

Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth & Families
January 25, 2017
Notes

Attendance: Michael Brown, Dave Carlson, Bart Devon, Sheila Fleischhacker, Barbara Gomez, Alicia Guajardo, Judy Hadden, Linda Henderson, Anne O'Brien, Devanshi Patel, Christine Schaubach, Anne Vorder Bruegge, Rene Madigan, Mary Ann Moran, Jim Tuomey, Rachel Harlan, Cintia Johnson, Sharon Lawrence, Susan Noack, Sam Stebbins, Rick Strobach, Kim Durand, Siobhan Grayson, Rebecca Hjelm, Sally LaBonte, Michael Swisher, Mary Wulf, Reid Goldstein, Paul Jamelske, Alison Acker (30)

Welcome and Introductions –

Members were asked to share a resolution for 2017. Although many members didn't make formal "resolutions" all shared something that they were committed to doing in the coming year.

Here are just a few:

Be more involved	Work/Life Balance	Value what we have	Talk less/listen more
Don't eat at my desk	Unplug more often	Be the change	Cuss a little bit less
Take the high road	Assume the best	Lose weight	No political posts

2017 Themes and Overview –

Anne V and Linda shared some thoughts for the coming year:

- Invigorate and hear from our agency members. We want to reinforce that we are all at the table together to have a dialogue. Agency members are our subject-matter experts. We also want to ensure a safe space, where all members can be honest and open to be able to talk things through. We want to shine a light on the (good) things going on in the agencies and highlight the work of the front-line staff.
- During the meetings, we want to encourage more participation by members and allow more time for small group discussions to hear all of our voices.
- Focus in on a few things rather than trying to be everything to everyone. Use our data more.
- We want to continue being an incubator – a group that looks at an issue, supports the work, and then let it go.
 - For example, Childhood Obesity was raised as a priority, now there is a grant and the Healthy Community Action Team (HCAT) has a coordinator and is moving forward on efforts to create a strategic plan around childhood obesity. Anyone on APCYF can participate, and the work will continue, but it is no longer front and center for the partnership to do. Similarly with Substance Use Prevention, the work of Second Chance and the READY Coalition, combined with the ongoing work of APS and although it wasn't the efforts of DHS Behavioral Health Bureau prevention team is making a difference.

In 2017, we would like to turn our attention to **Social and Emotional Wellbeing**. This combines the Healthy Relationships and Mental Wellness priorities from before and creates a space for us to use our data and dig deeper around what could be done.

We also want to circle back around to **Early Childhood** issues to address the younger members of our community, to ensure we are a partnership for children as well as youth and families.

Early Childhood Overview – Anne O

Anne O reached out to Katie Cristol, who is very interested in Early Childhood issues in Arlington. Katie's Jan 2 Board remarks included:

[In 2017], I will aim to turn some of our public focus to the issue of childcare affordability. For me, 2016 was a year of gathering information and perspectives from providers, experts, property owners and parents; 2017 is a year to act.

We have a range of policy options before us, including improving permitting and economic development support to help launch new providers; reducing our regulatory burden, particularly regarding physical spaces, in light of higher state quality standards for childcare centers; exploring ways to incent the creation of affordable spaces for childcare use in our planning policies.

Working with our staff, my goal is to have initial guidance for consideration by my colleagues and the community as part of our FY18 budget process.

In the past the Early Childhood Committee has worked on “Just Talk”, a flier with parent tips, and partnered with APS on Week of the Young Child. We have also looked at recommendations for apartment buildings to include playrooms in the same way they have spaces for adults.

The Early Childhood Committee is meeting on February 16 at 5:30 (Sequoia Room D) to discuss the future of the committee and hear from someone in the Child Care Licensing office along with providers and program managers to get a sense of the current landscape.

The partnership collects data for middle and high school youth, but we do not have any tools for surveying young children and no effective way to survey parents of young children.

Anne O shared several charts for the small groups to consider. Sections of the 2014 Report Card were also made available (see attached).

For the small group discussion, members were asked to think of what data would be helpful to collect and what other issues should the committee focus on?

Flip Chart Highlights (unedited flip chart information attached):

- What are the licensing regulations?
- Who looks at the quality and/or is measuring quality of care?
- Make Arlington parent friendly to include working parents, single parents, undocumented parents.
- Parent input and how do we get it? Can we also get the provider's perspective?
- Know more about time that families spend together
- Pulling data together to break down silos
- Child care for both “regular” and non-traditional hours
- Central place for a resource (like MONA network)
- Childcare in the workplace?
- Overcrowding in the home – what is the impact on children?

- Managing conflicting messaging about how to raise your children

IDEA: “First Year in Arlington” – a way to learn about and navigate resources no matter your age or family status.

Social and Emotional Wellbeing – Anne V and Linda

Anne V and Linda discussed the need for the work around anxiety, bullying, depression, suicide, positive family communications, etc. and asked small groups to consider what else we could/should be addressing. Are there additional data we should be collecting?

Flip Chart Highlights (unedited flip chart information attached):

- Early warning system (before services) – when there are issues but not a crisis
- Undocumented/unaccompanied youth – trauma, depression, etc. – we need data
 - 17 undocumented youth in one middle school, and the numbers are going up
- Anxiety/pressure to stay high performance
- Scope of SEW –ages? What are we trying to solve? Elementary and Middle School age – 0-14ish
- Helping kids and families connect when something/conflict happens
- Bring back the sense of community – how can we get there?
- What will happen to our LGBTQ+ Youth and families in the current climate?
- Grassroots – what are we (each of us) doing?
- Facilitated conversations in nontraditional spaces, hold meetings in parks

What’s Next:

Cintia offered that we should “connect the dots” to take the level of awareness up a notch, to make sure that the people who need to know this are involved. The whole community should be involved.

At our next meeting and as we move forward, we will ask agency members to share what they’re working on so that we can intentionally connect the dots as we are able.

Parent Chats Information – Michael Swisher shared the vision for “A Week of Sharing Wisdom”:

The week of Parent Chats will be March 18 – 26. We need all APCYF members to help spread the word and to encourage participation, even host an event yourself! One or two parents set a date and invite other parents to get together to talk. The group will have intentional conversations about parenting. Chat formats are available from Michael to allow parents to choose how they want to host, and we can even offer facilitators to assist with running the chat. Let Michael know if you can host a chat mswish@arlingtonva.us.

Mentoring – Rick Strobach shared some information about mentoring:

This is the link to the mentoring website <http://cleoinc.org/clicks/>. It seems like a great—and appropriately funded—resource. Mentoring has been a real interest in the community, but I don’t believe I’ve seen such an ambitious and focused initiative like this one.

NEXT MEETING: February 22, 2017, Sequoia Auditorium

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

- Jan 31 3:00 – Connect with Kids Champions honored at the County Board (Devanshi Patel will also be honored for her work as Chair)
- Jan 31 7:0015 - Care for a Change, Sequoia Room A
- Feb 3 9:00 – 10:30 – Second Chance Council, Sequoia Room A
- Feb 3 11:00 – 12:00 – Data Committee, Sequoia Room A
- Feb 6 6:00 – 7:30 – Planning and Development Committee, Sequoia Room D
- Feb 7 6:30 – 8:30 – Teen Network Board, Central Library, 2nd Floor Room
- Feb 7 7:00 – Community Read and Conversation (see info below)
- Feb 9 9:00 – 10:30 – Assets Committee, Sequoia Room 380
- Feb 11 2:00 – 4:00 – We Support the Girls (see link below)
- Feb 15 6:00 – 8:00 – Let's Talk about Race, Session 4, Career Center
- Feb 18 1:00 – 6:00 – Feel the Heritage Day at Drew (see info below)
- Feb 16 3:30 – 5:00 – Out-of-School Time Council, Lubber Run Second Floor
- Feb 16 5:30 – 7:00 – Early Childhood Committee, Sequoia Room D
- Feb 21 6:30 – 8:30 – Teen Network Board, Room TBD
- Feb 22 6:00 – 8:00 – APCYF Meeting, Sequoia Auditorium
- Feb 25 8:30 – 12:30 – Your Child's Development Resource Fair (see info below)

In addition to our regular meetings and events, these may be of interest to you...

- February 7th – **Community Read & Conversation** 7:00pm at Central Library. This is a timely book that explores issues of race. It provides a way for students and community members to discuss race in the context of this novel. Because of language, this book is only appropriate for students in high school and adults.
- February 11th – **We Support the Girls** Event 2:00 – 4:00pm at Washington-Lee High School. Event Moderator: Peggy Fox (Channel 9 news) and Special Guest: Congressman Don Beyer [More information at the Registration Link](#)
- February 25th - **Your Child's Development 2017**: A Resource Fair for Arlington Parents and Caregivers of Infants and Preschoolers 9:30 – 12:30 at Kenmore Middle School – www.arlingtonresourcefair.com