

**Meeting Notes: Workforce Development Workgroup (WDW)
Workforce, Education and Training (WET)
6-30-08, 10:30-12:00 PM**

Attending

Amy Ellis	Placer County, ASOC, Workforce Development Coordinator
Diane Shively	CSOC, Parent Partner
Cheryl Trenwith	ASOC , Program Manager
Cyndy Bigbee	ASOC – CSC, Navigators, Welcome Center
Carol Baker	Administrative assistant, Placer County, ASOC

MINUTES

1. Introductions

2. WET updates from state; what other counties are doing.

“Quick Snapshot of County Happenings Regarding MHS Workforce, Education, and Training” dated 6-23-2008 was provided at the meeting. Amy asked the attendees to read it after the meeting and to look for more ideas.

3. New funding amount + Placer Updates

The new WET funding was approved. Placer County now has \$1.3 million to spend on Workforce Development over 10 years. There may be enough money to implement all strategies listed, in a variety of levels.

4. Sierra College and CASRA

Amy met with the local colleges for discussions on training collaborations. CSUS will be setting up training that may be accessed by six regional counties. Topics include Resilience and Wellness. Classes may be offered on alternate Fridays.

Sierra College is looking at criteria for a certification program. American River has made attempts at this without success. Sierra has a program for setting up a scholarship account that uses the account interest for the awarded money. A deposit of \$50,000 would likely provide \$3,000 to \$5,000 in scholarship money each year. At the end of 10 years, the principle could be withdrawn and redirected to other WET programs. A suggestion was made that Placer County could set up a scholarship fund, independent of Sierra College.

Santa Clara County has been successful in creating a certification program. If Placer County has a Professional Counselor Certificate Program, it needs to be meaningful and helpful for being employed upon completion.

Other counties use WET funds for prevention programs.

A handout was provided for CASRA, “Meeting the Goals of the MHSA: Workforce Development.” The training enhances Recovery-Oriented competencies. For \$20,000 Placer County SOC employees could complete the CASRA courses and become a trainer for other Placer employees, they would also work with the Junior College to set up a certificate program. This could be a self-sustaining program. META is a similar program and is a possible choice.

5. Discuss previous workgroup recommendations / Review the categorized strategies

The team reviewed the draft Power Point document for the July 25th presentation to the WET Steering committee. A suggestion was made for verifying the percent figures for client ethnicity. Amy will check the source.

A table was added to the PP document that reflects the results of the last meeting voting for most urgent needs. The top selection from the survey results is to “Decrease Mental Health stigma with MH staff.” Second is “Increased MH career opportunities for consumers/family members.” Third is “Competency for staff and community partners in the following areas: suicide Prevention, Cultural Competency, Strengths-based, community resources, co-occurring and Recovery Oriented.” Suggestions were made for rewording and combining some similar needs.

The WET presentation on July 25th will attempt to list specific needs without suggesting the details for resolutions. It will recommend funding percents for each strategy. The strategies need to be broad to allow for changing needs over the 10 years. Cultural needs will likely change over the 10 years.

It was suggested that both Amy and Diane Shively be co-presenters for the WET recommendations. Since all ideas may be funded, there may not be a need for voting. There will be one other funding issue presented, we will still present our funding recommendations at the July 25th meeting.

The topic of measuring success was discussed. A suggestion was made that annual surveys will provide trends that reveal the desired changes.

6. Planning for July Steering Committee meeting

Amy will use the information from the meeting to finish the draft Power Point presentation. This will be e-mailed to the WET team for review and suggestions. Amy’s WET role will transform from submitting the proposal to implementing the strategies.

7. Next Meeting

To be determined.