

State of Florida Department of Health
Bureau of Family and Community Health
Healthy Start Redesign Process
September 30, 2011
Subject Matter Experts Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Kris-Tena Albers
Director, Infant, Maternal and Reproductive Health Unit
Florida Department of Health, Division of Family Health Services

Jane Bambace
Community Health Director
Pinellas County Health Department

Susie Blanchard
Healthy Start Sumter County Supervisor
Thomas E. Langley Medical Center

Carol Brady
Executive Director
Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition, Inc.

Evelyn Fox
Executive Director
Healthy Start Community Coalition of Okaloosa and Walton Counties, Inc.

Donna Hagan
Executive Director
Healthy Start Coalition of Jefferson, Madison and Taylor Counties, Inc.

Maurine Jones, Ph.D.
CEO/Executive Director
Center for Health Equity, Inc.

Arianna Nesbitt
Chief Executive Officer
Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition, Inc.

Joe Pietrangelo, MSW
Operations Manager
Union County Health Department/Bradford County Health Department

Susan Potts, LCSW
Human Services Program Consultant III
Florida Department of Health

Cathy Price
Human Services Program Consultant III
Florida Department of Health

Debbie Strausser
Director of Nurses
Marion County Health Department

Consultant/Facilitator: Shelley Robertson

Minutes

Topic: Welcome

Members were welcomed and introductions made.

Topic: Update on Process

Shelley Robertson provided an update regarding the tasks completed and tasks pending in the Healthy Start Redesign Process. Task 5, the Research Review is completed and will be posted on the DOH website; the feedback from the Subject Matter Expert Committee was summarized, incorporated into the document, and is included in the Appendix of the document. Task 6, the documentation and evaluation of Healthy Start components is prepared and will be distributed to the Subject Matter Expert Committee today. The call today is to begin planning for Task 7, the Redesign Proposal.

Topic: Summary of Research Review

Shelley Robertson provided the summary of the feedback on the Research Review as follows:

A least 80 percent of respondents identified that the risk factors included in the review were within the scope of Healthy Start.

Two additional risk factors were mentioned by at least 25 percent of respondents: homelessness and obesity. Research on these risk factors was found and included where it met the standards.

The most prevalent open-ended comments fell into one of two themes. Each theme is stated below along with how it will be addressed in the redesign process.

- The extent of **the scope of Healthy Start**: Interventions and components will be discussed in depth during the next phase of the redesign process. The Subject Matter

Expert Committee- and other stakeholders – will discuss the target population, depth vs. breadth of services, the scope of Healthy Start, components and interventions, and appropriate client and population outcomes.

- **How evidence standards were applied:** When there available evidence of the standard set, that evidence will determine any recommended changes. When an intervention category is not identified as evidence-based, it does not mean that there is no evidence of effectiveness but that the category did not meet the evidence standards set by the Subject Matter Expert Committee. During the next phase of the redesign process, if there is no available evidence at the standard set, the Subject Matter Expert Committee may use the best available evidence for program improvement but the component will not be considered evidence-based. These components will have a clear plan for evaluation to develop the evidence base.

A question was raised about including the issue of developmental delays as a risk factor. Attendees noted that there are other partners who addressed that risk factor and that Healthy Start can't be all things to all people, but that it is an important issue. Attendees briefly discussed the statute and if this risk factor was included in the statute. Shelley will gather additional information on this topic and it will be brought up when risk factors are discussed. The Department of Health summary of Department and Coalition responsibilities according to statute will be distributed prior to any future calls as a guideline for discussion.

Topic: Distribution of Task 6

As noted, Task 6 will be distributed today. The process for reviewing the assessment of Healthy Start components and services is slightly different in that a spreadsheet will be provided so that the committee can identify page and section and provide additional comments.

Topic: Approach for Task 7, Redesign Proposal

Attendees discussed the four questions proposed to be considered, based on their prior feedback and made changes as noted below.

1. What characteristics need to be considered in selecting the population needing services? This question should include a discussion of the implications of the screening process in light of available resources and the trade-off between depth and breadth, with clear definitions of those terms.
2. What are the outcomes we wish for this population?
3. What should be the scope of Healthy Start?
4. What components and interventions should be included? This question would also include discussing if there will be core and optional services and how to balance local flexibility with fidelity needed for evidence-based practices.

After discussion, the process for addressing these questions will be to schedule conference calls around each question. Two weeks in advance, members will be asked if they would like any specific materials, definitions, or have suggestions for specific items. Any background material will be sent one week in advance.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned.