Task Force on Quality Child Care for Immigrant Communities

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Barriers to Quality Child Care & School Readiness
Access

• The pursuit of child support penalizes the woman for irresponsible father
• Clients respond negatively to voice mail
• Lack of transportation
• Not enough community-based services
• Resistance to government services
• Not enough licensed providers in immigrant neighborhoods
• Illiteracy
• Lack of entitlement
• Need for cultural sensitivity
• Paper work is burdensome, documentation
Affordability

- Non-traditional jobs do not satisfy subsidies documentation requirements (ie: cleaning houses)
- Catch 22 of subsidy employment requirement
- Cost of care vs. income. Families can’t afford quality care even with subsidy.
Housing

- Multiple dwellers
- Space regulations for regulated child care programs
- Landlords not allowing licensed family child care in their units.
Public Awareness

- Informal means of communication within a community are very powerful, but often distort issues and misinform clients.
- Need for community event to galvanize ethnic leaders around children’s issues.
- Ethnic media not involved in public engagement.
Cultural Values

- Formal systems of child care do not exist in home countries
- Women stay home & extended family ties severed through immigration
- Traditional values promote use of informal/unregulated care by neighbors
- Tertiary Access: creating a program/service may not be enough if cultural values not considered.
- High expectations of parents, no tools
- Invasive requirements
- Survival vs. Involvement
Accountability

- Customer feedback methods
- Outcomes based services
  - Is the goal to be as inclusive as possible or as exclusive as possible?
- Professional evaluation of services
Solutions & Best Practices
Access to Quality Child Care and Parent Involvement

Community-based Child care management services to assist families who need support navigating the system and identifying and accessing quality, community-based child care.
Public Engagement Campaign

- Utilize informal communication in positive way: “Child Care Promoters”
- Involve ethnic media in transmitting “Help me grow” message.
Standing Child Care in Immigrant Communities Advisory Group

The task force should continue to meet and act as an advocacy voice and resource for ECS

– Washington State
Support Child Care Subsidies Program

- Attend public hearing
- Extend subsidies to undocumented children
- Advocate for adequate funding
Personalism

- Limit use of Voice Mail
- Use volunteer interns/students
- Use volunteers, train “front-line” staff in Early childhood resources
Support Authentic Collaboration

- Do not “reinvent the wheel”, build and strengthen existing services or replicate best-practices in other jurisdictions.
- Encourage authentic collaborations between government, community based organizations, and faith based organizations.
Engage politicians and decision makers and non-traditional allies

- Bus community members to march/Rally.
- “March to Annapolis” make strong statement about child care
- Connect Child Care to Public Education and Crime Prevention
Collect Appropriate Data

- Release data in usable form
- Collect ethnicity in child care subsidies data (State data)
- Track placement of low-income, non-English speaking children (“red zone”) in regulated child care.
Identify key points of entry to disseminate information about Early Childhood Education

- Public Libraries in areas with high concentration of immigrants
- Teach adult ESOL within the context of early childhood education and “how to navigate the system” content based curriculum
- MCPS International student office.
Connect with other groups that are promoting this issue

- Montgomery County Child Care Commission
- Up-County Latino Network
- Long Branch Revitalization Task Force
Support current licensing regulations

- Increase the number of regulated child care in low-income/immigrant communities
  - Spanish application, training, t/a
- Maintain current regulations
  - No English Only
  - No Social Security Numbers
Increase representation of “immigrant stakeholders” on Commissions/Advisory groups.

* Child Care Commission should have a “seat” for immigrant representation.