

Latham, Patricia

From: Melissa Rupp [mrupp@wmsco.org]
Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2008 4:07 PM
To: SummitonChildren
Cc: 'Judge Steven R Bird'
Subject: Williams County Post Summit Planning Form

County Name: Williams
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Alternate contact and email: Honorable Steven R. Bird, Juv Court Judge;
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Top 5 Issues in Williams County:

1. The Economics of Society and the family: logistics of time, money, prioritizing
2. Behavioral Health of youth and families: Drugs and Alcohol issues, Mental Health, Criminal Activity
3. Overall Health and Wellness
4. Placement Options: availability of foster care homes or alternative placement
5. Parenting:
 - a. Changing dynamics of the family unit
 - b. Skills of parents lacking, underdeveloped
 - c. Fast pace of society and increased expectations for child involvement
 - d. Home structure, routine and boundaries

Top 5 Resources in Williams County

1. Collaborative Systems with a strong history of working together. Stability of workers within system, especially leadership
 - a. Agency Networks
 - b. Family and Children First Council
 - c. Wrap Around
 - d. County mobilizes to meet needs/crisis
2. Solid Foundational Institutions
 - a. Schools (all effective or better)
 - b. Churches
 - c. Hospital/Medical Group network
 - d. Social Service Agencies
3. Network of Resources (a working web interweaving the above institutions and agencies)
4. Health Care delivery system
 - a. Med Group and satellite offices
 - b. Hospital (2 locations)
 - c. Compassion Clinic (Free Med clinic)
 - d. Public Health system

5. Parks and Recreation System (*also strong Library network) and other groups to support affordable family activity
 - a. Community Advocates for Healthy Families (Grass Roots organization)
 - b. Families and Schools Together (Program)

Top 5 Challenges for families/children in Williams County:

1. Awareness by consumers and service providers of what services are available
 - a. Also a denial of the reality of the issues in our county
2. Lack of Institutional Support, parent accountability and belief in the system.
3. Stigmas in accepting help and considered a weakness to reach out for help.
4. Divisions in community: Us and Them mentality
5. Culture of Substance Abuse, broad acceptance of Alcohol use, marijuana use. Parental acceptance of behaviors

What are the top five most-needed services for children and families?

1. Global implementation of Grassroots Change; Development of a Community Coalition
2. Character Education (Community Advocates for Healthy Families)
3. Quarterly orientation meeting for family and child serving systems; training or updating new and current staff of local agencies.
4. Expand opportunities for public and private extra curricular activities utilizing current programming.
5. Creating a county listserv for ongoing communication between agencies

What action steps will be taken locally to develop needed services?

1. Develop a Community Coalition
 - a. Build contact list from all communities within the county, private and public agencies, service groups, faith based, youth groups, social groups, etc. Comprehensive listing.
 - b. Consolidate mission
 - c. Secure training logistics and experienced coalition facilitator/trainer
 - d. Seek grant funding
 - e. Build listserv from contact list developed.

Beyond Funding, What action does the county need from the state to help the county achieve its action plan?

1. An experienced Trainer/ facilitator for coalition building. Expertise in Community coalitions
2. An ongoing commitment from the state agencies for the Summit Initiative, not another short term project, but an initiative that will carry forward with anticipated outcomes past the 15 month time frame. Commitment from key players. (ie: when the Chief Justice endorses, the local judge made it a county priority)
3. Define state commitment including timelines.
4. Endorsement of initiative from the state departments/agencies to county/local systems. (eg: Dept of Mental Health Director empowers ADAMhs Board local involvement, Chief Justice empowers local Judges to be involved, State Director of JFS shows support (empowers) county Dept of Job and Family Services/Children's Services workers etc...)
5. Technical Assistance in setting up a listserv for communication.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Williams County Summit Committee,

Melissa J. Rupp, Director

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