

SPOKANE ORIENTATION HARVEST

SPOKANE REGIONAL COMMUNITY CAFÉ ORIENTATION

FRIDAY, March 4th, 2011

Saturday, March 5th, 2011

9:00AM-3:00PM

Orientation Highlights

Contributing your gift to the circle

Appreciative Inquiry-a Dream, Discover, Design, Deliver process for personal and community leadership

Community Café - Experience a conversation with diverse perspectives what we need to explore our personal relationship to community.

Leadership

- What does authentic leadership mean to you?
- Looking under the tip of the iceberg
- How do you nurture all the parts of yourself?
- As a host, what do you do to bring your whole self into hosting so participants feel encouraged to do the same?
- What does leading from your authentic self look and feel like?

Strengthening Families

- Promoting and working together from the same protective factor framework
- Norming the protective factor framework to fit your own family culture
- What is possible for Spokane if we were intentional about adopting a protective factor framework?

Partnerships and Relationships that strengthen families

- What are the implications of knowing all five protective factors are necessary for a child to thrive?
- What can partnerships with parents do that parent involvement cannot?
- How do we make all kids our business?

Practical applications and planning a Community Café

- Purpose-What are the conversations that build relationships and are related to the Protective Factor framework, (building community, consensus, what

does this protective factor look like in your family, community, how can you/your agency contribute?)

- Invitation-effective invitations fit the culture of the community, are personal, most effective face to face or phone call, (e.g. an effective invitation for the next café is to call people to thank them for coming and invite them to the next)
- Environment-considers the culture of the people coming; people feel welcome, comfortable and identify with the music, art, food and decorations in the room; take time to create a beautiful setting that doesn't require spending any \$\$
- Rather than just providing child care think about hosting a Kid Café so everyone is involved in building protective factors
- Harvest-makes visual to the group the collective wisdom of the group. Allows participants an opportunity to hear and see common threads, patterns, and connect ideas. People are encouraged to doodle, draw or write thoughts, insights, conversation highlights on a paper table cloth so each table conversation becomes visible to the whole group. Table hosts provide highlights to previous conversation so participants can link one conversation to another and hear patterns or common themes in conversations, carry ideas from one conversation to another
- Tips for hosting: (see handout)

Characteristics of powerful questions (suggestions from both groups):

- Open ended
- Vague-can be answered in many ways
- Provocative-invites dissent
- Generates energy
- Asks something hosts are genuinely curious about
- Elicits answers from a personal perspective
- Relevant to the culture and issues of the community
- Simple
- Focuses on what's possible verses asking for solutions to problems
- Is strengths based-assumes people have the wisdom to have the community they want and leadership to have the life they want
- Relates to the purpose of the café and the overall purpose of hosting cafés (strengthening families)
- Invites all perspectives-anyone in the room could answer the question
- Explores themes of ownership and personal commitment
- Invites people to contribute feelings as well as what they know (whole self is welcomed into the conversation)
- Helps to surface the wisdom of the table, "if the table could speak with one voice what would it say?"
- Allows for the story to be shared behind the idea, not just information or knowledge exchange

- There is time in between questions and during the table conversation to reflect before starting or sharing

To grow your learning and connect to a network of others who host Community Cafés contact us to be connected with an experienced host or go to www.thecommunitycafe.com :

- Web and written resources
- Downloadable copy of the full orientation guide that has follow up activities to the orientation you attended
- Invitations to free learning opportunities
- Adding your location to our contacts page so people can contact you if they are interested in attending a café in your area

Hosts are invited to join our group on Facebook, a page intended for hosts to share their questions and harvests, (If you do not have or want a Facebook account, please send your harvests to us and we will post it directly on to the website or blog page.):

http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/home.php?sk=group_194043630607983

We would love to hear from you and invite your thoughts and questions on our blog page accessible through the website or email us at: thecommunitycafe@gmail.com.