

Early Childhood

Goal 1: Create a better definition of mission and vision- county wide of early care and education.

Why: Working toward same goal of children have success in school.

Measures: Have the mission plan for future meetings of collaborators.

Goal 2: Provide more information to families to help child succeed.

Why: Parents as first teachers, first "impact" on the ability to succeed or not.

Action Steps:

1. Increase agency awareness.
2. Increase directory distribution.

Measures:

1. Track access to services that promote positive early learning and development.

Early Literacy

Goal: To create a culture of literacy in which all children have early, frequent and pleasurable experiences with books, as part of their everyday life.

Why: Because as families and community members we have the ability to help children build a strong foundation for future success.

Action Steps:

1. Reach families early, helping them to understand the benefits of reading to their children.
2. Provide children with books of their own to build a positive association with reading.
3. Strengthen the relationship with books and promote the use of libraries.
4. Promote family literacy through existing networks.
5. Involve the entire community.

Update:

Shelves are still out in the community, seniors at Office for Aging are volunteering to keep the county shelves up to date. Also accessing funds through Rotary, books were purchased are being distributed through WIC with retired teachers demonstrating reading and distributing the books.

Family Wellness

Goal 1: To decrease student absentee rate by 10% for children entering kindergarten and 6th and 7th grades by increasing number of children who receive required school entry immunizations prior to the start of the school year.

Action Steps:

1. School RN outreach and joined letter endorsed by the health department reminding parents of required immunizations for school entry.
2. PSA or article in local print media and/or radio (back to school action steps for parents re: immunizations).
3. Promotion of local public health clinics to school RN, parents, etc.

Goal 2: To increase awareness of parents/caregivers of school aged children of available opportunities to access family supports and services by developing a family support resource guide.

Action Steps:

1. Develop resources guide for families by end of 2010 school year.

2. Distribute guides to school aged children via district websites and participating agency websites.
3. Mail guide with school calendar or back to school information.
4. Survey parents via Zoomerang survey on district websites and paper surveys at open house to determined utilization of guide.
5. Survey participating agencies/providers re: number of referrals generated from guide.

Update:

- 1) Drug Quiz on Feb. 2nd at Romulus School
- 2) Council on Alcoholism is doing survey with Senior Citizens including caretakers of grandchildren. Will share results next month.

Housing

Goal: Provide housing stability for children and youth to assist in keeping them in their school districts.

Why: To improve quality and consistency of learning experience. Having stability improves a child's learning experience which in the long run gives foundation for success as community member.

Action Steps:

1. Providing after care.
2. Developing common release form.
3. Improving involvement of various community agencies withing the HMIS data system.

Measures:

1. Decrease in number of emergency housing requests by families.
2. Decrease in number of families moving in and out of school districts in school year.
3. Of families identified at risk of housing stability, we will increase by 20% the number of families that maintain housing stability for 365 days.

Update:

- 1) Met with owners of Hunter Run hoping to improve community relationships and quality of housing.
- 2) Rent to Own issues – developed flyer which will be distributed county-wide with concerns
- 3) Point in time survey – need everyone's input. Data is used for grant writing and focusing in on areas of need.

Literacy (Grades 6 - Adult)

Goal: Develop a program for middle school students that increases reading for pleasure.

Why:

1. Increase academic and vocabulary skills.
2. Research is clear that a command of the English language is directly related to success and income.
3. Maintain efforts of K-5 programs.
4. Involve parents/community library programs.
5. Expose students to community library programs.
6. Increase achievements on standard tests such as SAT's, A.P. and M/L assessments.

Action Steps:

1. Superintendents bring back to schools and organize team.
2. Create timeline- by teams.
3. Meetings for status reports of work teams and monthly superintendent meetings.
4. Compile individual plans under a common goal for school district flexibility.
5. Meet Partners Group in Sept./Oct. 2010 for update.

Measures:

1. Existence of a plan by: June 30, 2010.

2. Implementation ASAP or 2010 school year.

Update:

1. Solicit for “unwanted books”
2. Partner with Barnes & Noble
3. Summer Reading incentive based on number of minutes spent reading

Substance Abuse

Goal: Decrease alcohol use by juniors and seniors within last 30 days from 48%-40%.

Why:

1. Decreases underage alcohol use.
2. Decreases academic failure.
3. Increases commitment to school.

Action Steps:

1. Grassroots marketing campaign using youtube.com and Finger Lakes newspapers and website.
2. Seek assistance from Youth Development Committee, Youth Board of Youth Bureau. United Way of Seneca County Youth Board members, Seneca County Youth Council, Independent Living Teen Group, 4-H Teens to help develop marketing campaign.

Measures: Pre and post tests, using the Youth Development survey and a small sample survey of targeted population.

Update:

- 1) Town Hall Meeting – received \$500 and it will be in Seneca Falls as they have not had one while others have.
- 2) Chosen by National Coalition for training – free – with NYS OASAS Prevention Resource Centers – De Paul in Rochester. Amber Donnelly, Jackie Case, Mary Grace, and Mary Lou Lang will be the ones trained in Community Level Changes working on root causes.

Youth Development

Goal 1: Create a large-scale integrated local community service project for high-school students in Seneca County.

Why: Build self-esteem, self-confidence, community awareness, and personal responsibility.

Measures: Pre and post survey on the "why" (see above).

Goal 2: Hold a 7th and 8th grade career interest fair.

Why:

1. Exposure and awareness to career/employment opportunities
2. Reasons to remain in school.

Measures:

1. Pre and post survey on awareness of career/employment opportunities.
2. Skills gained/learned.
3. School engagement increase (attendance, improved grades, reduced disciplinary actions).

Update:

- 1) Career Fair is set for March 26 at Hillside from 9 AM – noon. Currently have 20 career representatives confirmed to attend. The purpose of the fair is to spread the message “Stay in school, graduate, and

opportunities are in your future!” to students that are most at risk of dropping out. Over 150 students are expected to attend this year’s event.

- 2) Alternative Spring Break (ASB) will take place April 23-24. Students will work at Cayuga Lake State Park, cleaning up debris, painting picnic tables, and preparing cabins for summer usage. Students will also be repairing/fixing up a Habitat for Humanity house in Seneca Falls. The overnight will take place at New York Chiropractic College. The sub-committee received funding from the Youth Bureau and Seneca Falls Savings Bank to cover expenses of the event. Applications for ASB can be found here:
http://uwseneca.org/pdfs/youth_asb_application.pdf