



# White Center Early Learning Initiative (WCELI) Newsletter

October 2006, Vol. 2

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## What is WCELI?

A partnership of community members and public and private organizations working to create sustainable, integrated and accessible 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.

## WCELI Community & Partners Conversation...

The Gates Foundation and Puget Sound ESD have jointly called a Community Partners Conversation meeting focusing on WCELI's Planning Process. Kenneth Jones will facilitate the meeting and participants will leave the meeting with:

- A shared perspective on the successes and challenges of the planning process so far.
- A shared understanding of the decision making process for the WCELI business plan.
- Suggestions for increasing the inclusiveness and productivity of the process going forward.
- An initial plan to increase resident participation.

**Date: October 16, 2006**

**Time: Noon to 5 pm**

**Location: TBA**

\*\*Lunch provided, 12:00 to 12:30 pm (with a vegetarian option)

If you would like to attend, please RSVP to: [lnorkool@psed.org](mailto:lnorkool@psed.org)

\*\*Please include if you will be joining us for lunch.

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*WCELI services will be culturally and linguistically responsive to the White Center community.*

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*WCELI services will be built on community strengths, including existing services.*

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#### **WCELI STAFF**

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*WCELI services will be community-driven.*

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## **Community Engagement Manager Hired**

Edna A. Noga has been hired as the Community Engagement Manager for WCELI. She is a Trusted Advocate (a group of resident leaders from different ethnic groups in White Center/Boulevard Park), and a key part of the Annie E. Casey Making Connections Initiative. She has been the school readiness coordinator for the PASEFIKA Summer Academy, a program of PASEFIKA (faith and community-based organization serving the needs of the PI community). She leads the effort in planning and implementing the curriculum, training the teachers, and teaching the Samoan Language class to pre-k (ages 3 - 5), and K- 12. Edna has coordinated PASEFIKA Festival for the past three years in White Center and the International District Housing Alliance Homeownership fair. As a Trusted Advocate the past three years, she has been intimately involved with the community engagement work for the community summits in White Center hosted by the Trusted Advocates. She helped plan and implement the outreach efforts for the first ever Pacific Island Women Association focus group summit in April this year. She is from American Samoa, and a graduate of the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, with a B.S. in Engineering with a specialty in Electrical Engineering. Edna is a fellow of the 7<sup>th</sup> graduating class of the North American Pacific American Leadership Institute (NAPALI), "Ho'ala Hou – Reawakening". She enjoys spending time with her husband Etuale and their beautiful one year-old daughter, Elzira.

## **Community Engagement Activities**

PSESD has contracted with Making Connections and Trusted Advocates to take the lead in implementing WCELI's community engagement plan. Community based organizations, Head Start staff and parents will also be involved in the process. PSESD has also been approached by CHEF (Comprehensive Health Education Foundation) to support other strategies and activities in reaching the community.

## **Save the date for the "Community Summit"**

A Community Summit is being planned in partnership with Making Connections and Trusted Advocates. The goal of the Summit is to get input from White Center residents and community members about what services they would like to see in White Center for young children and their families. It is scheduled for **November 18** and will be held at **Mt. View Elementary School (10811 12<sup>th</sup> Ave SW)**. This event will be open to ALL residents of White Center and any other community members who are interested in seeing better services for children birth to five and their families. For more information, please contact Edna Noga.

## WCELI Planning Coordinator Hired

Leilani G. Dela Cruz has been hired as a Planning Coordinator for WCELI. She most recently worked for Spokane County Community Services as a Program Planner/Evaluator managing county contracts for providers of Early Intervention services for infants and toddlers with or at risk for developmental delays. Prior to that, she worked at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Family Outreach Center in Spokane as a Family Intervention Specialist working with families and children at risk. She has worked as a social worker for over 10 years in a variety of settings including the Guam Early Intervention System for 5 years. Born and raised on Guam, she received her Bachelor's degree in Social Work from the University of Guam and her Master's degree in Social Work from Eastern Washington University.

## About the Community Advisory Committee

This is a broad group of community members and organizations who are interested in WCELI and wish to provide input on project plans. The Community Advisory Committee will provide feedback, advice and recommendations to the WCELI Collaborative Planning Team about proposed service delivery plans as they are developed.

## About the Collaborative Planning Team

This group consists of PSESD staff and partner representatives who are "on loan" and work part-time to coordinate the planning efforts of WCELI. Partner representatives include Trusted Advocates and staff from Child Care Resources, Seattle-King County Public Health, Highline Community College, and Highline School District. Members of the team have expertise in specific service areas and are called planning coordinators. The planning coordinators are leading different workgroups that are developing specific service delivery plans which will outline how WCELI services will be delivered.

## About Educare

Educare provides year-round, comprehensive, center-based developmental child care, education and related services to over 160 low-income children from birth to age five. It is a research-based model whose goal is to better prepare young children from low-income families for success in school by nurturing healthy social emotional development and language and pre-literacy skills. There are 6 Educare centers nationwide in Chicago, Omaha, Milwaukee, Kansas City, Tulsa and Denver. The WCELI Collaborative Planning Team, ESD Board of Directors, Headstart Policy Council and Highline Headstart staff have agreed to explore an application for Highline Headstart to become an Educare site as part of the overall vision for WCELI. John Bancroft, WCELI Executive Director and Lori Pittman, WCELI Planning Director will be traveling to Tulsa to participate in a networking meeting of all the Educare sites across the nation.

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*WCELI services will be comprehensive.*

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*WCELI will be dedicated to developing and employing diverse leadership and professional staff in its programs*

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## Upcoming Events

### **WCELI Community and Partners Conversation**

October 16

12:00 – 5:00

St. James Church

### **Community Summit**

November 18

Mt. View Elementary

For more information contact Edna Noga

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*WCELI services will be accessible.*

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*WCELI services will be grounded in research-based information and practices, as well as drawing on and developing promising practices.*

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## Planning Workgroups

The WCELI Collaborative Planning Team is committed to having community input into designing WCELI services. If you are interested in participating in any of these groups please contact the planning coordinator:

Work Group	Description	Planning Coordinator
Center-based Infant/Toddler Services	This workgroup will look at services for infants and toddlers, 0-3, in the HUB center.	Wendy Jans (253) 926.6815 <a href="mailto:wjans@psesd.org">wjans@psesd.org</a>
Center-based Preschool Services	This workgroup will look at services for preschoolers, 3-5, in the HUB center.	Vanessa Maañao (425) 917.7751 <a href="mailto:vmaanao@psesd.org">vmaanao@psesd.org</a>
Parent Engagement/ Partnership, Family Support, Parent Leadership, Adult Education and Training	This workgroup will look at strengths-based services and supports to engage families, involving them in leadership, decision-making, adult education and training.	Diane Uphoff (425) 917.7972 <a href="mailto:duphoff@psesd.org">duphoff@psesd.org</a> Mary Fickes (425) 917.7709 <a href="mailto:mfickes@psesd.org">mfickes@psesd.org</a>
Links to School and Transition Services	This workgroup will look at services for parents when their child is transitioning to Kindergarten	Diane Kroll (425) 917.7875 <a href="mailto:dkroll@psesd.org">dkroll@psesd.org</a>
Prenatal and Home-based Infant Toddler Services	This workgroup will look at supports and services for pregnant mothers and their infants and toddlers in the home.	Kathy Carson (206) 296.4677 <a href="mailto:kathy.carson@metrokc.gov">kathy.carson@metrokc.gov</a>
Training and Technical Assistance to child care Providers	This workgroup will look at how to provide training and technical assistance to licensed childcare providers.	Faye Melton (206)329.1011 x 213 <a href="mailto:melton@childcare.org">melton@childcare.org</a>
Support to preschools and other providers	This workgroup will look at supports and services to exempt preschool providers.	Lan Le (206) 725.9181 x29 <a href="mailto:lan@rfsc.org">lan@rfsc.org</a>
Family Friends and Neighbors Caring for Children	This workgroup will develop ideas for bringing information and resources to extended family and friends who care for young children.	Paula Steinke (206) 329.1011 x236 <a href="mailto:Steinke@childcare.org">Steinke@childcare.org</a>
Mental Health	This workgroup will look at mental health services for White Center children and families.	Rhonda Kindred (425) 917.7712 <a href="mailto:rkindred@psesd.org">rkindred@psesd.org</a>
Professional Development	This workgroup will look at the needs of providers and teachers for professional development and current educational standards	Kathy Oberg (206) 878.3710 x3460 <a href="mailto:koberg@highline.edu">koberg@highline.edu</a>
Child Health and Nutrition Services	This workgroup will look at health and nutrition services for White Center children and families.	Lois Schipper (206) 296.4562 <a href="mailto:lois.schipper@metrokc.gov">lois.schipper@metrokc.gov</a>
Early Intervention	This is an overarching workgroup that will look at inclusive services and supports to children, 0-5, with special needs.	<a href="mailto:WCELI@psesd.org">WCELI@psesd.org</a>
Cultural Competency	This is an overarching workgroup that will look at ensuring all services provided through WCELI are culturally competent.	<a href="mailto:WCELI@psesd.org">WCELI@psesd.org</a>
Evaluation	This workgroup will look at how to evaluate the effectiveness of WCELI services.	Sandy Ciske (206) 296.2791 <a href="mailto:sandra.ciske@metrokc.gov">sandra.ciske@metrokc.gov</a>