

ESOL Community Advisory & ESOL Parent Leadership Council Meeting

Discovery Room

April 14, 2015

In attendance: Claudia Gonzalez/Clearwater E. Library, Cindy Hertz and Ben Wrobel/UF/IFAS/Florida Nutrition Program, Katherine Kastanis/Dunedin Library, Thuat Truong/Lealman and Asian Center, Tadia Brenner/Goodwill, Erin Richards and Pedro Limas/ Pinellas Navigators, Caroline Brown/High Point Neighborhood Family Center, Jennie Orama/SPC, Fayza Mikhail/ESOL volunteer, Tricia Baker-Sherman/Adult Ed PCS, Paula Keyser/Early Steps, Colette Boggs/KidCare, Pat Bauer and /Literacy Council of Upper Pinellas, Charlene Reedy/The Kidz Club, Prashant Kulkarni/ESOL parent leader, Nancy Coleman Romanos/Largo Library, Paula Warner/Staywell/Medicaid, Lymari Ortiz/ESOL parent leader, Alen Janjus/GCJFCS, Maxi Wood/Project Prosper, Yolanda Singletary/ Pinellas Technical College, Doug Haskitt/PREP, Jan Setzekorn/UMCM, Suzanne Hennessey/PCS HEAT Program, Janet Blair/DCF, Dr. Natasa Karac/ESOL, Barbara Aguirre/ESOL, Olga Kelcourse/ESOL, Branka Prodanovic Hodzic/ESOL

- Branka welcomed the ESOL Community Advisory and ESOL Parent Leadership Council and introduced herself.
- Branka talked about the need to categorize the group according to the services they provide. Asked each group to create a specific goal & activity.
- 4 ESOL Subcommittees have been created: Social Services, College/Career Services, Health Services, and Family Literacy
- Each group shared their individual subcommittee's goal/activity.
 - 1. College/Career Services:**
SPC, PTC, PCS Adult ESOL, UMCM
Goal: educate parents on the opportunities available for their children and themselves to become self-sufficient
Activities:
 - Networking
 - Create a referral system
 - Improve system for promoting activities (i.e. job fairs, college fairs)
 - Inform the community of resources
 - 2. Social Services:**
HPNFC, PSTA, Clearwater E. Library, GCLS
Goal: to unify strengthen our connections to better and more rapidly serve our ESOL community
Activities:
 - Continue social media outreach efforts, flyers, referrals
 - ESOL Facebook page, only for our ESOL agencies
 - Family programs-free childcare
 - Volunteer power
 - Early intervention for developmental disabilities
 - Literacy
 - Family Legal services and minor children human trafficking care for children

- Transportation

3. **Health Services:**

Kidcare, Staywell, PCS Navigator program, Family Nutrition program, PCS Homeless program, HEAT Program

Goal: 1. Improve resource/referral awareness between programs to better serve all families in Pinellas County
2. Improve presence at meetings, wellness fairs, community resource events

Activities:

- Community education/awareness
- Enrollment assistance (health insurance)
- Pediatric medical daycare service
- Nutrition (cooking classes, grocery store tours, incentives for low-cost cooking/meal plans)
- Referrals/resources

4. **Family Literacy:**

Literary Council of Upper Pinellas, Largo Public Library, PREP, Project Prosper, DCF, and Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services

Goal: infusing computer technology into English language learning

Activity: professional development of tutors

- Program Updates:

College/Career Subcommittee:

- Tricia Baker-Sherman/Adult Education PCS: shared the PCS Adult Education ESOL programs at Clearwater Adult Ed Center, Dixie Hollins Ed Center, Lakewood Community School, Northeast Community School, Palm Harbor Community School, and Tomlinson Adult Learning Center
- Yolanda Singletary/Pinellas Technical College: talked about the dual enrollment criteria for juniors and seniors, program registration process, programs at PTC
- Jennie Orama/SPC: talked about the registration process, SPC programs, dual enrollment
- Jan Setzekorn/UMCM: talked about the English/citizenship classes for adults
- Tadia Brenner/Goodwill : upcoming event, Job Fair on May 6th at 10 a.m. at the St. Pete Marriott Clearwater

Social Services Subcommittee:

- Caroline Brown/HPNFC: talked about the upcoming summer camp at HPNFC, Monday-Friday, ages 5-11, \$20 week
- Thuat Truong/LANFC: informed the advisory about the upcoming tutoring help for students Monday-Wednesday, computer classes for adults, and summer camp,

Monday-Friday, \$40 for elementary students and \$45 for middle school students, including field trips and swimming lessons

- Paula Keiser/Early Steps: continues providing services to eligible infants and toddlers with significant delays or a condition likely to result in a developmental delay
- Claudia Gonzalez/Clearwater E. Library: upcoming event Day of the Child on May 2nd at 2 p.m. at the Clearwater E. Library.
- Sophia Lynn Denicolo/Gulfcoast Legal Services: upcoming event free citizenship clinic, open to everyone in need, on May 30th from 9:00-1:00 p.m. at Hispanic Outreach Center, appointments are required

Health Services Subcommittee:

- Charlene Reedy/The Kidz Club: provide medical, education, physical/social, and nutrition programs to families who qualify. For a child to participate in The Kidz Club program, their primary care physician or specialist must order the care.
- Paula Keyser/All Children's Hospital: promoting the upcoming event Healthy Family Center on May 30th from 9:00-1:00 p.m.
- Colette Boggs/Tampa Bay Florida KidCare: continues providing services to eligible families
- Paula Warner/Staywell/Medicaid: provides health care services to families in need
- Erin Richards and Pedro Limas/ Pinellas Navigators: continue providing health care services to families in need
- Benjamin Wrobel and Cindy Hertz/UF, IFAS Extension Family Nutrition Program: upcoming summer camp, providing nutrition/cooking classes to families of our 1st and 2nd grade students
- Suzanne Hennessey/PCS HEAT Program: serves students who attend Pinellas County Schools. These students and families are experiencing homelessness or are unaccompanied youth.

Family Literacy Subcommittee:

- Katherine Kastanis/Dunedin Library and Pat Bauer/LCUP: upcoming event Music Mash 4/27 at 3:30, Dunedin Youth Volunteer Recruitment Meeting on 4/27 at 6:00 p.m., homework help 4/30 at 3:00, Dunedin Writers Group on 5/1 at 9:30 a.m.
- Nancy Coleman Romanos/Largo Library: upcoming English conversation club every Monday 10-12, Focus on Writing every Thursday 12-1, and English Language Learning Lab open Monday-Saturday at Largo Library; providing tutoring in English for adults; talked about the Pronunciator, free online language database, available to everyone through the public library, 80 languages in any 50 languages
- Doug Haskitt/PREP and Janet Blair/DCF: providing services to refugee families; Pinellas Refugee Education Program offers FREE training and classes for qualified refugees who

meet certain eligibility criteria. The goal is to help families learn English, get their GED, and obtain career skills; Refugee Day on June 16th at USCIS in Tampa

- Maxi Wood/Project Prosper: provides financial programs, no-interest loans, matched savings and financial literacy classes for families who qualify
- Alen Janjus/GCJFCS: provide refugee services to students 6-12 grade, upcoming summer camp for students who qualify

- Highlights of the Career Day/Design Day @ HNFC.

The ESOL department partnered with the High Point Neighborhood Family Center to host the Career Day/Day of Design for ELL students.

This event for ESOL students from St. Pete and Northeast high schools took place on Thursday, March 19th at the HPNFC. The program provided opportunities for ESOL students to learn about careers, network with local business owners, learn about entrepreneurship and find out what to expect after graduation. Students learned about SPC and explored career opportunities at the college, including the science and technology programs.

They also participated in career activities by the Art Institutes, learned about available programs and took a personality test to determine their career interests.

Students also learned about sewing, art and photography from local business owners who volunteered their time to share their experiences and participate in crafts with the ESOL students. One of the business owners was a former ESOL student who completed a PTEC program. He now owns and runs a successful barber shop in Clearwater. Several of our students received free haircuts while listening to his inspirational story. Students also received free haircuts and manicures from the Regency Beauty Institute. In addition, the Academy of Animal Arts awarded 3 ESOL students each a \$3,500 scholarship to attend their program after high school graduation.

- Upcoming ESOL Community Resource Fair @ Skycrest ES on 4/21: please arrive between 2:45-3:00 p.m. We will be in the cafeteria.
- Upcoming ESOL events in April and May:
 - 4/16: Financial Aid and Graduation Requirements for ELL students, NEHS, 5:00-6:30
 - 4/21: ESOL Community Resource Fair, Skycrest ES, 3:30-5:00
 - 4/22: Transition to MS, High Point ES, 3:30-4:30
 - 4/27: Transition to ES, 74th St. ES, 3:30-5:00
 - 5/12: Transition to HS, Largo MS, 4:30-5:30
 - 5/14: Nutrition/Eating Healthy class for parents, Belleair ES, 9:00-10:00 a.m.
- Branka presented awards to ESOL Community Partner and ESOL Parent Leader for their contributions to ESOL families

Parent Leader:

Prashant Kulkarni: For being an Outstanding ESOL Parent Leader and contributing 15 hours of volunteer work for our ESOL families in Pinellas County Schools

ESOL Community Partner:

Juan Luvian/PSTA: For being an Outstanding ESOL Community Partner and assisting ESOL families with the bus registration process for the Transportation Disadvantaged Program and providing information on how to ride a bus in Pinellas County. Participated at 12 ESOL workshops and events in Pinellas County Schools

ESOL Event:

Caroline Brown/HPNFC:

For hosting a Career Day/Day of Design for our PCS ESOL seniors and giving them an opportunity to explore and learn about careers, network with local business owners, learn about entrepreneurship and find out what to expect after graduation in Pinellas County

- Olga talked about Hablemos
The Career Day/Day of Design will be aired on Hablemos.

Next meeting: TBA in September 2015