

ACCR Child and Family Committee
Meeting Summary
May 12, 2005

Present: Wes Sowers, Dianne Hartman, Fred Fowler, Barbara Brewton, Trish Burton, Nancy Reed, Steve Jewel, Alan Freidman, Barb Wakefield, Tammy Marsico, Michael Reber, Philip Dutch.

We began with introductions and we had four new participants: two from Youth Outreach Union (Michael, Phillip) and two from the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (Alan and Barb). We spent some time hearing from them and giving a brief overview of the Coalition. We had several members who were unable to make the meeting. We noted that the ACCR Recovery Fair was occurring in Market Square at the same time. This ate up a good part of our time, but was informative.

As we agreed at the last meeting, we spent some time reviewing the Recovery-Resiliency Crosswalk and identified further alterations. We agreed that we should still incorporate suggestions made in the past re: the final section of the draft which gives further description of the concepts. These were to be placed under defining concepts.

Resiliency:through ability to

- Understand challenges {Insight}
- Tolerate discomfort
- Act Independently {Independence}
- Develop supportive relationships {Relationships, Humor}
(tolerance, forgiveness, humility, humor)
- Develop positive self concept, value system {Morality, Humor}
- Initiate creative, productive activities {Creativity, Initiative}

Recovery:

- Accept circumstances, tolerate discomfort
- Independence
- Develop supportive relationships, community connections
- Self empower with humility
- Develop skills (humor, forgiveness, honesty, empathy, hope, initiative, productivity)
- Develop positive self concept, value system

In the social context section, we agreed that a change of wording would help the points to flow better. They should after an implied initial clause reading “Resiliency/Recovery occurs in the context of..... The final segment might read “....*awareness* of the presence and impact of violence and social disruption” for example.

We were unable to do much more on the document in this meeting, but ended with an interesting discussion of the semantics of resiliency vs. recovery. Michael noted that recovery didn’t make

sense to many young adults and adolescents, since they had never really developed adequate coping skills in the first place. It made more sense to them to think about developing resiliency as they now started to develop again. It was noted that this was true for many adults as well, and although the crosswalk points to the sameness of the major concepts defining both recovery and resiliency, the common connotations of these words may sometimes create barriers to embracing them. We discussed the universal nature of these processes (everyone has something to recover from.....even if it is not having an opportunity to develop skills in the first place), and how resiliency may better describe this ongoing growth process than “recovery” which is now so well established in the adult lexicon.

We agreed that further discussion of these points would be fruitful. The next meeting was set for June 9 at 12:30 PM at the MHA. In the meantime we will continue outreach to the other potential participants that we identified at the previous meeting.