



## Glendale Strong Family Network Meeting Notes

Thursday, March 8, 2018, 1:00 – 2:30 PM

**Attendees:** Aimee Sitzler, Jerry Olibarria, Jr., Ana Sosa, Barbara Fleming, Fran Pearson, Carrie Monica, Pamela Morrison, Nora Lozano, Grace Kirker, Raslyn Sleet, Rebecca Daniel and Laura Oxley

**GSFN Partner Highlight – [Southwest Behavioral and Health Services \(Nora & Carrie\):](#)** The Prevention Division is a grant-funded community resource that helps with parenting skills and substance abuse prevention.

- Six-week class series allows parents to learn, practice and compare useful techniques
- Active parents help build leadership skills in youth and for themselves in community
- Helps youth learn cooperation, communication skills and respect
- Substance abuse section explains how drugs affect development (risks), what to look for and what to do
- Culturally appropriate classes offered in English and Spanish

SWBHS in general:

- Largest Behavioral Health agency serves Northern AZ and Maricopa County
- Outpatient clinics, residential, crisis recovery centers, counseling and methadone/naloxone treatment centers
- Youth resources for 21 school districts and more than 300 schools in Maricopa County

### **Group Discussion: Community Partner Role and Expectations**

Enthusiastic discussion about how to engage community partners and what demographic groups to target for increased effectiveness towards lowering DCS reports and removals. Everyone supported using the promotora model (i.e. engaging people from the community, providing training and holding regular meetings). Promotoras or Community Health Workers would be given three months of classes to help them learn about available resources, skills training for communication and leadership. Ongoing recognition or compensation of promotoras is an important motivator, even if financial compensation isn't possible.



When recruiting leaders and deciding topics, the group needs to consider the community members' priorities (what's in it for them) and barriers. For meeting times and classes, consider work schedules, children obligations and transportation concerns. Ask them what are the important topics to them.

The group decided to begin intentional recruitment of community members for the GSFN in hopes they could represent the network at community events and help spread the word.

The group needs to find a way to reach parents who aren't currently involved. Many of the parents we currently reach are already engage. We need to engage others – multi-generational families and those involved with DCS. Best way to do that is to make sure DCS is at the GSFN table.

### Funding Opportunities

Aimee briefed the group about a recent funding opportunity that would have been a good fit for the GSFN. However, the due date was not long enough to activate GSFN members for the application. For future opportunities, it's important to have a variety of key partners on the application. The group needs to put in place a process in place for network members to quickly respond with authorized support, so the application can include the partners names. Partners were asked to go back to their organizations to find out about their process for inclusion on a future GSFN funding application.

### Workgroup Updates

Family Engagement Workgroup (Nora) Met with about 30 people at Imes Elementary on February 21<sup>st</sup> to talk about GSFN. She spoke about the protective factor/risk training. They were very interested. She'll meet with them the following week and invite to GSFN meeting with permission to stay only an hour or as able.

Partner Engagement Workgroup (Grace) Working to get Catholic Charities and NOAH back to the GSFN table.



Communication Workgroup Rebecca and Fran brought completed tally sheets. The group will review them and the data at next month's meeting.

### Other discussion

- Job and training resources: DES, Goodwill Career Services and Maricopa County Workforce Development Programs/Services
- Behavioral Health Need – SWBHS identified a large need for behavioral health services for children in Glendale. Once they began offering services at the schools, their caseloads were immediately full. SWBH representative will be invited to GSFN meetings to share the needs and service gaps she is seeing in the local families they serve.

### Action Steps/Follow Ups

- Bring more partners to the GSFN
  - Fran follow up with Liz Hernandez about Catholic Charities
  - Aimee follow up with Alejandra about Neighborhood Outreach and Access to Health; Erica Chavez at Touchstone Behavioral Health
  - Pam follow up with Councilman Jamie Aldama & Rayetta Sanchez; husband's business
  - Grace to work with Jerry and follow up with DCS
- Nora follow up with Imes' parents and invite to GSFN, permission to stay only an hour if needed
- Aimee contact Greg to confirm summer GSFN meeting site
- **All partners:** investigate the red tape of own agency to facilitate signing onto grant applications
- **All Partners:** contact Ana at Landmark FRC if you would like a table at their Cinco de Mayo event between 4 pm and 6:30 pm. About 200 people are expected to attend.

**Next GSFN Meeting:** Thursday, April 12, 2018, 1 –2:30 PM at Landmark FRC