

Glendale Strong Family Network Meeting

Thursday, May 10, 2018, 1:00 – 2:30 PM



Attendees: Lyn Hart, Jeff Slover, Livia Arevalo, Ramon Leon, Gisela Jimenez Vasquez, Fran Pearson, Grace Kirker, Greg Kinder, Raslyn Sleet, Margie Maldonado, Sue Johnson, Alma Coorain, Nohemi Naverrete, Ruschelle Williams, Dulce L., Rosa Isera Solis, Nora Lozano, Milagro De Jesus, Chuck Fitzgerald, Gerardo Olibarria, Belinda Allen, Emmanuel Allen, Peggy Peixoto, Aimee Sitzler and Laura Oxley

Decision Points

- Translate GSFN brochure into Spanish
- Distribute brochure at all opportunities through work – conferences, meetings, etc.
- Create way for Network to support for continued Parent Coordinator at Imes
- Adopt Fiscal Sponsor framework through TAPAZ to support Network sustainability efforts

GSFN Partner Highlight – Imes Elementary Parent Coordinator (Milagro): Milagro works part time at Imes and provides services for entire community. Community members believe her work makes a difference in the area, e.g. fewer issues with high school students from Imes.

In her job, Milagro:

- Provides a needed connection between the school, parents, students and community service groups.

- Conducts and coordinates classes for school readiness (United Way), citizenship (lawyer/Imes Alum), good relationships, computer use, Microsoft suite uses and more. The classes are available to Imes parents and some for parents from other schools.
- Maintains resources for community including immigration, the Mexican Consul, the United Way, financial resources and more.
- Notifies families of events through emails, letters and texts including monthly PTO meetings, family events, movie night, piñata parties, etc.

Additional Discussion Milagro is leaving for a full-time position. The Title I grant funding for her part-time position is ending. The Imes parents in GSFN promotora training are adopting this as first advocacy project. They are writing a letter to the principal to try to retain her or, at least, the position. Network suggested parents send letters addressed individually to principal and board members with follow up phone calls and going to board meetings. There was discussion of the network writing a support letter to the board and inviting board members to the June meeting.

Imes Parents/GSFN Promotora training group Parents are excited to join the GSFN. They have completed four trainings. Parents expressed the need for a regular translator at the GSFN meetings and that all official materials created be in English and Spanish, even material designed for professionals. They shared the strengths and needs they see in the Glendale community:

STRENGTHS:

- Head Start Family Programs
- Health Programs

NEEDS:

- Communication/Awareness of Resources
- After school programs for kids
- Recreation; sports
- Nutrition programs for kids
- Security at parks (police)
- Reduce number of homeless in area
- Homework Support

Roots: Recreation and Learning Center Belinda and Emmanuel Allen are opening a Roots center in the Glendale Community Center at 54th Ave and Ocotillo. At Roots, volunteers support free after-school programs including homework help, recreation and sports. Children from 5 to 18 are eligible for programs. The initial hours will be from 3:30 to 6:30. There will be laptops available for kids; the program will work with local schools and parents. Emmanuel sits on the Board of Glendale Police and expects police patrols in the area to increase soon.

Partner Engagement Workgroup (Grace): Discussed partner agreement and will provide to all new attendees.

Communication Workgroup (Peggy & Chuck): Will work with Jerry and Janet to update the resources by next meeting. Invitations to meetings will now be by email, no longer appointments. There is a possibility of including a link to add to calendar. Notifying parent members may need to be done by text or a call.
WISHLIST ITEM: ability to text reminders large groups

GSFN Sustainability Update (Peggy & Aimee): Network needs to make some key decisions regarding structure. Three possibilities discussed included: find a fiscal sponsor (e.g. TAPAZ), a backbone agency, or becoming its own 501 c3. Becoming a non-profit is very time consuming. Having a backbone agency could result in bias toward that agencies mission. A Fiscal Sponsor would act as the network's sponsor applying for federal, state and other grants. It is possible to do within 90-120 days. TAPAZ, affiliated with Vitalyst Health Foundation, is a popular local, fiscal sponsor.

The June meeting will be Aimee's last. The network needs to decide on shared leadership and future meetings.

Steps/Follow Barriers

- Loss of Imes Elementary Parent Coordinator (discussed above)
- Volunteers needed for Village program – Sue Johnson with Southwest Behavioral Health is looking for a couple families to be paired with seniors for help with taxes, GEDs, etc. Recruiting since January, but no families.

Action Steps/Follow Ups

Peggy will coordinate with Janet & Jerri about updating the resource list by next meeting

Nora translate GSFN brochure into Spanish

Chuck add attendees, including parents, to GFSN mailing list

June meeting at the Glendale Velma Teague Branch Library at 7010 N. 58th Avenue

Next GSFN Meeting: Thursday, June 14, 2018, 1 –2:30 PM at Glendale Velma Teague Branch Library

