

Glendale Strong Family Network

Thursday, September 9, 2021, 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Meeting Notes



Vision: Strong families and safe children in 85301

Attendees: Aimee Sitzler, Jenny Beasley, Annie Daymude, Peggy Peixoto, Myrenia Aviles, Ismael Cantu, Davita Solter, Leslee Miele, and Elizabeth Rivera.

Barrier Busters & Good News

GESD is looking for resources for a twin Mattress for family dealing with bedbugs as well as an exterminator. Resources given include Sleep in Heavenly Peace and Phoenix Rescue Mission.

Family Highlight – GESD

GESD HUB facilitated our first Glendale Family Highlight. Alejandra, a local GESD mom, shared she and her family love living in the downtown Glendale area. They enjoy the downtown events and find it easy to access healthy food and food resources. However, she identified a need for additional afterschool programs and community centers in the area. She also shared not feeling safe in existing parks due to her and her children being approached by strangers as well as stray dogs. Alejandra would like to see more green spaces and safe parks for families in the area.

Partners discussed that need for additional transportation from schools to existing afterschool programs. However, schools are experiencing driver shortages.

Ismael Cantu from City of Glendale CAP office will facilitate the next family highlight for November 18th meeting.

MCDPH Community Data Presentation

Annie from the MCDPH Office of Community Empowerment presented data from their most recent COVID community needs assessment, which included survey and focus group data. GSFN was a partner on data collection. The following data themes stuck out to GSFN partners:

- Affordable housing / Homelessness
- Safety
- Substance abuse – increase in overdoses due to fentanyl
- Food insecurity

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What other data do GSFN partners need to inform our strategic plan?

- City of Glendale – 5-year consolidated plan for Glendale
- Data from family highlights
- GESD survey – development of system of care center in October – data available early October and focus groups to follow
- Police community safety data

GSFN is beginning the strategic planning process this fall. The group will be presenting and discussing local data to guide efforts.

Emerging Themes – safe place after school, activities supports, transportation

GSFN Updates

Funding opportunity: There is a grant opportunity from AzFBN for small minigrants to bring fresh food to local families. GESD, Heart for the City and West Valley Food Pantry are the GSFN partners who are interested in applying and partnering with the GSFN for promotion.

GSFN Partner Agreement: Please complete the partner agreement on our website (www.glendalestrongfamily.org) and register your organization as an official GSFN partner.

Next Steps - Who wants to be partner highlight in October?

Leslee for GESD survey highlights

November GSFN meeting was moved to Thursday, 11/18 due to Veteran's Day.

Follow Ups

- Davita share info for Doreen with Peggy to invite for October meeting
- Aimee will follow up with more information on AzFBN opportunity to Jenny HFTC and Leslee GESD.
- Peggy will reach out to West Valley partner to see if they are interested in applying as a GSFN partner.

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