

Project Sussex Kids:
County Council for Young Children
Families of School-Aged Children Subcommittee Meeting

July 14, 2015; 10:00 AM

Project Self-Sufficiency

Welcome and Member Introductions: Haley McCracken; Project Sussex Kids coordinator, Hannah Kirby; PSS, Melissa Bischoff; Project Sussex Kids co-chair and subcommittee chair, Maureen Strelzik; Parent, Grandparent, and Retired Behavioral Health Clinician, Peggy Askew; Parent, Kris Imbrie; Therapist, Tammy Miller; Hopatcong Schools Director of Special Services, Sam Walter; Sussex County YMCA, Jane Langerveld; Newton Schools, Lauren Conklin; Ogdensburg Public Schools Social Worker

Subcommittee Meeting Review- May 2015:

- Action Items
 - Developing a Protocol for collaborating with schools
 - Schools are open to have presentations and use their space whether it be in the gym or library to present on Project Sussex Kids
 - At PTO, PTA meetings
 - We have attended at least one of these meetings for most Sussex County primary schools
 - Kindergarten Orientations
 - Always well attended
 - Have roughly 5 minutes to present on Project Sussex Kids
 - Attend the Ogdensburg Orientation
 - August 17 and 16 from 9:00-11:00 AM
 - Orientation is more for the kindergarten children than the parents
 - Have a table with information or and/or have packet of information on their seats
 - Table with information at dismissal for walking school districts
 - Special Education Parent Meetings
 - Parent Advisory Committee in Hopatcong/Ogdensburg
 - Address whole family
 - Talk about everyone as a whole then talk about special education
 - Parent Information Nights
 - How do we draw parents to these meetings?
 - Attending the Special Education Roundtable Meeting on July 27, 2015
 - Clifton E. Lawrence School
 - Tried to have a parent meeting but no parents attended
 - Ended up having a needs assessment with the administrative group
 - Want to try this at other schools as well

- Will hold additional parent meetings during the school year
 - Area Back to School Nights
 - 40+ attended
 - Able to address all the parents at this night
 - Have a table, hand out pamphlets
 - Developing a Protocol for working with pediatricians
 - Parent and pediatrician communication
 - Pediatricians to advocate about Project Sussex Kids
 - Have a plastic display board at pediatricians offices
 - Have questions on medical form
 - Pediatricians should hand parents information on resources

Project Sussex Kids Website Update:

- Home page is up and running
- Homepage
 - Enrollment forms both for Parents and Community Organizations
 - Will be interactive
 - Scrolling updated information
 - Upcoming meetings
 - Articles
- Purple band across the top of the homepage
 - Links to subtopics on the resource guide
 - Able to click on these links
 - Drop down menu for different ages
- Site map on the bottom of the website pages
 - Easy way to get where you want to go without having to go through the different topics

Parent Trainings:

- Kris Imbrie is identifying curriculum to train volunteers
- Coming from the mind-body approach
- Taking children into account
 - Anxiety
 - How to talk to children
- Skeleton mission statement and tweak for different topics
 - Drug/substance abuse
 - Difficult children
 - Special Needs children
- Speaking on different topics at schools topic based events
 - Provide dinner and childcare
- Condensed version of Kris Imbrie's presentation
- Make the presentation relatable
 - Share own stories
 - Parents are able to relate if they went through same situation
 - Makes presentation come alive

- Work on an outline/PowerPoint to aid the presentation
 - Able to tweak for different topic presentations
- Sussex Wantage “Builders Club”
 - Different volunteer work
 - Childcare
 - High school students occupy children

Discussion Items:

- Development of the Project Sussex Kids Resource Guide
 - Want to find local resources at childcare centers, pediatricians, churches, etc.
 - We will be sending a letter out shortly to agencies and a form to fill out
 - Want to find out what programs are available at these agencies
 - Ex: Connect Me (available in the 90s)
 - Information changes and new programs start so we want to stay up to date with current information
- SPAN Seminars
 - Starting in October through May
 - Skipping December
 - 6 workshops
 - In the evening on the first Tuesday of the month
 - Dinner and childcare will be provided
 - Holding seminars at Project Self-Sufficiency
 - Basic Rights, Early Intervention, Early Literacy
 - Early Literacy is lacking with children that are entering kindergarten
- Hudson Maxim School Resource Fair
 - Make parents aware of the services available
 - At the event have vendors
 - Possible at the Durban Avenue School (4-5 grade level)
 - Larger gym
 - More parking
 - Have at the end of September or early October in the evening around 6:30 PM
- Parent Café
 - First one held in June
 - Conversational needs assessment
 - Christine Florio will be working with single parents at Mommy Café
 - Another forum for parents to talk together
 - Kathy Backlarz has a group of parents that are always looking for support
 - Sussex County American Medical Association
 - Meets regularly
 - OBGYNs, Nurse Practitioners, Family Physicians
- Speaker/Topic Ideas
 - Things parents would like to know more about
 - Presenters that you have previously seen that you would recommend
 - Diane Lang came to the July General Council Meeting and presented on *Positive Parenting*

Comments, Questions, Suggestions, and Outreach Ideas:

- Will there be access through the Project Self- Sufficiency website to the Project Sussex Kids website?
 - Yes, there is a link under the Programs drop down menu and at the bottom of the home page on the site map
- Are the links available on municipality websites?
 - Not yet, but we are hoping to have them on their websites in the future
 - Parents of children that are homeschooled and attend charter and private schools are much more inclined to look on their municipality website for information on programs to seek socialization for their children and themselves
- Will there be a version of the website that is in Spanish?
 - As of now there is not but possible in the future
- Go to sports sign ups, food banks, senior living facilities, churches, colleges, and libraries to reach different and more parents
- Homeschooling Association Website
 - Have Project Sussex Kids on their website
 - Present on Project Sussex Kids to the homeschooling parents because they are not getting the information from schools
 - Unity Church has meetings for homeschooling families
- How easy is the Project Sussex Kids website to share with friends and/or family?
 - There are links on the Project Sussex Kids website to Facebook, Twitter, and the Project Sussex Kids blog
- Specific Programs
 - How to market programs and seminars
 - Use school or municipality digital sign to advertise for Project Sussex Kids
 - The summer is a good time to advertise on these digital signs
- Partnership with the Sussex County YMCA
 - Safety Program: SAW (Safety Around Water)
 - There are two-two week programs
 - Free program
 - Teaches children about life jackets and swimming
 - Good opportunity to talk to parents about Project Sussex Kids because they are not in the water with their children
- Sussex County Library System
 - Have parent groups
 - Planned through 2016
 - Have a group of parents that would be interested in getting together
 - Automatic emails
 - Library is a popular spot for individuals to go if they do not have a computer at home since they are allowed to use library computers
 - Have satellite locations at libraries rather than at schools
 - Better way to target homeschooled children and children that attend either private or charter schools
- Vacation Bible School at Churches
 - May be too late to do but have someone present on the first day of classes
 - Able to attract a different group of parents

- After School Outreach
 - Parents have more time after school at dismissal then they do at drop off
 - Hand out information on Project Sussex Kids
 - Have a table with information
 - Staff, parents, and children present
- Littell Community Center in Franklin
 - Has huge gym that is used for recreational programs (basketball, soccer, baseball)
 - Hold kid dances
 - Music class on Thursday mornings that is highly attended by young families
 - Different group of people to hand out Project Sussex Kids website
- There will be a Project Sussex Kids card that will have simple information such as the website for Project Sussex Kids and the number to call for resources
- Have the Survey for Presentation/Speaker Topics online
- Public Schools Mailing in August
 - Happens at the end of August
 - Provides information about bus (route, stop, etiquette) and teacher information
 - Put Project Sussex Kids information in this mail merge
 - Need to figure out the numbers at each school to provide information
- Straus News
 - Free, weekly newspaper for Sussex County residents
 - Goes out every Thursday
 - Have a section about what is going on and Project Sussex Kids information
 - Possible have a feature article and interview for free
- Press in New Jersey Herald
- Ads on local radio stations and the local television channel

***Next Project Sussex Kids Families of School-Aged Children Subcommittee meeting:
September 16, 2015 at 10:00 AM**