



Project Sussex Kids:
The Sussex County Council for Young Children
Families of Children with Special Needs Subcommittee Meeting
May 12, 2015; 10:00am
Project Self-Sufficiency

- Welcome and Member Introductions: *Deborah Berry-Toon, PSS; Tammy Miller, Hopatcong Borough Schools; Kathy Nauta, Committee Chair; Laura Roy-Fink, Vernon Township Schools; Kathy Baklarz, Special Child Health Services; Carmela Slavinski, DAWNcil.*
- Program History and Review
 - Steering Committee meetings held – February 5, 2015 & April 9, 2015
 - Steering Committee Members:
 - Melissa Bischoff – Supervisor and Case Manager, PSS
 - Kathy Nauta – Parent and Community Resident
 - Deborah Berry-Toon, Executive Director; PSS
 - Haley McCracken, Program Coordinator, PSS
 - Jamie Bernard, Executive Director; DASI
 - Kris Imbrie, LCSW, Family Therapist
 - Maureen Strelzik, LCSW
 - Lauren Conklin, Ogdensburg School Social Worker
 - Lis Schuman, bi-lingual case manager; PSS
 - Kathy Baklarz; Special Child Health Services
 - Donna Laval; Perinatal Mental Health Coordinator, Partnership for Maternal and Child Health
 - Tammy Miller; Director of Special Services, Hopatcong Borough Schools
 - Kathy Kwasnik; United Way of Northern NJ, Success by 6
 - Linda Pumphrey; Director, DCP&P
 - Partnership Celebration held – April 29, 2015; 9am & April 30, 2015; 7pm
- Region Outreach
 - Newton – held meeting with Parental Liaison
 - Montague – continued outreach
 - Hopatcong – planning resource fair for the Fall; attending Safety Town Event
 - Ogdensburg/Franklin – outreach continued
 - Sussex/Wantage – held Father Daughter Dance on 4/24/15
 - Vernon – presented PSK at SCA meetings on 5/4/15
- Objectives
 - Resource Guide
 - Website
 - Facebook Page, Twitter, Blog
 - Information and referral line

- Grow NJ Kids
- Parent Leadership Training
- Discussion
 - Mission Statement
 - Family Needs Assessment
 - **Kathy Baklarz: Parent knowledge concerning child's disability is a barrier**
 - **Lack of support groups**
 - **Families do not know where to go or to whom to go to**
 - **Doctors not giving out information (consensus from the group) including pediatricians, psychologists and psychiatrists**
 - **Ways to educate health care professionals to get through to doctors**
 - **System of disabilities do not work as a unit**
 - **Early Intervention now home-based takes away from parents networking with others and hinders them from becoming involved.**
 - **Players need a common dialogue**
 - **Tammy Miller broke down Special Ed. advisory board for Hopatcong**
 - **Laura Roy-Fink broke down Special Ed. advisory board for Vernon**
 - **Dealing with special needs through the life cycle**
 - **Empowering parents to be proactive rather than reactive and prepare them for the future**
 - **Other states have Special Ed. advocates**
 - **Get info to preschool special needs programs**
 - **Parents are overwhelmed and unaware of resources and every family's needs are different**
 - **Not every parent is ready to hear about their children's issues; they need to be ready to accept emotionally**
 - **Allow parents to be Mom and Dad**
 - Outreach to diverse population
 - Speakers
 - Times for meetings
 - Disseminating Information
 - Volunteers for Events
 - Articles/Resources
 - **DAWN uses a family training model for parents to learn how to advocate for children and keep connected through their life span.**
 - **Create a road map for parents with questions and answers**
 - **Kris Imbrie, family therapist to present and share resources concerning children self regulation; tool kit for parents and professionals.**
 - **SPAN interactions with school district**
 - **United Way Caregiver's Guide as a tool to design resource guide**
 - **SWAP – multiple disabled classes; parents involved, can hold events**
 - **Family Link; educating pediatricians**
 - **Dr. Saluja in Vernon**
 - **Hamburg Pediatrics**
- Next Meeting Dates: July, September, November