

October 16, 2006

F2S Connections Team Meeting -- Notes

11:30-1:30; WSU King County Extension, Renton

1-Sign-in, Introductions, handouts: (Updates at end, noted here)

Erin MacDougall: Check out seattleschools.org to learn more about the nutrition education policy recently passed in Seattle; check out web site that highlights school garden projects and provides information on how to start one: pugetsoundschoolgardens.org; A mini proposal for a \$3 million+ grant from the Kellogg Foundation was accepted from Seattle's Food and Fitness Initiative (would spend 10 or more years on improving health in Seattle and King County); invited to submit full proposal.

Sylvia Kantor: check out F2S web site updates; Harvest Celebration Farm Tour 10/7/06 a great success!

Heidi Broekemeier: Doing F2S web site updates, let her know if your project should be there; working with Jenny Thacker on policy proposal project at UW Evans School; another colleague Laura Gee looking for degree project

Kevin Anderson: GMO-Free campaign is moving forward in the US!

Sue McGann: The Harvest Celebration Farm Tour was success for Mara Farm;

Laura Gee: Looking for degree project

Amy Berg: Seattle Public Schools, parent: Setting up an alliance of nutrition committees

Anthony Warner: WSU Food Sense educator

Ann Lanning: Parent, successful school projects going on; see below

Alison Leber: Beecher's Flagship: moving forward with 4th, 5th 6th grade curriculum on how to teach kids how to read labels; always looking for more volunteers!

Tim Crosby: 21 Acres; Attended Eco-Trust Albemathy Project meeting in Portland recently

George Sneller: OSPI, Child Nutrition Services; Working on collecting nutrition policies from around state; 98% in; extra staff hired; some policies do not meet minimum requirement; food industry says it's not the food, it's the lack of exercise; Seattle Public SD Food Service Departments lose 30 million per year operating; encouraged advocates to talk to school administrators; Farm Bill – looking at additional appropriations for nutrition education and to increase awareness about nutrition in schools.

Nancy Lytle: Dietician, Lake Washington SD; Developed competitive foods list; established relationship with Eastern WA farmer: American Produce Express; apple slices are selling

Shelley Curtis: Children's Alliance

Jenny Ellestad: WA Health Foundation

Gina Lopez: WA Health Foundation; Working on campaign to make Washington the healthiest state in the US; check out their web site, including an events page to get involved (whf.org): 30,000 individuals and 700 organizations; 170 schools signed up!

Julie Haakensen: Pike's Place Market, King County Ag Commission: Reported that Jubilee Farms host 12-15 classes/day visit and able to see farm in different stages

Stephanie Lecovin: Dietician, Lake Washington SD; article in Seattle Times; connected with bread producer; pilot program Peter Kurt Gilman ES

Gretchen Colonius: Lake WA SD parent

Shakti Hawkins: Senator Cantwell's office; her to hear what's going on

Jenny Thacker: Working with Heidi on policy report for F2S Steering Committee

Martha Aitken: Food Sense Program; Congressional visit Adam Smith, Thorndike ES

Elise Hart: Laurelhurst ES Nutrition Committee

Total: 23

2 - Group Background: Erin

Meeting since 2003; shifting from discussion to how to move forward with Farm to Schools

3-Steering Committee Report: Sylvia

- A. Forming Outreach & Policy committees: sign-up to be contacted; yet to be defined
- B. Draft of white paper; policy report to help frame problem; Heidi and Jenny
- C. Opportunity to work with NCSL to do a follow-up forum; funding is available until April 2007; if requested by legislator
- D. Upcoming meeting topics:
 - November – connecting farmers & classrooms
 - December – Cheryl Katzberg
 - January – School Gardens
 - February – Ann Cooper, farm to cafeteria project ?

4-Shelley Curtis, Children's Alliance:

A. Overview/past work on wellness policies in WA/ "Advocacy 101" for 2007 Legislator: Children's Alliance is a state-wide non-profit, working on early learning and child welfare issues, tax reform; anti-hunger work; school nutrition issues; has a full-time lobbyist and grassroots campaign organizer; Shelley has worked for six years with Children's Alliance;

B. Background of Children's Alliance in WA:

Senator Kohl-Welles & Rep Schual-Berke – "legislative champions" for Children's Alliance. Since Senate Bill 5436 was adopted, every school adopted a wellness/nutrition policy; most districts took model policy and adopted as their own and put it on the shelf

2004: Child Nutrition and WIC reauthorized at Federal Level; Special Milk Program; more broad than the WA state policy;

C. Currently: Deadline has passed for schools to adopt wellness policy; districts are struggling with implementation; do not include farm to schools language; OSPI has resources to help schools implement; lots of resistance at school level, but many places want to see change; Shelley said she thinks it will take 5 - 10 years for things to change; frustrating for people who want things to change faster;

D. What's on horizon for 2007 session:

Last year got some state funding to reduce or eliminate co-pay (was 30 cents); those at 185% below poverty will receive a free breakfast; participation is increasing; Funding allowed increase in reimbursement rate; small amount of money for start up grants for summer food program; hoping this session this money will continue to be/stay part of OSPI's base budget

E. New?

1-Want to go beyond breakfast and include lunch; a bigger price tag, but looking to get this into statute so free breakfast and free lunch;

2-Adding 25 new schools to the fresh fruits and vegetables program; currently only 25 WA schools enrolled; Districts get money for labor and purchase; hope is to connect districts with local growers; Toppenish they are getting local produce; 50% or more of students eligible for free and reduced meals to be eligible; hope to add state funding for a total of 50 schools;

3-Have programs been evaluated? Really has been no money for evaluation; DOH has included some money in their legislation; lots of antidotal evidence only;

4-Coordinated School Health Model: CDC model that includes 8 components to model with a more holistic approach; implemented in Tennessee and Oklahoma; seeing improvements in student health and academics; every school would have an advisory council to look at all components; way to hold schools accountable; currently no follow-up; a gap in terms of accountability;

Champion legislators: Senator Kohl-Welles, Rep. Schual-Berke

5-Governor's Early Learning Initiative: Very little discussion, which is frustrating; focused on readiness to learn; nutrition piece gets lost; can't talk about readiness to learn without talking

about nutrition; CDC evaluation? Eisenhower MS and administrator was pilot and is proponent of model

6-Federal: Farm Bill Reauthorization 2007; Tough; Certain amount of money given for food stamps; Linda Stone: Children's Alliance in Western Region Anti Hunger Consortium (wrahc.org)

F. How to move legislative policy?

1-Making change is a long, challenging process; Talking to people in CA and what worked and what didn't; does policy action really address problem? Took lots of time to get buy-in and stakeholder input; hard to decide if you want to invite the opposition to the table; My voice was that I didn't want the soda and junk food people at the table; end up having to make compromises;

2-Develop common message! No matter which perspective we were speaking from; what was the message we wanted to get? Identify legislative champion that would make this a priority;

3-State agency cooperation and coordination; OSPI

4-State legislators: consider leadership and who has the best relationships, what have they been working on? Examples: Ag committees, health

5-Need someone to lobby; someone has to take the lead

6-Media: Very important; op-eds; editorial boards; tracking what else is being written; connect with them when something comes up; letters to the editor; create momentum; key things was the personal story; very powerful being able to interview someone in the school district; connect papers with actual people on the ground doing the work;

7-Grass roots mobilization/advocacy: Shift message to how health impacts academic achievement; connecting to other agencies; have people contacting their legislators to move it up on their radar screen; getting folks to testify at hearings; participation in lobby days; getting people invested and excited about the issue; lobby days also include visiting your legislators;

8- Signing up for legislation alerts with Children's Alliance, Children's Action Network; email each week; send message to your legislator or governor; sign up sheet; Children's Lobby Day is in February

9-Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Grant awarded to UW School of Health to do evaluation of Senate Bill: 3 year grant look at 64 MS and evaluate content of policies and against nationally recognized standard; Have policies been implemented? What was the process? Look at school environment and kids' eating behavior changes; will not look at food meal quality; only competitive foods;

10-Children's Alliance: providing technical assistance to implement policies and to help connect them with resources (Gaylin McDonald, School Nutrition Association);

5- F2S Legislation around the US: Handout – Erin

6- Sprit Ridge MS Gardening program, Bellevue: Ann Lanning

Working with Chef Tom French to negotiate deal with Kathy Dumus to help develop menus; meeting with principal to do some education; working with farms (Full Circle); season variability is an issue; Kathy is very open to buying locally; fresh chicken; Potential because couple of HS have cafeteria managers with culinary backgrounds; ES don't have kitchens; MS and HS do; participated in back to school barbeque and health fair; It's about relationships; Food Sense is now in Bellevue SD; so many children and so many schools; there's a ton of work; Farm fieldtrips? Andrew Stout at Full Circle Farms; bringing professionals into the classrooms is very effective.

7-Updates: (Listed above in #1)