Montana Helena Area Early Learning Collective Impact Workshop

Summary of the Day
April 6, 2017
• Over 80 parents and leaders in early childhood, education, health, community, business and government gathered to talk about how we can work together to ensure that all children have access to safe and engaging early years.

• This brief overview summarizes the findings of the day. Please share with your colleagues, boards of directors, and partner organizations.

• For more information, contact Deb Halliday at deb@debhalliday.com or 406-546-6991.

Thank you the Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation, United Way of the Lewis & Clark Area, Montana Children's Trust Fund, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies, and many others for helping to produce this day!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30a</td>
<td>Welcoming &amp; overview of the day</td>
<td>Grab a cup of coffee or tea, and settle in</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:40a</td>
<td>Why Early Learning Matters</td>
<td>Lanessa Littrell&lt;br&gt;Head Start Policy Council Chairwoman</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00a</td>
<td>Collective Impact 101</td>
<td>Join and interactive exploration of a framework for effective collaboration</td>
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<td>10:30a</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45a</td>
<td>Early Learning in Your Town</td>
<td>Opening overview</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Data Gallery Walk</td>
<td>What do we know about early education and children’s well-being in our community?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>School-Community-Family Connections</td>
<td>How are elementary school leaders partnering with community and families to support early learning?</td>
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<td>Leadership Discussion &amp; Reflection</td>
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<td>Noon</td>
<td>Hosted Lunch with Business Leaders</td>
<td>Join us for a hosted lunch with business leaders on why early learning matters.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00p</td>
<td>Where Do We Go From Here?</td>
<td>Opening overview</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Early Learning Café</td>
<td>How is it that we work so hard on this issue, and yet we don’t see the outcomes or results we want?</td>
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<td>Crowdsourcing</td>
<td>Generate ideas of priority areas</td>
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<td>What? So What? Now What?</td>
<td>Facilitated discussion all around about what’s next</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30p</td>
<td>Workshop Concludes</td>
<td>Thank you!</td>
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Section One

Collective Impact 101
Strengthen your work through collective impact

- Meant to address complex problems
- Collective Impact is the commitment of a group of key actors from different sectors to develop a common agenda for solving a specific social problem
- “Progress moves at the speed of trust” Stephen Covey
- There are 3 preconditions: influential champions; urgency of issue; adequate resources (staff and operational)
- There are also 5 conditions (see slide)
- A Collective Impact initiative has a Steering Committee, a Backbone function, and Work Groups (including people with lived experience: “Nothing About Us Without Us”)

Connecting for impact
In your project – where are you – where do you want to be – what keeps you from getting there?
The 5 Conditions of Collective Impact – Self Assessment

**Your Project:**

**Common Agenda**  *All the members of the team know and agree to why they meet.*

*Strongly Disagree*  

**Shared Measurement**  *Data is “at the center” of our team’s work – it informs where we started, where we want to go and how far we’ve come.*

*Strongly Disagree*

**Mutually Reinforcing Activities**  *Each team member tries to align their organizational activities (projects, grant opportunities, events and celebrations) to support the efforts of the whole team’s goals.*

*Strongly Disagree*

**Continuous Communication**  *All team members feel “kept in the loop” about the vision and progress of the work and everyone feels able to share that information with others.*

*Strongly Disagree*

**Backbone Support**  *There is an organization that is clearly responsible and has the capacity to ensure that the team comes together and is productive in its efforts.*

*Strongly Disagree*

*Source: Deb Halliday (406) 444-3559, www.debhalliday.com*
Collective Impact Infrastructure: Structuring for Intentionality and Uncertainty

Common Agenda and Shared Metrics

strategic guidance and support

partner-driven action

Steering Committee

Backbone Organization (or set of organizations that collectively play backbone function)

Ecosystem of Community Partners

Work Group
Chair
Chair

Work Group
Chair

Work Group
Chair

Work Group
Chair

○ = community partner (e.g., nonprofit, funder, business, public agency, resident)

### Engagement continuum

**Know your table**

**Increasing Level of Engagement**

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<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Examples</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Inform</strong></td>
<td>To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, or solutions</td>
<td>Email newsletters, send press releases announcing progress milestones</td>
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<td><strong>Consult</strong></td>
<td>To gather feedback from targeted stakeholders on the project’s goals, processes, shared metrics, or strategies for change</td>
<td>Ask for input on initiative strategies, invite to small group or individual presentations about initiative</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Involve</strong></td>
<td>To work directly with stakeholders continuously to ensure that concerns are consistently understood and considered</td>
<td>Invite to join Working Groups or an advisory body for the initiative, partner in policy advocacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Collaborate</strong></td>
<td>To partner with stakeholders in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and priorities</td>
<td>Appoint to a leadership role on a Working Group to help shape strategies</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Co-Lead</strong></td>
<td>To place final decision-making in the hands of stakeholders so that they drive decisions and implementation of the work</td>
<td>Invite to join the Steering Committee and/or similar body with decision-making power in the initiative</td>
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**In your project** – What is the purpose of the group: are they there to inform, to involve? To collaborate? Does their purpose match your project goals? Why or why not?
Section Two

Early Learning in Your Town
- Data Gallery Walk
- “School-Community-Family Connections”
  A conversation with Elementary Principals from Great Falls, East Helena and Helena
- Luncheon with local business leaders
Participants discussed four data sheets of information on early learning in Lewis & Clark County.

Comments were added and are shared on the following slides.
ACCESS to EARLY EDUCATION

In Montana, children living in households with an income of $100,000 are more likely to attend preschool than those living in households with incomes below $50,000.

% of kids attending preschool

40% 64%

Under $50k Over $100k

In Montana, child care is getting harder to find. The vacancy rate for licensed child care dropped from 16% to 5% in the past 3 years. Local child care practitioners report a similar tightening of the child care market in Helena, esp. for infant care.

Question: How do we support more families accessing early education?

Comments

• Who are the children who don’t have access?
• Tax credits for biz that offers child care support
• Put preschool in the K-12 system
• Need wraparound for ALL kids & families
• We need more preschools
• A lack of awareness of socio-emo needs in pre-K
• How can we get private funders/businesses to support early education?
• Transportation support
• Cost of education outstrips wages
• Educate legislators
Data Gallery Walk - III

Comments

- Butte 4Bs has great kindergarten roundup
- New births at St Pete’s: parents sign a HPSD?
- Who sees kids? DPHHS, Pediatricians, IHS, Food Share?
- Do we have understanding of readiness?
- Huge increase in speech needs - now we’re saying: “Talk to your kids”
- Kindergarten is more about social skills
- How can we increase preschools ability to serve these needs?
- How do we support parents whose kids are not in preschool?

Kindergarten Entry

- Every fall in Helena, about 225 kids enter kindergarten in need of intensive services
- 68% of these kids did not attend preschool

Kindergarteners in Need of Intensive Services

- 32%
- 68% no preschool

Question: How do we support early learning & well-being for ALL families, including those whose children do not or cannot attend preschool?
Comments

- Too many hoops to access services
- Partner with St Petes
- Need to ID families
- Decrease stigma (make meaningful connections) & increase outreach (Walmart, library, events)
- Parents may not know they qualify
- Barrier: transportation
- Do OBGYN, hospital & Planned Phood have info to share with parents?
- Coordinate with Head Start (WIC & home visiting housed there for 1st time)
- Who can help us with this?
**Data Gallery Walk - V**

**PROGRESS IN THE NATION**

- Nationally, the kindergarten “readiness gap” is closing, due to increased access to quality preschool, and low-income parents are less socially & culturally isolated (access to cell phones, the internet, etc)

- Montana is 1 of 5 states in the nation that does not fund universal preschool, and is not likely to do so any time soon

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**Question:** How can we close the kindergarten readiness gap through strengthening school-community-family partnerships?

**Comments**

- Write grants; support coalition work & skill building
- Improve kindergarten transition (OPI has draft)
- We need school district support
- Need to educate legislators; increase community & family education on readiness
- Don’t think readiness gap is closing in Montana
- Increase quality/licensed preschools
- Do neighborhood outreach like in Great Falls
- Libraries can run “preschool programming”
Section Three

Where Do We Go From Here?

- Early Learning Café
- Crowdsourcing
- What’s Next?
If you were ten times bolder, what big idea would you recommend?
Crowdsourcing  Top vote getters

- 1,000 Days of Kindness Campaign
- Universal preschool
- Launch Early Learning Collective Impact Initiative
- Paid maternity leave & quality infant/parent care
- Create one application for all supportive services
- Create a statewide volunteer Ambassador program to support families
“What next steps or actions make sense?”

- United Way of Lewis & Clark County is committed to providing backbone support
- We need to identify community-level leadership for a Steering Committee
- The Helena Early Childhood Coalition can provide guidance and support for work group focus and activity
- What else? Contact us with your thoughts, questions and ideas!
Our work ...
Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead
Montana Helena Area Early Learning Collective Impact Workshop

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