

Kid Connection Network Status Report and Notes from January 8, 2007, Meeting

Please welcome Julie Carvajal to Kid Connection as our new Resource Specialist. Julie worked most recently as a Family Advocate with the Northside Early Childhood FASST team, and we're thrilled with the experience and enthusiasm she brings to Kid Connection.

Marketing

Kid Connection will participate at the CFH literacy event on Saturday, Feb. 17, from 9-11A at the First Church of God (Busch Blvd and 22nd St.). Several hundred families are expected to attend. Kid Connection/ECC will bring Right on Track to the event, and are looking for volunteers to assist with station activities (e.g., hat-making, make 'n take items, etc.) Please contact Janet, Abby, or Julie if you can help at this event.

Kid Connection/ECC is also participating in the countywide KidCare enrollment initiative that runs thru June 2007. During monthly developmental screenings from January through June, we will assist families with children from birth to age 18 who might be eligible for KidCare coverage with completing and submitting a KidCare application. Stipends are available for parents/caregivers whose children are already enrolled in KidCare to assist as "parent ambassadors" in these monthly enrollment events. Please direct any interested families to Julie at 837-7714. The first event is scheduled on Friday, Jan. 19, from 8:30A – 12N at the First Church of God (Busch Blvd and 22nd St.).

We continue to work with Genie Short from Partnerships in Prevention, Inc., on plans to participate in several other community events in 2007, as well as explore corporate sponsorship opportunities for Kid Connection/ECC with companies such as Publix, Target, Walmart, etc. Upcoming events include the Health & Fitness Expo/Step Up Florida, Gasparilla (Feb), Eggstravaganza (April), Wellness Fair (May), Back to School Bash (July), and KidFest (Oct).

Operations & Quality Assurance

2-1-1 Call & Referral Reports. See the attached summary for number of calls, referrals, and web site hits through December 2006. Additional reports from 2-1-1 that includes a breakdown of calls by age of the child, as well number of early childhood and prenatal referrals by specific agency/program, are posted on the Kid Connection Web site. Please note in the attachment the list of "top needs" for calls concerning prenatal and young children during the month of December.

Kid Connection Client Reports. See the attached recap of client activity, demographic profile, and referral sources for December 2006 (12/1-12/31/06). At the 1/8 meeting, Christine Rover suggested that we add to this report a couple of short case narratives that describe the Kid Connection referral process and results.

Agency Grievance Protocol. To-date, completed questionnaires about each agency's client grievance protocol have been received from Early Steps, APD, 2-1-1 Tampa Bay, County Health & Social Services, Florida Health Partners, Children's Board, Homeless Coalition, MHC, County Health Department, and CARD. This information will become important as we continue to assess client satisfaction and access to early childhood services, which may include directing clients back to a particular program to voice their concerns/grievance. If your agency hasn't completed the form, please have the appropriate person at your agency fill it out and return it to us as soon as possible.

IT Support / Database Management. Achieve Management is revisiting its FY 2007 scope of work and budget for IT support to include completion of the Kid Connection screening tool, development of appropriate database reports, and provision of maintenance services. Since we currently have only \$2,500 budgeted for IT support, we will explore developing a request for TA funds to help cover those expenses.

Training

Kid Connection training for community agencies. We have scheduled 2 trainings at the end of January that are open to community providers. Each session will be 1- 1 ½ hours long:

- Monday, Jan. 29, at 3P at the Children's Board
- Wednesday, Jan. 31, at 11A at the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD)
1313 N. Tampa St, Suite 515, Tampa 33602-3328

Please encourage new employees or other staff members who have not yet attended a Kid Connection training to sign up for one of these sessions. Space is limited – particularly for the 1/31 session – so RSVP as soon as possible. Call Julie at 837-7714, and provide name, agency and program, position title, phone number, and email address. Or RSVP via email to jcarvajal@kidconnect.info.

Other recent Kid Connection training/provider education events:

- Presentation to 50 kinship care providers at the Partners of Hillsborough holiday luncheon in December
- Site-based training at BOCC/Health & Social Service neighborhood service centers (15-20 staff at 5 sites throughout the county)
- Upcoming HKI community resource fair for new HKI staff on Wed, Jan. 10

In addition, Abby and Janet recently completed the ASO training with Rebecca Robbins at Public Partnerships, LLC, and now have access to \$5,000 in ASO funds during FY 2007 to assist Kid Connection clients.

At the 1/8 meeting, Committee members were asked for recommendations regarding other venues/mechanisms for ongoing provider education and communication, particularly with respect to keeping providers updated on service and program changes within the community (such as a newsletter, listserv, etc.). Suggestions included that Kid Connection start attending Targeted Case Management meetings (typically following monthly Purchasing Alliance meetings) and ASO supervisor meetings, as well as introduce an annual or biannual community resource fair, similar to the ones we conducted last year.

Governance

Northside will continue to be the primary employer for Kid Connection staff until ECC's new infrastructure/funding is in place.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 12, 2007, at 3P at the Children's Board.