

## **Education Task Force, 11-12-15 Notes (AM/PM meeting notes are combined)**

Anthony Smith and Diane Porter - Welcome, explanation of dual meetings, introductions. We want to hear more resident voices/visions and from those who grew up and live in Russell. Everyone's voice matters. Focusing on what is good for education from birth to career.

Will be holding only one meeting next month - community conversation on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Blake Haselton – Key Findings**

--Appears we don't have a capacity issue with day care in Russell – have more space than children. The 19-21 centers in the neighborhood are not fully utilized by Russell households. Many centers are very small with less than a dozen children. We'd like to get out and visit these locations.

--Quality is a concern – only two of the centers have three stars based on the current four-star rating system for the facilities.

How do we support those childcares and move more to a child development model?

Participation in childcare opportunities is higher by Beecher children at 66% Russell children at 40%; HUD/CNI's goal is 65% of Russell children participating.

What can we do to increase participation? Questions to explore - is there an affordability issue? Who are the children that are being served? Perhaps it is a quality issue – parents might seek other options if the care isn't adequate. Maybe do a survey or other research to delve into affordability, quality and access issues.

--Kindergarten readiness findings...

47% Russell

42% Beecher

48% City-wide

77% Community Goal (we aspire for 100%)

### **Key findings**

We're looking at birth to age 3 as a key developmental milestone as 80% of brain development takes place during that time period. Looking at initiatives and programs that can take place during that time period would be helpful.

Attended Pritchard Committee forum – education advocacy agency from 1984- what needs to happen in KY to advance education – Higher Ed and K thru 12. They are the premier education advocacy group in KY and nationwide and have support from foundations and individuals. Will be sharing some of the work they are doing in Dec. The video "Boston Basics" can be previewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7LGSjUi9w8k>. Could possibly show at the Community Conversation. Has a lot of potential for our work.

Questions/Discussion – Are we going to learn from past redevelopments with mixed income and demographics, such as Sheppard, Liberty Green, etc.? Kathleen - Yes and the CHOICE Neighborhood program has key differences from HOPE VI

regarding continued residency, and length of time to do the work, which will impact our planning.

Is the goal to have children in organized settings or to experience high quality regardless of location? Blake – High quality. To Kathleen – what are education goals in the CNI plan? Is there a minimum requirement they need to know when planning in order to get funding? Kathleen - yes – we can provide these at a later meeting.

3 Keys to developing the plan that guide our work

- Comprehensive approach – cradle to career and lifelong learning
- Collaborative – still developing a matrix of who's offering what and where
- Sustainable – everywhere, not limited to just Russell

Emerging Strategies

- Model components of the Harlem Children's Zone framework (includes prenatal thru high school); have a good track record of data
- Extended school services – after school and during summer months
- Home/school relations
- Public libraries as critical partners
- Lifelong learning process

Other discussion:

- Baby colleges
- We need to keep our approach simple and approachable, use terms that people can relate too and talk about
- Create an Appendix with acronyms and what they mean
- Debrief the outreach workers so they can help translate jargon
- Ohio Valley Race to the Top "Transformation Pre-K"
- Promise Neighborhood in Berea – might want to look at theirs
- Minneapolis program -- Workforce development program didn't have a job placement component to it which left large numbers of trained but unemployed adults
- Challenge of finding data of what has been successful before programs lost funding
- Neighborhood survey results will be shown at Joint TF mtg.; for more detailed data, we can drill down and look at gender and ages
- Need jobs with true livable wages to care for families
- Does the Mayor's office have profile of businesses and employment? Need to talk with the People TF about this. Cindy Reed with Kentuckiana Works has been going to People TF meetings.
- We want people to go to work anywhere – not just in Russell

Spoke to Metro United Way about opportunities for childcare centers to work with the Early Learning Campuses (ELC). Discussion: In addition to the children, let's think about what we are providing to the teachers and parents at the 19-21 childcare centers in Russell. Further, what other situations arise that need special

attention or special services; after a diagnosis is provided, how do we provide those services and stability to a student to get them back into the classroom as quickly as possible. We need a community initiative to help children on a regular basis (i.e. volunteers). The Boston Basics video mentioned earlier speaks to the parents/guardians. All of our work as a TF should be a two to three generational approach. Parents might not have had a good experience in school, or are under stress. Go in with the mindset that parents want what's best for their kids. Russell has resources. We need to come as part of the solution – not have the only solution. Create other avenues to get information other than attending meetings – have outreach workers giving info about libraries, etc. Inform people in a way they can take/absorb it. When we talk about strategies, we focus a lot on place-based problems and not enough on issue-based problems; parents' experiences and situations, no matter where they are, will impact their children. There is a transition in Frankfort and we don't know how that will impact funding of CCAP.

Use Cradle to Career framework as our subcommittee structure; all members are asked to commit to a subcommittee based on interest.

**Presentation from Metro United Way (MUW), Amy Neal – VP of Early Childhood Education at MUW.**

Amy worked on Success by Six initiative – making sure children are prepared to enter kindergarten. What's going on in Russell now in prenatal to 5? Are there differences in the standards of preschool and kindergarten in the area?

Discussion: What programs are out there prenatal to 5 years old? How can we make connections and how we leverage? We have 50 partners working on this. Example: Extended Kindergarten Readiness Project (VA?) – operates through churches, meeting families where they are and using respected leaders/champions to help support Kindergarten readiness. Piece about the brain development from 0 to 3 – sometimes we make it harder than it needs to be. Everyday moment teaching, Socio-emotional skills are very important as well (i.e. how to listen, how to share, get along with each other, be a good friend).

-HANDS

-Healthy Start

-Head Start/Early Head Start

-State-Funded Pre-K

-United Way's Born Learning Academy (2 in Jefferson County - Cochran and Coleridge Taylor; this is KY's version of Baby College – using everyday moments as learning opportunities

-First Steps

-Reach out and Read

Although we aspire 100%, the community set a goal of 77% of kids ready for kindergarten by 2020; currently we are at 52% in Jefferson Co. We use Brigance as a screening tool to determine actual readiness.

Big things that matter:

- If in childcare center before school, that they provide high quality experience
- If at home – ensure that they are engaged
- Importance of the home/school partnership
- Smooth transition to kindergarten
- Critical that we don't reinvent the wheel – don't keep throwing things against the wall to see if they stick
- Lot of things out there, almost overwhelming, every situation is different
- Kindergarten readiness varies dramatically by zip codes

Childcare participation stats for Jefferson County; **Send Kim the data for Russell**

29.5% of kids are in childcare

37% are at home or other

38% are in public pre-school and Headstart

Pillar of Cradle to Career - MUW is the convener of the cradle part of it. Many partners working on the 77% goal; we are working on clarity – making sure that they are clear on objectives:

- 1) Access
- 2) Quality (increasing number of high quality childcare centers)
- 3) Cradle to Career engagement of families and caregivers
- 4) Transitioning to Kindergarten

Discussion: How do you apply to a Born Academy? Any family in the community can attend the 6 sessions (stand alone, or preferably all). Childcare & dinner is provided. They learn how to use everyday moments as learning opportunities.

### **MUW Handouts, key areas in which MUW is leading for early childhood**

- Excellence Academies (4 years in Louisville) – high quality childcare centers, modeled after a program in Houston that works (Great Beginnings); strong results
- Engaging families in neighborhoods – need to be developmentally on track on 2, 3, 4 and 5 years of age. Use existing networks in communities to help families sign up for the Ages and Stages questionnaire (ASQ) – can fill it out, send it in, someone calls the family to discuss, it's scored to help identify potential delays to intervene early, family is connected with resources. They can get home visits; they get a free book every time they fill out the ASQ questionnaire. In 40210 there are about 400 children using it, but there are 1,100 children under 5 in that zip code. What can we do to reach out to the other 700 children? **MUW to get us numbers for Russell and where the most referrals are coming from.**
- Starting projects with churches – some doing kindergarten readiness in their vacation bible school.

We need to focus and moving in the same directions, and committed to work on things that aren't working and focus on things that are working to get results.

Discussion: 4C's (Community Coordinated Childcare) – could attend a meeting to explain their program, differentials between the ratings, training and technical assistance for stand-alone childcare centers. It used to be voluntary, it is now mandatory for any center receiving any sort of subsidy to enroll in the state rating system and they begin as 1 star. It was a 4-star system but is now turning into 5 stars. In Russell, the two centers with 3-stars are miniversities, Oak and Acorn and LCCC's. KY rec'd Race to the Top grant and 90% of that grant is to revise the rating system. We want to encourage the centers to strive to be more than a 1; the more the community knows about the rating system, the better parents can choose a center and will motivate the centers to improve. Childcare center workers have low wages & high turnover. Working to train childcare staff who are looking to get additional training, but also need support (i.e. coaches, etc.) so the training they get can be carried over into their work. The higher you go creates a financial situation; Ratios, Teacher credentials, Curriculum. Consider placing banners on buildings to show their ratings, consider other easy and visible and environmental changes. **Dr. Haselton to get the existing criteria for the star rating system and share with the TF.** To have a successful Transformation Plan – we need it to be multi-generational – must have a parental engagement piece and wrapped around the cradle to career. Take care of the whole continuum – family package around the work. Assessments of where people are so you know where they need to go: Students & Childcare Centers. Have to know what is being taught, where it needs to be tweaked so we know what kind of money to ask for; trainings, real estate, more staffing, etc. Early registration is important with transitioning to kindergarten.

Ages & Stages (ASQ) is an issue-based strategy (vs. place based). Have used the tool in all neighborhoods. Kindergarten readiness pillar does a progress meeting with the Mayor. There is great stuff out there, it's not connected or leveraged. Are there programs in the hospitals that follow up with families who've just had babies? Former program in health clinics where therapist would come to the home to address developmental difficulties – walking, hearing, etc. – could get into head start earlier.

Bright Beginnings (mentioned earlier mtg., teachers have CDAs). Using a new tool called "Class" about teacher and student interaction. Teachers have mentors and professional learning communities

Excellence Academies – one at Keystone Learning Academy – backs up to McFerran. 66% entered school kindergarten ready. Director was a strong leader. GE built a natural playground there. Neighborhood House Excellence Academy in Portland. Working with an outside evaluator to see how it's working.

Anthony: Part of our work is environmental strategies; clearness and consistency on how we talk about things. Where our priorities in the neighborhood are. Let's do some simple things that point residents to the resources in the neighborhood; i.e. 15<sup>th</sup> and Jefferson – Put signs up in the neighborhood that say “YMCA or Library is X blocks away”. Look at tech college enrollment to see how many Russell residents are enrolled. Parents care, but due to life circumstances they get overwhelmed.

Diane: December 12<sup>th</sup> event is important. Principal Marshall will put information on the marquee at Roosevelt Perry Elementary. Goal is to get as many people to attend to hear their thoughts about what education needs to look like. School was selected as focus for CNI because it struggles academically. There is a lot of work to be done, voices to be heard, proposals to write; and so, subcommittees are important to complete these tasks.

Look at Coleridge Taylor, Cochran, and ELC as potential sites for residents of Russell to attend future meetings.

Establishing mutually respectful relationship in order to work together; we must listen to what families want and step back from what we want for them.

3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading score is a gatekeeper to determine their successful for the rest of their education, and their life. We are not throwing any child away – dealing with each one individually. Let parents know this – and that we want to help. Make our parents be a key part of the equation.

211 help-line at MUW to connect families to resources in the community. Katina Whitlock and her team have funds for families who want to get the kids into high quality childcare and can't afford it, and funds people in their last two years of college. Also have funds pay elderly people to be adoptive grandparents for kids. **Anthony will get the details to Kathleen.**

“Take what you can tote” event is at December 12<sup>th</sup> from 9am-2pm at the PTA Clothing Assistance Program building, which is attached to Central High School football field on 15<sup>th</sup> Street.

Giving away clothes and resources to families. Give our fliers out at Central HS. Talk with NOWs about being at the event. There is a resource table at the end for families to grab information if they wanted. Long lines but people handled it very well.

Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> – Zion Baptist Church dinner – 350 to 400 people – give them the fliers.