

ACAC Meeting Minutes 3.26.2024 11:00 AM

Present:

Carolyn Fundingsland

Makenna Kuljis

Hayley Johnson

Rachel Facer-Stone

Sharon Weinhold

Wahkiakum County Elections

Linda Curry

Justin Hudek

Kay Gunter

Doreen Daggett

Rochelle Fassold

Mary DeGraaf

Lori Peterson

Sabrina Kochprapha

Rashelle Douglas

Louise Brown

Jacob Cole

Zoom attendees (8)

Greetings

Plan presented for 2024 ACAC Plan

Carolyn presented motion to adopt plan. Motion passed.

Makenna presented speakers for "Kindergarten Readiness Project".

Rochelle F. works with Cowlitz Community Network

CCN's work focuses on access to quality, affordable childcare and is critical for child success and community. This network assesses and works with families in the community to identify at risk youth and provide resources for success.

58% of families must rely on friends, families, and neighbors for childcare. CCN has had success with their focus on the FFN (Friends, Family, and Neighbors) Child Caregiver Support Program.

Programs/Activities offered:

Free CPR/first aid classes

Playgrounds in the park

Sessions on how to manage child (and parent) behavior.

Sabrina K. is Executive Director of United Way of Cowlitz and Wahkiakum County. Their program has a goal of fighting for health and financial stability of community in both Cowlitz and Wahkiakum. They identify and help organizations in local community who could benefit from their support network. United Way has partnered with over 25 organizations to try and bring positive impact to the community.

There are grant opportunities beginning the week of April 1 for those interested!

There are over 900 local volunteers and 35 projects for "Day of Caring".

Over 75% of children going into kindergarten lack the skills needed for education. This group invests in early years as well as later years (like their program for senior students) to continue assisting youth by providing access to tools and resources they need to succeed.

Focus on direct parent outreach to provide enrichment and connection to those resources and groups they work with.

Positive Impacts:

204,490 books were mailed from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

3,464 children currently receive books.

4,333 children have graduated from the program.

7,797 children and families benefited from the program.

Q&A:

Question: Are the Dolly Parton numbers provided in the slide for Cowlitz County?

Answer: Cowlitz *and* Wahkiakum County.

Question: How do you reach people for the FFN program?

Answer: Through collaboration with the different organizations like "youth and family link", community presentations, networking with organizations, social media platforms, homeschooling/mom groups, etc. Word of mouth is one of the main ways of accessing this program/finding out more information. 48 Parents and caregivers are currently certified through the CPR program. We have opened the program up to more beyond the FFN.

Question: Do you work with DSHS?

Answer: Yes. A presentation was given just last week with families participating.

Question: Are there programs for families/those with disabilities?

Answer: We refer those families to the experts in that field. There is a partnership with "Progress Center" with early intervention and access. We want to be able to identify services to overcome those barriers.

Question: How are donations done? It used to be (for me) through my workplace.

Answer: United Way's funding was historically through donations from workplace employers. In addition to workplace campaigns, there are fundraisers, as well as our website, where people can donate independently.

Question: Can you speak more to the grant opportunity that opens next week?

Answer: Grant process opening Monday. I will give my card to those interested. It's funding for any program that falls under health, education, etc. It's about supporting people. If you reside in Cowlitz and Wahkiakum, you will be able to apply for funds. The goal is to help fund exciting programs in the community. Let me know if you have any questions, and I can help with the process.

Question: Can you email flyers and information shared?

Answer: Yes!

Roundtable:

Justin Hudek, Safety Supervisor at Public Works

Assigned role of ADA administrator. It's a new role, but "I have the heart of a lion and will do my best." CZ Public Works launched an ADA Plan, and with the right budget, a lot of improvements could be made. Justin wants the stakeholders (citizens) to be the ones that help with the plan, as it would benefit them directly. Ends on April 5, and he is hoping that there are those willing to help spread the word and be part of this process. He hasn't received a lot of feedback yet, and he hopes this group will be able to assist or at least promote the survey. The goal is to positively impact as many people within the community as possible. The flyer will be available in the ACAC meeting minutes email sent out.

Doreen D, Supervisor at River City Transit

Goal of making the transit system more accessible. Passionate about ADA because everyone knows someone with disabilities who is impacted in ways that those without disabilities don't always think of.

Rashelle Douglas, ADA and Risk Manager for Longview

City of Longview ADA committee meets monthly. Somewhat different from ACAC where they look at the needs of the departments in the city and vote on what projects to take on. They are working with a budget of \$50,000.

Sharon Weinhold

Speaking on behalf of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. She thanked United Way for their program that has brought a love of reading to her grandson and the positive impact that it has had on him!

Mary DeGraff

Mary is a teacher both at Longview Schools, as well as LCC. She works with the deaf and hard of hearing community in Cowlitz. She welcomes people to come to say hi, and she is always ready to provide feedback on making meetings and the community more accessible.

Jacob Cole, Longview Public Library

Jacob wants the library to be more accessible to meet the needs of the community. The Public Library has, with the help of Mary, was able to begin a Level 1 ASL class last year. Those students are now in level 2, and they will begin a new level 1 class in the fall. They want to provide accessibility of all types, like offering notary services, signup opportunities for the Imagination Library, and participation in local events like the "Spellabration." The library team was the one team who did not have to use a save!

Closing thoughts from Carolyn Fundingsland.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.