

HB+ HC Parents as Leaders Discussion/Focus Groups Questions

DRAFT – FOR DISCUSSION INTERNAL PLANNING TEAM – 3/16/15

HB +HC Parent Engagement Key Outcomes:

1. Identifying key areas for critical input, engagement and leadership development among diverse parent/family communities in the region;
2. Improving understanding of the needs, strengths and opportunities for better engaging diverse parent/family communities in EL Hub planning and implementation activities; and
3. Developing common language, goals, and outcomes related to family/community engagement aligned with the EL Hub Strategic Plan.

Target Populations:

- Parents and families most impacted by educational and health disparities.
- Rural, immigrant and refugee, Latino/Hispanic, Tribal, low-income families, and families with children with mental health or developmental/intellectual disabilities.
- Families that are under-served in early childhood care and education programs.
- Parents that could help identify effective practices and policies that ensure access to culturally appropriate, quality programs that meet their needs.

PARENT LEADERSHIP/EMPOWERMENT QUESTIONS:

1. Do you consider XXX County a good place to live? Do you think XXX County is/has become a good place to live for [Latino, rural, special need] families in general?
2. What strengths/assets do you think the [Latinos, rural, special needs] families/community brings to the table? (i.e. social, cultural, economic, etc.)
3. Are you aware of existing resources that benefit the [Latino, rural, special needs] community in your community?
4. Do you think these resources are known by [Latino, rural, special needs] community members? If not, what should be done to make them more visible/accessible to your community?
5. What are the most pressing needs/challenges of the [Latino, rural, special needs] community today? (i.e. transportation, education, housing, health, employment, language, etc.)

6. Have you seen [Latino, rural, special needs] parents/families involved in any volunteering/leadership efforts in your community? What has been your experience?
7. Do you think there are opportunities for [Latino, rural, special needs] parents to develop themselves, their skills, etc. in their communities?
8. What kinds of opportunities would support you in becoming more involved in your community (i.e. preschool, church, school, etc.)

SERVICES AND RESOURCES QUESTIONS:

1. As a parent, what services and resources are important to you to help young children ages 5 or younger learn and develop well? (i.e. child care, preschool, health insurance, child development screenings, parent education, recreation, etc.)
2. What makes it easy or hard to find or use these services and resources? Where did you get this information? What information was difficult to get and why?
3. Where and to whom do you turn if you are worried or have questions about how your child is developing or have a problem with your child?
4. When you want information about resources, activities, and events available in the community to families, where do you go or whom do you ask?
5. Have you enrolled your child in a child care or a preschool program? If not, why? If so, what information was important to you when choosing child care? What do you like most about your child care? What do you not like about it?
6. Have you ever used the Internet when you wanted to find out more about a topic? If so, what types of information would you want on a website that has information on a wide range of topics about children's early learning and development?
7. Are there any other things we haven't discussed today, as a parent/caregiver, you would like the Linn-Benton-Lincoln Early Learning Hub to know about?

Resources Consulted:

Parent Voices; A Closer Look, Washington State Department of Early Learning, 2008.

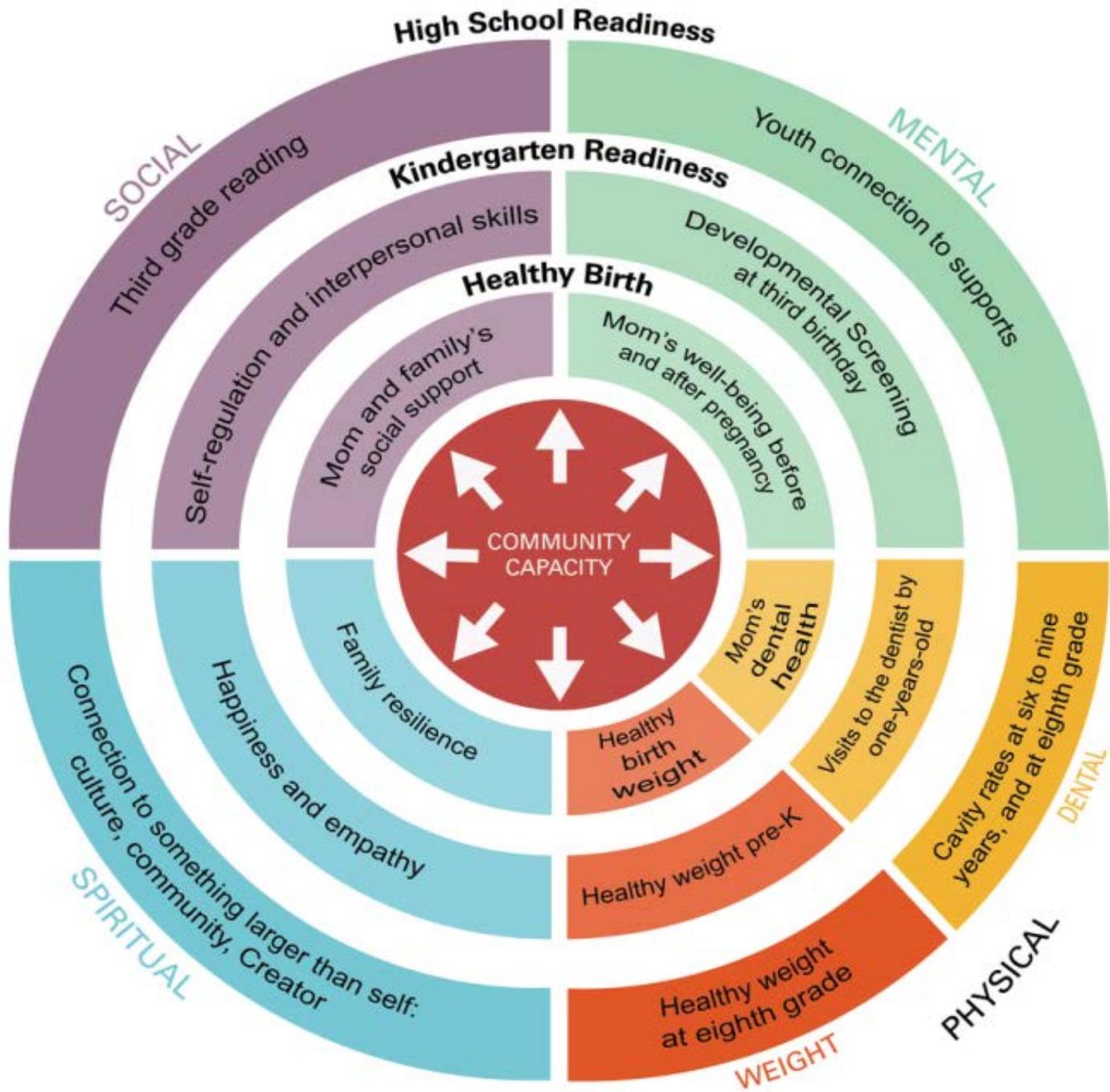
Community Needs and Assets Assessment. Casa Latinos Unidos de Benton County, 2010-11.

Participatory Asset Mapping, A Community Research Lab Toolkit, Advancement Project Healthy City, 2012.

Linn Benton Lincoln Early Learning Hub

Healthy Beginning + Healthy Communities
Parents as Leaders Project / Iniciativa Padres como Líderes





Notes from: Opportunities That the HB+HC Initiative Offers

Nichole Maher, CEO & President NW Health Foundation (NWHF)

- NWHF definition of health is broad: spiritual, oral, physical, mental, social
- Barriers have negative consequences for health – health disparities
 - Policies address these
- You must include representatives of the community when you design a program
- NWHF wants to change systems, policies and advocacy – they want to fund this
 - Demographics are changing - Honor the people and listen to those most impacted by disparities
 - This will result in the greatest improvements to health
- Listen and co-create an agenda together with the people most affected by health disparities. Ask: “What is the most important policy that impacts you?”
 - Listen to communities, invest early in life so families can effect changes
 - What affects a child’s life/health: race, zip code, education, income.... ?
- Theory of change:
 - Legislative priorities: Education – 3 priorities
 1. 3rd grade reading as an outcome
 - Build culture & communities
 - Reduce the chance of ACEs (adverse childhood experiences)
 2. English language learners
 - Give support and you will increase the likelihood of graduation
 3. ???
 - Build capacities of communities to advocate for themselves
- HB+HC is an organizing grant: What they are looking for:
 - Clear leadership from the community – hear from people affected by health disparities
 - Systems transformation, policy & advocacy
 - Think regionally
 - Courage & creativity – advocacy efforts that focus on what your community wants
- Examples:
 - Say our highest priority is.....”
 1. It should be based on the community’s world view
 2. Get to the outcome but use a program designed by the community
 - What should we do?
 1. Move beyond the gatekeeper model
 - Get input from others, as well
 - Get community strengths, then build on them
 2. Move beyond “engagement”. Design meetings to be truly honoring & respecting
 - Legislature impact, in addition:
 1. Impact School Boards too – less than 1% are people of color
 2. Oregon Investment Board – get people of color
- Spiritual Health
 - Include community connection/human connection – this will improve health for kids
- Capacity Building – she likes this approach
- Leadership – throughout what they do
- Play and oral health – grants in early learning