Best Start Lancaster

PARTNERSHIP PLANNING 2011-2012

What we’ve accomplished in the past year...

July 7, 2011 – About 55 Best Start community members and service providers participated in asset mapping to identify strengths and needs in the community. This information has been used for Community Planning and will continue to be used throughout the implementation of Best Start.

August 2011 – Boundaries Workgroup and Vision Statement Workgroup met to discuss recommendations they would present to the larger group.

July 28, 2011 – Best Start campaign Re-think Your Drink was introduced to bring awareness to the community about the benefits of drinking more water.

Vision

Best Start Lancaster is committed to be the best environment for children and families to safely grow and thrive where all community members are valued and respected.

| Items in yellow are major milestones completed by all Partnerships |

2011

July - Aug

July 7, 2011 – Vision Statement Workgroup was created to consolidate the visioning work of the community and propose vision statements to the larger community.

Sept - Oct

September 1, 2011 — Community members finalized and approved vision statement for Best Start Lancaster.

September 10, 2011 — The Boundaries Workgroup presented 2 plans to extend the Partnership boundaries to include Quartz Hill and the Women’s shelter.

September 10, 2011 — Best Start Partnership members met with neighbors, played games, made healthy snacks, and art & crafts at Antelope Valley Best Start Play day.

September 15, 2011 — Understanding our landscape. Community members conducted several data collection exercises to understand the importance of data in making decisions for their community.

2012

Oct - Dec

October 6 & October 27, 2011 — Members participated in the Community Partnership Training to clarify roles and responsibilities within the 3 levels of engagement: Partnership, Workgroups and Guidance Body.

November 5, 2011 — A number of community members participated in a planning retreat where they received training on power and equity. The group also identified a temporary governance structure and Guidance Body criteria to present to larger community.

December 8, 2011 — Partnership voted on the size of the Guidance Body, and decided that 11 out of 15 seats were reserved for parents. There were 29 nominations. Partnership voted in the Guidance Body members and all seats were filled.

2012

Jan - Feb


January 19, 2012 — In order to better determine the overall priorities of the community, Best Start community members identified their top 7 priorities from the 21 developed in previous meetings. These will be used to help guide the Best Start Community Plan development.

January 19, 2012 — Members of the Guidance Body were introduced to the Partnership.

February 9, 2012 — Best Start Partnership members signed up to take part in the 6 workgroups developed: Welcome Baby & Home Visitation, Fitness & Nutrition, Kindergarten Readiness, Partnership Training, Transportation, Parent/ Caregiver Education & Training.

March - Apr

March 29, 2012 — Members brainstormed ways to communicate the Best Start goals to the community to increase engagement and participation and reach specific audiences.

April 1, 2012 — Champions for Change hosted a cooking demonstration and store tour of Vallarta Supermarket and received free recipe books to take home and share.

April 15, 2012 — Best Start Lancaster families visited LACMA and participated in “Recycle, Transform, Make Art” workshop.

May 3, 2012 — Building Community Networks: A Neighborhood Map of Organizations serving Pomodoro and Lancaster was held. Community Based Organizations gave presentations about their services, and answered questions from parents and community members.

May - Jun

May 3, 2012 — Community members signed into the Partnership to help plan the project.

Community leaders were asked about their dreams for Lancaster. The “word cloud” above reflects their responses. Words appearing in larger type appeared more frequently in responses.

“I have learned to make decisions. There are people that are willing to listen to me and perhaps I can make an impact in the community.”

~Leadership Body Representative

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