

Whatcom Taking Action

for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

Working toward an inclusive community that ensures the health and well-being of CYSHCN

What is Whatcom Taking Action?

Whatcom Taking Action for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (or Whatcom Taking Action) is a community partnership working toward a shared vision to improve services to children and families in Whatcom County.

After several community meetings and

planning conferences, community partners established Common Ground and have agreed to work toward a long term goal of a fully collaborative service model to include specifically identified components, and on interim goals.

The partnership currently consists of four

Action Groups, a Coordinating Council, and a Development Team, which all meet regularly to continue their work. The Arc of Whatcom County provides fiscal sponsorship for the group.

The list of Whatcom Taking Action partners is a long one and it continues to grow.

February 2011

VISIT OUR WEB PAGES

http://www.whatcomcounty.us/health/children/taking_action.jsp

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Update: Fall 2010 Community Meeting

Over 50 people attended a Whatcom Taking Action Community Meeting last September. Participants were inspired as they heard from guest speakers from Pope's Kids Place in Centralia, and Yakima's Children's Village. Both of these thriving programs came about as a result of community efforts much like Whatcom Taking Action.

Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions of Diane Patterson (Children's Village) and Dr. Isaac

"Draw some pictures and take a risk!"

Diane Patterson
Children's Village

Pope, Shawn Estrada, and Lisa Cornell (Pope's Kids Place), who shared their experiences and offered to be available to help our community as we continue our work.

The meeting also provided a chance to hear updates about progress being made by each Action Group.

Participant surveys indicated that most people wanted another community meeting, in about 6 months, to cover general updates and to hear about progress

specifically toward: co-located, centralized services; a respite center; and, expansion of the Taking Action partnership.

To borrow a DVD of the meeting, contact Gail Bodenmiller at gbodenmi@whatcomcounty.us



Development Team

At the core of Whatcom Taking Action is the commitment to basing the work on the Common Ground elements that have been generated by the community.

The Development Team (DT) came from the community recommendation to form an intensive working group to focus on the long term vision, and to develop the structure of Whatcom Taking Action.

To those ends, the DT has:

- Drafted Vision, Mission, and Goal Statements

- Developed a visual depiction of the structure of the Whatcom Taking Action collaboration
- Produced an overview and a detailed schematic of a potential co-located model of services
- Composed orientation materials for assisting in establishing a Leadership Team
- Established a financial sponsor relationship with the Arc of Whatcom County
- Planned and held the Fall Community Meeting to accomplish

another of the Common Ground elements: to learn about successful models that other communities have developed



Whatcom Taking Action's Structure

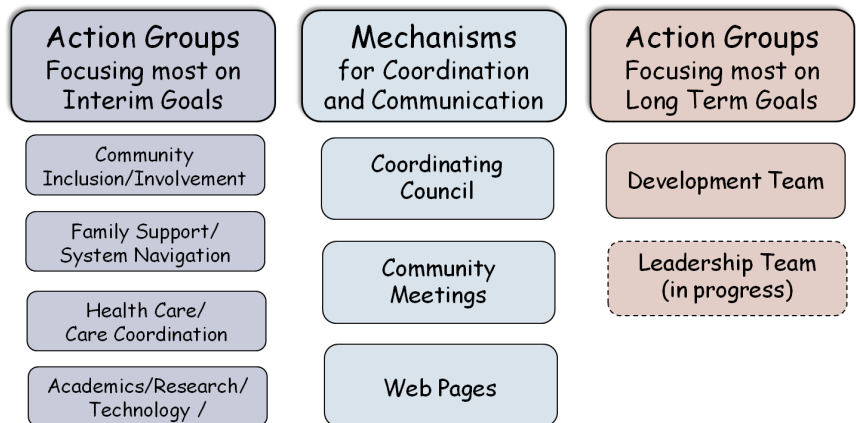
Whatcom Taking Action continues to respond to the needs that have been voiced by our community and to focus on activities that have been agreed upon as Common Ground. Families participate in all aspects of the partnership.

As shown in this graphic, there are four action groups which primarily focus on interim goals, as well as provide input to the Development Team's work.

Coordination and communication is accomplished by regular meetings of the Coordinating Council, (composed of a representative from each group), open Community Meetings, and informational web pages.

All community members are always welcome to attend Action Group meetings and to participate in the ongoing work.

How We Work



All community members welcome to participate!



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Community Involvement/Inclusion Action Group

This group is focused both on meeting social and recreational needs of CYSHCN and on improving the overall level of inclusion of CYSHCN in our community.

One of the group's goals is to find areas of collaboration across recreational, social and leisure services.

The group is working on creating a round table discussion group that will facilitate the continued development of existing resource sharing.

Family Support/System Navigation Action Group

The Family Support/System Navigation Action Group is focusing its activities on:

- Practical support for families
- Accessible local opportunities for respite for both families and children
- System navigation

Members are currently working to:

- Compose informational handouts defining respite and respite resources currently available
- Develop a pilot model to expand respite resources within current childcare settings

- Design and initiate a Super-Sitter training for college students
- Design and implement a centralized web-based system navigation tool for families and providers

Academics/Research/Technology Action Group

The focus of this action group is to link the community to university resources, and to provide technical assistance to other action groups.

The group is currently working on

developing a plan to link students to resources in support of families and to explore the potential of research projects to inform Whatcom Taking Action program development.



Health Care/Care Coordination Action Group

The Taking Action Health Care-Care Coordination Group brings together concerned professionals and parents in order to:

- Pursue the long term goal of a fully collaborative model of health services for children with special health care needs and their families
- Maintain pediatric specialty diagnostic services provided locally by regional outreach clinics
- Expand interdisciplinary evaluation of young children with known or suspected de-

velopmental-behavioral disorders

- Address the impact of the reduction of public health department CSHCN services

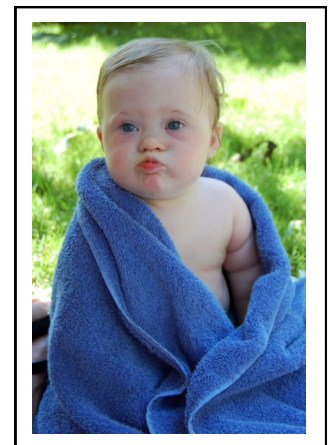
Currently, subgroups are working on four specific components of these goals:

- Transition of pediatric subspecialty clinics from Whatcom County Health Department to a different location in the community
- Development of a detailed clinical model for expanded,

interdisciplinary early childhood developmental evaluation services

- Design and implementation of a centralized single phone number system for families and providers to access services for CYSHCN
- Creating questions to gather data to better describe the population of children and youth with special health care needs in Whatcom County

THIS IS WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO!!



Partners in Whatcom Taking Action

Whatcom Taking Action is proud to say that since our formation in June 2009 we have sustained and expanded our list of partners.

It is the strong, ongoing commitment of individuals and agencies that keeps Whatcom Taking Action moving forward, and for that we thank everyone.

The list includes, but is not limited to, representatives from:

- Families: Parents and Youth
- The Arc of Whatcom County
- Whatcom County Health Department
- Catholic Community Services
- Brigid Collins Family Support Center
- Max Higbee Center

- PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center
- Family Care Network
- Sea Mar Family Health Center



- Lummi Indian Health Clinic
- The Opportunity Council
- Western Washington University
- Parent to Parent of Whatcom County

- Whatcom Center for Early Learning
- Public School Districts
- PeaceHealth Medical Group
- DSHS: Division of Developmental Disabilities and Division of Child and Family Services
- Private Practice Health Care Providers
- Bellingham Parks and Recreation
- And more

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Maureen Godwin: mgodwin66@clear.net
 Marin Kiesau: mlkiesau@yahoo.com
 Margaret Jahn: margjahn@comcast.net
 Gail Bodenmiller: gbodenmi@whatcomcounty.us
 Bobbie Wiley: BobbieW@CCSWW.org