

PARENT EDUCATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- **What is being done to ensure that parents and families are educated about promoting positive cognitive, social and emotional development for children?**

What are we doing in this area?

- First Steps
- Healthy Families
- Head Start and Early Head Start
- Local CCR&R
- Preschool –public and private
- Pediatricians give developmental milestones and checklists/charts
- Info given by hospitals when babies are delivered
- Parents as Teachers
- Cradle School
- MELD Model
- Local agencies parent training classes
- Local churches
- Adoption agencies
- Crisis pregnancy center
- Foster care parent training
- Parent participation programs through local schools—PTOs and others (muffins for Moms, etc)
- Reading First schools
- Child development courses in schools
- Programs for Teen mothers
- County extension offices
- Public library parenting classes
- Internet access through public libraries
- Halfway houses and detention centers
- Dads Boot Camp
- Fatherhood programs
- Neighborhood community centers
- Parks and recreation departments
- Hospitals community ed programs
- Even Start
- Center for Family, School and Community Partnerships
- MoMs clubs
- MOPS Clubs
- Parent support groups for kids with disabilities
- Prison System

What is working well about it? How do we know this (i.e. do we have performance measures, evaluations, customer feedback?)?

- Parents access more often when info comes from a trusted source
- Certain pockets of the state have outstanding programs that we hear about (anecdotal)
- In some programs, the parent education component is embedded within the experience, which is marketed by offering activities for children
- When adult learners feel welcome and comfortable, they are more open to learning new things
- First Steps offers evidence of child progress via written goals and regular progress reports, outcomes evaluation process
- Head start also had specific goals and standards, national reporting requirements
- Family word of mouth referrals
- Parents do walk away from hospitals with some basic parenting information after having a baby

Comment:

This is prime time for a paradigm shift because we need to prepare our kids for a thinking world versus a manual labor world

What are the challenges?

- Not all programs available in all areas of the state
- People don't always know about it
- Motivation for parents to attend
- Professionals don't always refer to programs
- Are programs based on what parents really need? (needs surveys)
- Sometimes you are put on a particular "track" depending upon your parenting situation, whether it is special needs or socioeconomics, etc. Families who don't fall within a "targeted group" often may miss out on resources that could be available to them.
- Cultural resistance
- Low levels of adult post-secondary education
- Stigma—some think it is a poor reflection on them as parents to need "parenting help"
- Formal education of professionals isn't as valued as experience of "trusted sources"
- Lack of information clearinghouse that is universally accessible to parents re parenting issues, trainings, etc.

- **What is being done to create parenting education programs that are family-led and enable caretakers to become effective advocates for their children?**

What are we doing in this area?

- Faith based organizations
- MELD model
- Disability arena—Family to Family, InSource, IPIN
- Center for Family Leadership (Noble of Indiana)
- Fatherhood initiatives
- Home schooling community

Comment/Question

Would it increase the desire to access in parents who don't access, by promoting their ability to be an active part of the process rather than just a recipient?

What is working well about it? How do we know this (i.e. do we have performance measures, evaluations, customer feedback?)?

- In some areas, funds are available to promote a parent's ability to access training (i.e. Family Involvement Fund)
- Cultural traditions in Hispanic community –Grandmas come to help Moms when kids are born. Hispanic culture discourages pregnant moms from smoking, drinking, etc.

What are the challenges?

- Funding not available for all parents to access
- Funding sources that are available are under utilized.
- Few trainings in our state that are targeted for parents (even though many include parents, they are directed at providers)
- Rules to access funds sometimes are a deterrent/barrier
- Supports to access not always available (i.e. childcare, household responsibilities, etc)
- breakdown of family structure

- **What is being done to ensure that parents know where to go when they need assistance or information about parenting challenges?**

What are we doing in this area?

- Hospitals publicize information about community classes
- Information given at hospital after delivery
- Nurse on call programs
- Ask a Nurse services
- NICUs referring to Neophyte, First Steps, etc
- Dept of Health Family Help Line
- 211 system
- CCR&Rs
- Nurses home visits as part of birth experience
- Outreach programs available from planned parenthood

What is working well about it? How do we know this (i.e. do we have performance measures, evaluations, customer feedback?)?

- Social service agencies who update their community resource books
- CCR&Rs, Step Ahead, Head Start, etc. maintain resources for families. Some of these things are mandated, depending upon program.
- Healthy Families is reaching more and more families with home visits

What are the challenges?

- Inaccurate information
- When parents are given inaccurate info and become frustrated or disillusioned, they often won't go back for help unless really encouraged by a trusted person
- Rules change too often
- Staff changes too often
- Funding dries up
- Parents don't know all the services that agencies offer
- Available info written at too high a reading level
- Middle income people get missed since they often are not targeted
- Parenting information is given to parents at poor times, like upon release from the hospital, when parents may not be ready or able to digest it.
- Lack of information clearinghouse or database that is universally accessible to parents re parenting issues, trainings, etc.
- Getting parents information specific to their own county when they deliver babies outside of their local community hospitals.

- **What is being done to ensure that parents and families feel comfortable and are able to ask questions of health care providers, child care providers, early intervention specialists and others who are involved in the lives of their children?**

What are we doing in this area?

- Various agencies are developing tools to help families know how to ask questions or what to ask
- First Steps parental involvement initiatives
- Ask the Right Question training
- Parent trainings through InSource, IPIN, etc.
- Medical schools requiring competency in communication

What is working well about it? How do we know this (i.e. do we have performance measures, evaluations, customer feedback)?

- Good tools are available to help families know how to ask questions or what to ask

What are the challenges?

- Parents can be intimidated by professionals as they perceive that professionals know more than they do
- Literacy
- Dialogue between doctors and patients/families is often too short

- **What is being done to ensure that parenting education programs are culturally sensitive and appropriate?**

What are we doing in this area?

- Some programs, including First Steps, Healthy Families, etc, are offering cultural diversity training.
- Healthy Families offers Family Dynamics training to their in-home visitors, which covers cultural issues

What is working well about it? How do we know this (i.e. do we have performance measures, evaluations, customer feedback?)?

- Training evaluations would be available from any cultural competence training offered by the Unified Training System

What are the challenges?

- Expense of translation services
- Hit and miss quality and availability
- We still aren't serving underserved populations well in our programs.
- More cultural training needs to be done so we know how to reach underserved populations and the caregivers who are involved.
- program staff do not understand different biases, beliefs, family dynamics, etc.

- **What is being done to ensure that parenting education reaches all those who are responsible for caring for children including grandparents and fathers?**

What are we doing in this area?

- First Steps offers education to primary caregivers during visits
- Healthy Families works with families and caregivers who are in the home
- Head Start and Early Head Start have parenting education requirement which includes these groups
- Community trainings (ex: mental health, parks & rec, etc.) often target specific groups, like grandparents and fathers, for their programs.
- Fatherhood initiatives are developing across the state

What is working well about it? How do we know this (i.e. do we have performance measures, evaluations, customer feedback)?

- FSSA/DFC is currently supporting fatherhood initiatives all across the state (more info on their website)

What are the challenges?

- Programs not available in all areas of the state
- People don't always know about it
- Motivation for other caregivers to attend
- Professionals don't always refer to programs
- Are programs based on what parents really need? (needs surveys)
- Cultural resistance
- Low levels of adult post-secondary education
- intimidating to caregivers
- Stigma
- We still aren't serving underserved populations well in our programs.
- More cultural training needs to be done so we know how to reach underserved populations and the caregivers who are involved. We need to ensure program staff understand
- different biases, beliefs, family dynamics, etc.