



Tuesday, March 13, 2007

WCELI is a partnership of parents, community stakeholders and public and private organizations working to create comprehensive, accessible and sustainable child development and family support services that are reflective of the diverse cultures, strengths, and needs of White Center families. Puget Sound ESD has been selected as the intermediary for WCELI and is in the process of gathering community input and assistance in designing WCELI's services.

Update

The planning process for WCELI is winding down and we are now in the "home stretch". Although not yet finalized, the "picture" of what the WCELI will look like is coming together, thanks in large part to all the input and work that has gone into the overall planning. Some of the planning activities that occurred in the past 6 months include:

- Collaborative Planning Team with 21 members representing 6 organizations (Making Connections/Trusted Advocates, Highline Community College, Highline Public Schools, Seattle-King County Health Department, Child Care Resources, Puget Sound ESD), and including 3 White Center parents/residents, (2 of which are Trusted Advocates)
- 14 workgroups with a total of 200 members, representing over 65 organizations and including 40 White Center parents and 7 Trusted Advocates.
- Community summit which included 490 residents and 275 children. Of the residents that attended, over 350 participated in focus groups that were facilitated in 10 different languages.
- Community presentations and focus groups with specific segments of the community including faith-based organizations, foster care parents, child care providers, and school connections.
- Community Advisory Committee (CAC) including 18 parents/residents (with 18 alternates) and 12 representatives of community stakeholders (with 12 alternates).

For a PDF version of the planning activities, click ftp://ftp.psesdhs.org/wceli/WCELI_Planning_Process.pdf

Since the end of November 2006, we have been busy reviewing all the great ideas and strategies generated by the above activities, and using them to create the framework of proposed WCELI services that incorporates and reflects all the community input received.

Prior to submitting our business plan, we will host several opportunities for our partners, the community and other stakeholders to review the plan and provide us with feedback. To view and download a copy of our tentative schedule to review the business plan, click ftp://ftp.psesdhs.org/wceli/Business_Plan_Review_Process.pdf.

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday 3/20/07 from 5:30-7:30pm at Mount View Elementary School**. While the meetings are meant to be a working session for the CAC, they are open to anyone to come and observe. If you plan on attending please call Edna Noga at (425) 917-7756 or enoga@psed.org.

CAC Minutes from January: ftp://ftp.psesdhs.org/wceli/CAC_Meeting_Minutes_01_30_07.pdf

CAC Minutes from February: ftp://ftp.psesdhs.org/wceli/CAC_Meeting_Minutes_02_27_07.pdf

ftp://ftp.psesdhs.org/wceli/Crosswalk_Document.pdf

ftp://ftp.psesdhs.org/wceli/CAC_Workgroup_Notes_02_27_07.pdf

Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS)

The Department of Early Learning (DEL) has given Thrive By Five a \$150,000 grant to begin awareness of the

Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) in the two demonstration communities. Thrive By Five will be awarding both WCELI and the East Yakima Early Learning Initiative (EYELI) \$75,000 each to design and implement initial awareness and recruitment of providers. WCELI is partnering with King County Child Care Resources (CCR) who will take the lead in partnership with PSESD for this project.

What is QRIS? It is a *voluntary* system offering help and rewards to providers to increase the quality of care for children in child care centers, school-age programs, and family child care homes. Head Start, ECEAP and certified tribal programs can also participate. Second, QRIS provides a way to measure the quality of participating programs in order to provide ratings for families looking for care. The current design of the QRIS has five steps, or levels, and licensing is the first level. Accreditation or its equivalent is the top level.

For more information about QRIS, click <http://www.childcarenet.org/providers/tools-for-quality/articles>.

Past Updates and Newsletters

Past updates and newsletters are available electronically on our web-page: www.wceli.com.

We are also including the links below:

August Newsletter: ftp://ftp.psesdhs.org/wceli/WCELI_August_Newsletter.pdf

October Newsletter: ftp://ftp.psesdhs.org/wceli/WCELI_October_Newsletter.pdf

Update 10/30/06: ftp://ftp.psesdhs.org/wceli/Update_Oct_30_06.pdf

Update 11/03/06: ftp://ftp.psesdhs.org/wceli/Update_Nov_03_06.pdf

Update 11/13/06: ftp://ftp.psesdhs.org/wceli/Update_Nov_13_06.pdf

Update 11/21/06: ftp://ftp.psesdhs.org/wceli/Update_Nov_21_06.pdf

Update 12/04/06: ftp://ftp.psesdhs.org/wceli/Update_Dec_04_06.pdf

Update 12/18/06: ftp://ftp.psesdhs.org/wceli/Update_Dec_18_06.pdf

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For all other general communication, please email wceli@psed.org.