Wed Jan. 23 Meeting Notes Family Engagement

**Welcome and Introductions**

* Rita Crouch, Heather Powell (Hoonah City Schools)
* Noelle Derse (Juneau)
* Many Evans, Kari Sagel (Sitka School District),
* Lori Grassgreen, Lisa Worl, Claudia Plesa (AASB)
* Patrick Mayer (Yakutat)
* Tanya Salmi (Chatham School District)   
  Bart Mwarey (Hydaburg)

**Steps Overview**

15 regional partners working to align work happening in communities starting with Early Childhood and ending with Secondary Education. They are also working to create more collaboration for wrap around services (family engagement, engagement and prevention), and to create more seamless transitions between services and resources. Family engagement is one of the areas STEPS communities will be working on.

**What kind of support is needed? What kinds or resources do you need or are interested in?**

**Current work**

Kari: family survey, working to assess efforts for engaging families

Noelle: consulting and meeting with principals across district around family engagement, did a survey with principals, community partners and families to asses community opportunities

Tanya: Working to create positive, safe spaces within the school and outside in the community for families. Also working to integrate culture and language into school practices.

Bart: Working to create school connection with culture, activities with Elders, support work already happening, immersion program has made substantial progress.

Heather: Monthly family engagement activities including Wooch.een Wednesdays. Winter is slower time in Hoonah which offers good time for activities such as storytelling.

Patrick: looking for community engagement coordinator for Yakutat.

**Needs:**

Kari: Interest in survey instrument for principals (half SEL and half Family Eng.)

Heather: How to acquire funding for food? Family nights are big draw for families, but is difficult to pay for using federal funds- also interested on how to do activities for language and culture (Lori – suggested looking at developing community partnerships to leverage funding which is more flexible.)

Mandy: Ditto on survey sharing and needs examples of effective practices

Heather: How to partner with existing community organizations putting on traditional activities?

Mandy: Best ways to work with grant structures, in her community a steps grant request form as created that links purchase to outcomes and indicators, so any other tools like this.

Noelle: Ideas for professional development, resources for training those doing work in family engagement .

Tanya: How to get admin and teacher buy-in and support for SEL or other positive behavior curriculum or training, need resources for parenting support and classes (not many available for rural districts)?

Lori: How does family engagement build up other things already happening or other goals?

Rita: Might be possible to coordinate using Zoom (or the like) technology to connect families to resources, bring them together and answer questions and help them be engaged.

Patrick: Still searching for community engagement coordinator, but helpful to have someone on board with local contacts.

Bart: Ways to get local older folks and Elders, therapists working with families, (has helped to refer to family members as auntie and grandmas) engaged in family engagement (ask them how they can support the school), make new library more inviting to other activities, so families feel more comfortable and have ways to engage- and have it feel like a neutral space.

Noelle: Juneau grandparents and Elder activities happening through partnerships

**AASB offerings & feedback from group:**

Kari: Project descriptions and what other folks are doing

Noelle: Having a team drive to share resources

Mandy: Framework and best practices nationally, also learning more about what it means to connect

Rita: Excited to learn from others, shared drive

Tanya: Great to hear from others, learn what other Steps partners are doing, framework, and help with knowing ways forward and good practices- sometime we feel lost or like we are not doing enough, good to have support from others doing similar work

Heather: Would like a STEPS newsletter -- would be awesome to see what other communities are doing, and to celebrate successes, and connect across communities and share that with families in Hoonah so they know too.

*Note* – Lisa will follow-up with Doodle survey to schedule next meeting(s) and a different survey to determine what topics and interests group has for upcoming meetings and professional development together.