

**Project Sussex Kids:**  
**County Council for Young Children**  
**Families of Children with Special Needs Subcommittee Meeting**

July 15, 2015; 10:00 AM

Project Self-Sufficiency

**Welcome and Introductions:** Haley McCracken; Project Sussex Kids Coordinator, Claire Willitts; Project Self-Sufficiency Program Supervisor, Hannah Kirby; PSS, Kathy Nauta; Parent/Project Sussex Kids co-chair and subcommittee chair, Debra Koss; Child Psychologist, Lidia Sulieman; Parent, Jennifer Nunez; Parent, Tammy Miller; Hopatcong Schools Director of Special Services, Kathy Baklarz; Unit Coordinator for Special Child Health Services

**Subcommittee Meeting Review- May 2015:**

- Action Items
  - Providing a forum for parents- Parent Cafe
    - Needs assessment in conversational style
    - Connect parents to resources
    - Address issues of concern
      - Ages of Children
      - Needs of Children
    - Parent Café in June
      - Kathy Baklarz has a group of parents for these meetings
      - Happening again in September and consistently throughout the year
        - Providing dinner and childcare
        - Café will be both at Project Self-Sufficiency and throughout the community in satellite locations
  - Communication with Schools
    - Schools have been very receptive to Project Sussex Kids
    - Attend area Back to School Nights
      - 40+ attended
      - Able to address all the parents at this night
      - Have a table, hand out pamphlets
    - Sussex Wantage School has link to Project Sussex Kids on homepage of website
    - Father Daughter/Sweet Heart Dances
      - Had a Father Daughter Dance at Clifton E. Lawrence School in April
        - Over 90 dads
        - Had crafts, music, and food
        - Was able to address dads on Project Sussex Kids
      - Have more Sweet Heart/Father Daughter Dances during the upcoming school year
    - Attending the Special Education Parent Advisory Group Roundtable on July 27, 2015

- Guidance Counselor Event at Sussex County Community College on Columbus Day
  - Have topic based seminars every other month at schools
- Protocol for working with pediatricians
  - Debra Koss and Kathy Nauta
  - Work hand in hand
  - Educate parents more
  - Need to work on a timeline with approaching pediatricians
  - Put information about Project Sussex Kids in waiting rooms
  - Make appointments with nurses at schools
    - Kids normally go to school nurses and guidance counselors to talk
    - Kathy Nauta is conducting conversations with school nurses on how they think that we should get Project Sussex Kids information out to parents
  - Pediatricians are general doctors
    - They are not trained in mental health
      - ADD, ADHD, anxiety, phobia
    - Pediatricians are writing prescriptions for mental health patients
      - Sometimes multiple prescriptions for serious medications
    - They need guidance on how to prescribe medicine doses
  - Difficult to find child psychiatrists throughout Sussex County
  - True workforce shortage
- Collaborative Model of Care- Debra Koss
  - Not mandated, voluntary program
  - Direct conversation between doctors and child psychologists
  - \$2.4 million dollars was awarded to the Department of Children and Families to expand and improve programs throughout the state
- General psychiatrists vs. board certified child psychiatrists
  - Fellowship training for Board certified child psychiatrists
    - Makes a big difference in level of care
- Pediatricians are developing a relationship with child psychiatrists
  - Working together on how to assess situations and how to talk with families
- Sussex County Health Coalition
  - Needs assessment throughout the county
  - Addressed that there was a shortage of child psychiatrists in Sussex County

**Project Sussex Kids Website Update:**

- Up and running
- Want the website to be very interactive
- Homepage
  - Enrollment forms both for both Parents and Community Organizations
    - Will be interactive
  - Scrolling updated information
    - Upcoming meetings and events

- 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
- Links to Project Sussex Kids social media sites

### **Discussion Items:**

- Development of the Project Sussex Kids Resource Guide
  - Get parents resources quickly with minimal frustration
  - Available ages prenatal through age 8 and beyond
  - Want to find local resources at childcare centers, pediatricians, churches, etc.
  - Sample of the letter we will be sending out shortly to agencies and a form for the agencies to fill out
    - Want to find out what programs are available at these agencies
    - Information changes and new programs start so we want to stay up to date with current information
  - Resource guide will be available throughout Sussex County
    - Both in hard copy and online so it can be updated frequently
- Central Intake
  - 1800 number housed at Project Self-Sufficiency
    - There will be a live operator answering the phone
  - Will filter referrals for community resources
    - Assessment, home visitation, case management
  - Resources available through age 18
  - Get resources quickly
  - Easier for parents to access since there is one simple number to call
  - There will be a resource guide binder at Project Self-Sufficiency that the operators will use
- Speaker/Topic Ideas
  - Things parents would like to know more about
  - Presenters that you have previously seen that you would recommend
    - Special Child Health Services is hiring a Developmental Interventionist once grant money comes in
      - Therapist in Early Intervention may be willing to do presentations
  - Have the Survey for Presentation/Speaker Topics online
  - Diane Lang came to the July General Council Meeting and presented on *Positive Parenting*
  - Topic based presentations will be at local schools focusing on ages prenatal to age 8
- SPAN Seminars
  - Parent leadership training
  - Basic rights, special education, literacy, positive behavior support, transition from preschool to kindergarten

- Starting in October and running through May
  - Skipping December
  - Providing dinner and childcare
  - At Project Self-Sufficiency

**Comments, Questions, Suggestions, and Outreach Ideas:**

- How to get information out to parents?
  - Website links
  - Have information at churches, schools, municipalities, colleges, libraries, social service agencies, gyms, dance, gymnastic, and karate studios, summer camps, FSO
    - Mountain Creek?
  - Advertising in
    - The Shopper
    - Strauss Newspaper
    - Hospital Community Events flyer
  - Becky Carlson has a list of mental health therapists
    - Get on this email list
    - Sends frequent emails out to these therapists
  - Flyer with Project Sussex Kids information
    - Possibly in the shape of a kite
    - With the phone number, website, and a catchy phrase (“Resources for Families”)
    - Make the flyer appealing to the eye with catchy colors and words
- On schools websites have a tag line (“resources for families”) about Project Sussex Kids in order for parents to click on it
- Parents are always looking for resources
- Businesses always willing to help
  - Banks
  - Hospitals (Newton Medical Center)
  - ThorLabs
- Puzzle Piece for Sussex-Warren Central Intake puzzle piece may connect people with autism
- Can the speaker presentations be recorded both audio and video?
  - Have available on the Project Sussex Kids website
  - A more flexible option for parents that are on the go
  - Presentation on *Positive Parenting* video recording or outline on website?
- Have the Spanish Speaking Families Subcommittee meeting minutes available in both English and Spanish
  - Along with the rest of the subcommittee and general council meeting minutes

**\*Next Project Sussex Kids Spanish Speaking Families Subcommittee meeting: September 17, 2015 at 10:00 AM**