data
- Deb will meet with Andy and Ron to debrief on the first meeting
- We will schedule an October Steering Committee meeting
- Backbone staff will outreach to other key stakeholders in the community (St Pete's; Pureview; a media contact; Mountain Quality Pacific)
- We will create a page and upload documents on to the United Way website

Key Takeaways:

- General agreement on focus on early childhood (upstream, brain development)
- General agreement on one focus being kindergarten readiness: communication (to families, care providers, etc) AND increase access to services/interventions/supports
- Interest in supporting mental health (resiliency & affective)
- Interest in better understanding the need and demand for pre-kindergarten supports, such as child care, family strengthening opportunities, etc., esp. from parents

3-5 years vision:

- Increase capacity for mental health
- Increase awareness of value of early ed and support
- Increased quality of care
- More kids are ready for school
- Good data available to support more funding, policy changes
- More services for children, at home and in child care, esp mental health
- More safe, stable environments: home, child care, school
- Common language to reach families falling through the cracks
- Universal, community-wide alignment of goals in this work