



State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education

Quarterly Meeting

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

Colorado Talking Book Library Conference Room

180 Sheridan Blvd, Denver, CO 80226

MINUTES

Members Present: Noemi Aguilar, Sofia Esteve, Monica Peloso, Pam Christy, Jennifer Passchier, Joanna Peters, D.J. Anderson, Leslie Levine, Ann Bruce, Joyce Thiessen-Barrett, Teresa Tate, Dr. Diane Bassett, Kay Trotter, Veronica Palmer, Stacey Zis, (Chair), Kim Watchorn (Vice-Chair)

On the Phone: Kirsten Carlile, Sean Bradley, Eryn Kaiser

Guests: Patti J. Schmitt, Benzel Jimmerson, Deborah Butkus, Josephine Jones, Evie Hudak, Dr. Darcy Hutchins

Welcome and Introductions

- Members and guests introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes Review from Tuesday, November 14, 2017

- The minutes were approved without alterations.

Public Comment

- Guests: Patti J. Schmitt, Benzel Jimmerson, Nadine Lund, Family Leadership Training Institute of Colorado

Family Leadership Training Institute of Colorado (FLTI) -- **Stand Up. Speak Out. Create Change. The goal of FLTI is to foster positive family leadership development.** The FLTI curriculum consists is a 20-week civic training course that integrates personal and child development, leadership skill engagement and understanding about public policy. FLTI seeks to empower parents to ensure positive change and tries to meet the needs in the communities where they live. There are over 1000-trained parents in Colorado and there are currently 14 site locations (as of February 2018).

Parents learn about speaking to government leaders, state budgets and laws. The graduates from the program are four times more aware of whom their elected representatives of the State Senate and House are.

Patti graduated from the program. She is a parent and is involved in the program. It is important to know that educational background and income do not keep you from getting involved in the 20-week training program. This program will help build partnerships and engage in your community and family in a positive manner.

After working with the Five Points community Benzel has seen positive change because of FTLI. . One thing he is aware of is that working with your people helps engage their parents. They are interested in working with SACPIE.

The Family Leadership Training Institute of Colorado Website is <http://fltiofcolorado.colostate.edu/>

Motheread/Fatheread

Motheread/Fatheread is a program seeking to change literacy behaviors among Colorado families by promoting early literacy. Parents are encouraged to read aloud more frequently and actively with their children. Parents have reported an increased interest of rhyme, interaction with books and awareness of words in the environment. Colorado Humanities provides Motheread training for educators who work with adults and children in a variety of settings.

The Website address of Motheread is <http://www.coloradohumanities.org/>

SACPIE Spotlight

Colorado PTA SACPIE spotlight

Evie Hudak and Kay Trotter

Colorado PTA was founded in 1907 as the Colorado Congress of Mothers and incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in 1915. Colorado PTA serves as an advocate for the child and for parental engagement. In addition to that, Colorado PTA provides information about health and wellness. This is a collaborative venture with educators and parents.

PTA Reflections give students a chance to display the skills they have developed in literature, photography, film production, music and visual arts. Students submit their work and it is judged. We have had a positive response to this.

Parent information sheets were developed to raise awareness, as topics of interest were submitted. We continue to create the sheets as the need arises. Please let them know if you have ideas you would like to see addressed. We also make an effort to reach out to the children and parents of military personnel.

Home and school safety education and suicide prevention ensures that PTA speaks for all children and youth. They are currently working on building a relationship with Safe2Tell. Daunting statistics were communicated to PTA from Safe2Tell; from 2015 until 2016, there were 977 suicide related calls to Safe2Tell. There were over 1400 just from January 2018 until February 12, 2018. This lets us know how important the collaborative effort is for the State of Colorado.

In addition to that, Colorado PTA has worked with educators for the six national standards for family school partnerships legislative victories. We are keeping an eye out for the following legislation:

- SB151, it has not been calendared
- HB1177, it has not been calendared
- SB114, we do not have a date for the scheduling of this legislation

Guidelines for SEAs on Engaging Parents can be found at <http://s3.amazonaws.com/rdcms-pta/files/production/public/Advocacy/Parent%20Engagement%20Guidelines.pdf>

Framework for Meaningful Parent Engagement Under ESSA <http://s3.amazonaws.com/rdcms-pta/files/production/public/Advocacy/Parent%20Discussion%20Framework.pdf>

The Colorado PTA Website address is <https://copta.org/>

Accountability Focus Groups

Dan Jorgenson and Jessica Watson

SACPIE members met in three focus groups to share their knowledge and thoughts about family partnerships and accountability. There will be follow-up at a future SACPIE meeting.

Optimizing Communications

Dana Smith, CDE Chief Communications Officer

Dana has been with CDE for three years and worked as a journalist in the past. In the beginning the Communications office primary audience was school districts and staff, however, they are making an effort to have be available to parents and teachers.

The Office handles media relations, website management, outreach on assessment and accountability. In addition to that, they publish *The Scoop*, *The Spark*, and *Educator Talent News*, among others. *The Scoop* goes out weekly, and it is for district staff (and CDE staff benefit from it). Four thousand are subscribed; goes out on Wednesdays. We will look at the possibility of a “family-friendly Scoop”?

Inbound calls from districts and communication tools for parent resources for social media and are some of the duties they may have to handle throughout the day. They also have a Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube presence. The office is here for advice to CDE employees on communication strategies, as necessary. They are willing to give feedback on engaging the audience you are trying to reach, social

media, video series, and promises practices. We viewed a promising practice video that was published by the Communications Department.

What are some of the things that would be useful to SACPIE?

- Acronyms
- Parent and family resource on the side bar
- An easier way to navigate the website
- Home school information
- Where can community groups make connections
- A family version of the scoop
- A map with contacts listed (Darcy is working on this)
- Possible link to get feedback from user
- We need information in other languages other than Spanish
- Connection early childhood and CDE on early childhood issues
- Is there a way to give a website feedback...evaluation of the website? (analytics referenced)
- PTA most parents are not aware of CDE, can CDE work with the PTA to find out more about collaboration
- Language and interruption of the material, the level needs to be in language that most parents can relate to, educate the parents that may have a lower reading level
- Title one and consolidated application
- Dana showed where to find Parent & Family Resources
- Parents need to be educated and we're not doing that
- Request for Parent/Family to be one of the top tabs
- Is it possible to shift from district-focus possible on website?
- Colorado School Public Relations Association? (CSPRA?): who Dana connects with to get information from local leaders in relation to what's out and available.
- How/Could PTA partner with CDE? (as was said that parents don't know about CDE); if information is provided by CDE to groups, they will distribute.
- Prompt from Dana: In addition to testing and accountability (as was discussed in the Focus Groups), what other areas to address? Answer: Information on home-schooling
- "Hovering" features (for maps/hot spots, etc.) and "pop-up" surveys for feedback, etc.
- Office of early childhood, customizable material that can be utilized by districts
- Help CDE to get the message out without being offensive. Check the readability of the information that is sent out
- Can SACPIE just have their logo only, some parents don't want to have information with just the CDE logo, perception of CDE, how do we work around this? Would probably get more use without people feeling like it is mandated.
- Would there be an e-letter that could go out to community (constituents)? Something family/community facing and multiple languages could be of use, so that the agencies (such as represented by groups on SACPIE) who could distribute. Could things go out at the "big times"?

(such as what Dan & Jessica mentioned during Accountability conversation) What about the data pages? (“things we could put out)

- We want to be mindful of the local control in our state, as well.
- Customizable materials that everyone can access (ex. provided about social-emotional wellness for ECE)
- Would there be an e-letter that could go out to community (constituents)? Something family/community facing and multiple languages could be of use, so that the agencies (such as represented by groups on SACPIE) who could distribute. Could things go out at the “big times”? (such as what Dan & Jessica mentioned during Accountability conversation) What about the data pages? (“things we could put out)
- We want to be mindful of the local control in our state, as well.
- Customizable materials that everyone can access (ex. provided about social-emotional wellness for ECE)
- Can readability be checked for materials distributed? (grade level reading levels for families for accessibility?)
- Could there be people available to review? (could SACPIE be one option?) Example: PTA & CO Standards parents guides
- Potential to connect again in the future, esp. for the website redesign. Feedback phase on “what” for website between now and end of July.
- Ideas on how to get feedback for website redesign...no additional feedback given.
- As for something that’s put on the CDE webpage, that can be pushed out from our social media (per okay with CDE communications).
- Concern that CDE logo impacts distribution.
- Dana acknowledges that as long as there is a CDE connection (i.e., staffing the Council), that there’s a direct link and honoring that throughout all efforts will be important.
- Dana said that Katy A., Commissioner, wants to reinforce that CDE is a support arm. If there’s a topic you want information on, here’s who you contact/access CDE.
- It is a good to have connection between office of early childhood and CDE.
- Vetting process may vary depending on what the “ask” is.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Communications is working on a refresh on their Website.

CDE has a Twitter page and they are on Facebook and have a LinkedIn Page. Gladis Gee is the social media manager and information will be reviewed before it is posted

We viewed a video on promising practices. Follow us and you can share your own videos after they are reviewed by the office. Videos are posted on YouTube and we are happy to hear your ideas, please contact Dana. All content must be accessible to all populations, no flash, and all videos must be closed captioned, the communications department is willing to check with others for feedback.

CDE Update

District leaders retreat recap direct link to UIP, it was a timely meeting and most people thought it was valuable and showed what it mean to be a district leader in this field. Transformative for some people in the role. There were (Summit and Eagle) and some representation for the rural districts. Darcy is working with the southeast for more direct contact. Three additional contacts were added to the list. Darcy hopes that we can work on getting more contacts that are in the rural area next year.

District leaders retreat recap

Designated person for the work

Full time family engagement employee

Location for future meetings

Daniels fund

United way

38th and Wadsworth

Colorado health foundation

Lowry community room

Higher Ed

Diane will be leaving us. We are still in search of a parent for a position they are still in search of a parent representative

There are no applications for a teacher representative. It would be good to have a member that belongs to CEA.

Secondary

Two community organizations to chat with parents, review practices and resources from other states for 2018

Elementary

Six members on the committee, focus on trying to get the material they created last year, translations and on to the SACPIE committee. Veronica has joined the group. Equity in the promising practices document.

There should be a minimum of five promising practices.

Early childhood

They have a consistent meeting place. Helping the full council understand the landscape in Colorado, SACPIE exist and that others can join in the work of SACPIE. They will engage venues and organizations to collaborate.

Family engagement team early childhood Colorado partnership a network of early childhood people, they are going to be absorbed in the early childhood committee. Invited and some of the members joined. Standards to fit into early childhood and worked on best practices after they were unable to continue their work.

In order to obtain information about the legislation that is going on log on to Legispeak:

<http://legispeak.com/>

Upcoming SACPIE Meetings

Tuesday, May 15, 2018	11:00 am-3:00 pm
Tuesday, August 21, 2018	11:00 am-3:00 pm
Tuesday, November 13, 2018	11:00 am-3:00 pm

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this document are those of the State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education (SACPIE) and do not necessarily reflect the official position or policy of the Colorado Department of Education or the Colorado State Board of Education.