

2007-2008 PROGRAM WORK TEAM ANNUAL REPORT FORM

Parenting Education Program Work Team

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List of Active PWT Members (separate attachment)

Activities, Accomplishments, Outcomes and Impacts:

Activities

Program Work Team Annual Meetings

The Parenting Education Program Work Team was initiated in March 2004 with the primary goal of fostering communication among parenting educators, as well as providing support and resources to educators throughout New York State. In 2008, the PWT held two meetings in Ithaca, one on January 16th, 2008, and another on May 28th, 2008. These meetings provided our entire group opportunities to work together, as well as the chance for our two sub-committees (see below) to update us on their ongoing work that takes place throughout the year.

Subcommittee Activities

In 2008, the Adolescent Subcommittee devoted time and attention to developing two new research-based workshops focused on adolescent development and issues related to parenting teens for the Parenting The Second Time Around (PASTA) curriculum. Efforts also focused on locating existing research-based materials for use as supplemental resources/handouts for the workshops.

The Parent Education/Nutrition Subcommittee developed a Survey and Logic Model, both of which were presented at the May 2008 PWT Meeting for feedback and suggestions. This subcommittee continues its work by collaborating with individuals involved in the CHANCE Program, a statewide collaborative program funded by the Division of Nutritional Sciences (DNS) and EFNEP at Cornell University, and developing materials that address common nutrition/parenting issues for parent educators to use in their programming.

Accomplishments

- Formation of two PWT Subcommittees: 1) adolescent development and parenting teens and 2) parent education and nutrition education
- Receipt of PWT Special Needs Support: Parent Education (2007-2008)
- Successful pilot testing of the Online Statewide Data Collection System

Outcomes and Impacts

Parenting Education Program Support

In 2008, the PWT focused on recommendations for revisions and updates to the PASTA curriculum. PASTA is a Cornell Cooperative Extension workshop series for grandparents,

relatives, and others who are parenting for a second time. At the PWT Meeting in January 2008, the subcommittee on adolescent development presented PASTA program feedback to the entire PWT membership. The feedback indicated a need for supplemental workshop sessions on adolescent development and parenting teens as well as information and resources on adolescent online use (e.g., social networking sites, chat rooms, parental control settings). A Proposal/Request for PWT Special Needs Support (2007-2008) was received to fund the time of Jennifer Birckmayer, Senior Extension Associate, Department of Human Development (retired) to develop, edit and incorporate the additional workshop sessions into the curriculum. The workshops, which are currently being developed and edited, will result in a revised and expanded PASTA facilitator's guide as a new resource for parent educators. The latest edition of the curriculum will be introduced in January 2009 for use throughout the state.

The PWT likewise supports the *Strengthening Families Program*, a parent, youth, and family skills-building curriculum designed to prevent teen substance abuse and other behavior problems, strengthen parenting skills, and build family strengths, developed by professionals at Iowa State University Extension. Building on the success from the first training for nine pilot counties held in September 2006, a second training was held in September 2008 for approximately 30 CCE parent educators and individuals from participating agencies. To date, 14 series of this program have been conducted by CCE educators in seven counties and New York City, with 107 adult caregivers and 113 youth participating in the Program. Results from pre and post-tests of both adults and youth show significant overall positive changes on 12 of 20 questions for caregivers with statistically significant outcomes on almost all of the questions (12 out of 15) for the youth. Statewide data collection is continuing in 12 counties and will be utilized in county and statewide evaluation reporting and funding requests. The PWT is planning future Strengthening Families updates and networking for participating educators.

Connecting PWT Members to Campus Events

Several PWT Members attended the The Bronfenbrenner Conference, *Chaos and Children's Development: Levels of Analysis and Mechanisms*, on the Cornell campus in October 2007. Educators expressed a great interest in having access to the conference materials, translated as outreach and extension documents, for use in their parent education programming.

Distance Learning Events

At both the January and May Meetings, PWT members were asked to recommend topics and speakers for videoconferences. The positive response of PWT members to the *Chaos and Children's Development* Conference resulted in the Parenting In Context Project partnering with Cornell Cooperative Extension, the College of Human Ecology and the Bronfenbrenner Life Course Center to offer a live video broadcast/polycom distance learning event that focused on how chaotic environments impact the health and well-being of children to approximately 600 parent educators and other community professionals at 13 sites across New York. Feedback from this event was very positive with participants indicating, on a scale of 1 to 5, that the videoconference provided a good overview of chaos in children's lives (score of 4.2) and improved the connection between community educators and Cornell faculty resources (also a score of 4.2).

Evaluation

A long-term goal of the PWT is to develop a statewide data collection tool to facilitate more rigorous evaluation efforts and to demonstrate the impact of parenting programs across the state. After much work of the PWT to identify parenting domains and related questions/indicators for each domain, a protocol was developed for collecting data. The protocol was introduced and discussed at the January 2008 PWT meeting and, starting in February 2008, was pilot tested by PWT members. PWT member feedback and input regarding the pilot testing phase led to an enhancement and refinement of the Online Statewide Data Collection System which will be launched statewide at the Parent Education In-Service in January 2009.

The Parenting Education PWT continues its commitment to addressing specific needs in the area of parenting education in New York State through disseminating research-based information and materials to educators, facilitating rigorous evaluation efforts and promoting a dialogue between community educators and Cornell faculty.