



Home and Family Session

November 1, 2008

Home Support and Early Childhood

- Parents don't know the facts or rights – of what?
- Spanish speaking parents have language barrier
- Lack of communication between family and teachers/administrators
- Lack of parenting skills
 - No training
 - Bad models – role?
 - Don't know how to communicate
- Parent population is getting younger – babies raising babies
- Home life is not what we remember growing up
- Collaboration needed between parents, teachers, community and organizations – a must
- Weed 'n Seed Program is a plus – They won't come to us, so we go to them
- Parents must be held responsible for lack of parental guidance and supervision
- Children are forced to be adults
- Parents are not aware of resources
- Children are not emotionally healthy
- Learn what respect and authority means
- No role models
- Need relationship building
- Get them at an early age – Pre-K to start a solid foundation

Education & ESL

- Life skills are not being taught in the schools
- Communicating supplemental education avenues
- Socio-economics
- Cultural differences
- Parent education and involvement

Abuse & Neglect

- Lack of communication between educators, home and family – won't talk about it
- Family issues
- Education impacts our youth and their behavior
- Substance abuse issues (parents and students)

- School attendance is a battle
- Awareness – can't always be seen
- Peer pressure
 - Afraid at school
 - Don't fit in
 - No reason to be successful – nobody cares
- Depression
 - Awareness and how to identify it
 - Disconnect with the teachers – need to learn how to teach the children verses the subject
- Media issues
- Lack of parental involvement
- School transition issues – Junior high to high school
- Parent understanding
- Domestic violence
- Gang issues

Key Discussion Items

- Get parents to the schools and involved in their children's education
- Lack of awareness of available resources (school, faith-based, community, etc.)
- This summit is great – now we need to do it in smaller more focused groups
- Better coordination of services
- Communication...communication and communication
- Get teachers and administrators involved in different levels
- Build stronger PTA's and change their focus
- Teach our children how to make positive decisions

Issues

- Lack of parental involvement
- Lack of resources
- Stop passing the buck to someone else – the schools can't do it all!
- Pre-K education for low income families
- ESL – parents do not understand the value of an education in US society

Resources/Assets

- Venture schools (VHS)
- Vocational training
- TCC, community colleges as partners
- Colleges and Universities
- Non-profit and for profit organizations
- Governmental support
- Chamber of Commerce

Strategies

- Ongoing collaboration with schools, for profit and non profit agencies
- Develop a system such as this school summit and use this model in much smaller areas – focus around each school (faith based, for profit, etc. that will buy in to that location)
- Develop long range plans that address dropout rates, drugs, etc. to assist our youth in achieving high school graduation

- Develop a program/system to get parents involved in the education system – take it to the parent – don't make them come to us