

SPDG & WI FACETS Partnership 2017 Year End Report



Background

WI FACETS' long partnership with the SPDG grant began in 1999. Initially, the parent center served as the Parent Involvement Hub of the grant, and as such worked with the other grant partners to ensure that parent/family engagement strategies were incorporated throughout the project's other content hubs. WI FACETS involvement with the SPDG has grown and evolved as the project has grown and evolved. In 2007, WI FACETS took on a deeper role on the project, working with other SPDG stakeholders to design the grant application. During the current application process, WI FACETS has been at the table with all of our partners throughout our robust planning process to ensure that family needs and perspectives have been addressed in this grant. The collaboration between our PTI and SPDG and many of the products developed out of this collaboration have been highlighted in many venues as a model partnership between a parent center and an SEA.

Servings on Groups That Make Decisions

With support from SPDG funds WI FACETS has developed the nationally recognized training series, **Servings on Groups That Make Decisions** (<http://www.servingongroups.org>), a guidebook for individuals, but especially family members, who want to make a difference in their community by serving as a member of a decision-making group. The development of the series began in 2007, in recognition that simply inviting families to the table was not enough. Families needed to understand their role and have the skills necessary to meaningfully participate. Serving on Groups training opportunities are offered in multiple formats throughout the year, including face-to-face sessions, webinars, and self-paced modules on the website. Serving on Groups that Make Decisions is an 8-part guidebook covering the following topics:

1. Opportunities to Get Involved
2. Types of Groups
3. Processes for Serving on Groups
4. Tools Groups Use
5. Tips and Strategies for Serving on Groups
6. Understanding Data as Information
7. The Role of Families on Groups
8. Skills for Serving on Groups

Each guidebook section is designed to be able to stand alone so families can customize their learning to their needs. WI FACETS has also developed a condensed version of the training called "Serving on Groups as Multicultural Families" that is designed to be given in shorter time frame, such as at conferences or family nights.

Available Serving on Groups Products

- Serving on Groups Guidebook (English and Spanish)
- Slide Deck with speaker notes (English and shortly available in Spanish)
- Trainer's Manual which includes detailed speakers' notes, procedural directives, engagement activities, resources and culturally responsive protocols
- Web-based modules for each section of Serving on Groups
- An overview video of the product

NATIONAL EXPOSURE

“SCHOOL TEAMS HAVE DONE A BETTER JOB OF RECRUITING PARENTS AND FAMILIES ON TEAMS BY PROVIDING MORE INFORMATION AND SUPPORT TO FAMILIES AS MEMBERS OF A GROUP.”

Serving on Groups Data

Since October of 2015, over 560 parents and professionals have completed guidebook training in some form. 173 of those individuals were trained in 2017.

The trainings given in 2017 have been:

- 1/14/2017: Leading by Convening/Serving on Groups Training
- 1/31/2017: Serving on Groups Sections 1 & 2 Webinar
- 2/7/2017: Serving on Groups Section 3 Webinar
- 2/14/2017: Serving on Groups Sections 4 & 5 Webinar
- 2/21/2017: Serving on Groups Section 6 Webinar
- 2/28/2017: Serving on Groups Sections 7 & 8 Webinar
- 2/6/2017: Understanding Data as Information (Section 6)
- 4/28/2017: Finding the Leader in You (Sections 5, 7, 8) (WSPEI/FACETS collaboration)
- 5/4/2017: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly – Being a Family Leader (Section 8)
- 9/23/2017: Using and Understanding Data (Section 6)
- 9/23/2017: Finding the Leader in You (Sections 7 & 8)
- 11/17/2017: Finding the Leader in You (Sections 5, 7, 8) (WSPEI/FACETS collaboration)
- 11/30/2017: Finding the Leader in You (Sections 5, 7, 8) (WSPEI/FACETS collaboration)

Additionally, 20 professionals in various family engagement roles throughout the state have been trained as trainers. In post training evaluations, participants rated the Serving on Groups training as an 8.7/10 in usefulness.

Those trained as trainers have gone on to train both families and school or district level staff. Trainings have been offered at in-services as well as meetings with special education directors or staff. Trainers have trained on all 8 sections of the guidebook and one person has trained other individuals as trainers. Numbers of individuals trained range from 11-20 to 60+.

Parent Centers in all of the 6 Regional Parent Technical Assistance Center regions have been trained and are able to provide training in their home states on Serving on Groups. In addition, representatives from the National Center for Systemic Improvement and the National TA Center on Deaf-Blindness have been trained. Guidebooks have been disseminated in person through the above listed trainings and by mail order to the following states and centers: Alaska, American Samoa, California, Colorado, Connecticut, EPICS (Native American Parent Training Center), Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Micronesia, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, and primarily in Wisconsin.

Articulate Modules

85% of users have rated the Articulate modules as highly effective in increasing leadership skills, and 93% reported a high level of confidence in their ability to be a productive, engaged member of a decision making group in the future after completing the modules. The participants rated the quality of the modules as 8.85/10. Parents and family engagement professionals make up 64% of those taking the online modules, while various educational professionals and service providers comprise the remainder.

Printed Materials

In March of 2017, a new translation of the guidebook was completed. This process used a translator as well as parents of different Spanish dialects to review the document for family-friendliness, dialect, style, and accuracy. The English version of the guidebook was updated to fix broken links and reprinted in March of 2017. Since April of 2015, over 1,500 copies of the English guidebook and 250 copies of the Spanish guidebook have been disseminated.

Leading by Convening: Developing Family Partnerships



In the previous grant year, the Wisconsin SPDG partnered with WI FACETS, to develop and implement a training series that combined Leading by Convening™ and Serving on Groups That Make Decisions™. This training series was designed to help schools develop readiness to include family and community members on school teams.

This training series will be offered to SPDG cohort schools prior to district and leadership teams partnering with families, and annually throughout the grant period to build capacity for sustainability. The training will include one face-to-face session and four virtual sessions.

Session one introduces participants to Leading by Convening. Our guest speaker, David O'Connor, is an educational consultant for the Department of Public Instruction's American Indian Studies Program. He led participants in a discussion about culturally responsive student and family engagement.

Session two focuses on ensuring relevant participation and developing the network of stakeholders and defining their roles in our work. The session featured guest speakers from schools around the district as well as one of the cohort schools talking about strategies for authentically engaging families.

Session three focuses on "doing the work together," practicing shared leadership, and creating structures for engagement. This presentation focuses on impactful sharing of education-related data with families, including empowerment to use and understand data.

Session four focuses on sustainability and bringing it all together. A nationally recognized speaker who helped to develop the national Leading by Convening curriculum will speak to participants about how to keep the momentum of this work going after the schools are no longer supported by the SPDG grant.

In the final session, the school teams and family participants complete the Serving on Groups training together. The training was adapted to be specific to serving on a professional learning community, and activities are structured to be a true exchange between teams and their new members to prepare them for the shared work ahead.

In the pilot year of providing this training, which culminated in January of 2017, six schools participated and sent various members of their teams, representing administration, regular education and special education. Teams had between two and five participants. None of the teams had family members in decision-making capacities prior to starting the training.

- ◆ All six schools trained parents. One school trained two parents and another school trained a Spanish-speaking parent. (WI FACETS offered interpretation and translated materials, and the interpreters helped the parent interact with her team.)

100% of the participating schools have a family member participating on a PLC team in their school.

- ◆ 27.3% of schools were going to have a parent attend their PLC meetings starting in February; 36.4% by the end of the 2016-17 school year, and 36.4% at the beginning of the 2017-18 school year.
- ◆ The following questions were answered on a scale of 1 – 5, with 1 being High level of support needed and 5 being independent – no need for additional support. They were answered by individuals rather than teams.
 - 72.8% of respondents answered either 4 or 5 for Breaking Down Family Barriers
 - 63.6% answered either 4 or 5 for Putting Shared Leadership Into Practice
 - 54.5% answered either 4 or 5 for Integrating Family Members into Meetings
 - 45.5% answered either 4 or 5 for Onboarding, Training and Supporting Family Members
 - 81.9% answered either 4 or 5 for Sharing Data & Keeping Confidentiality with Family Members
 - 45.5% answered either 4 or 5 for Developing, expanding and improving our school's family partnerships as a whole
- ◆ 81.9% answered that they agreed to strongly agreed that the Serving on Groups training gave their team opportunities for two-way communication with the invited family member about partnering with the school.
- ◆ 91% answered that they agreed to strongly agreed that the Leading by Convening materials were of high quality.
- ◆ 90.9% answered that they agreed to strongly agreed that the Leading by Convening series increased their awareness of resources or strategies to meet SPDG family partnerships goals.
- ◆ 63.7% agreed to strongly agreed that the Leading by Convening series helped them achieve their SPDG related goals.

The second year of Leading by Convening data is still forthcoming. So far, participants have rated the material as 3 out of 4 for quality, usefulness and relevance. Participants have rated their awareness of resources and strategies to meet SPDG goals as 3 out of 4.

Family Engagement Newsletter

WI FACETS produces a monthly newsletter that is disseminated throughout the state. Each month, the newsletter goes directly to over 2,800 participants via email through listservs and direct email sign-up through the www.servingongroups.org website.

The newsletter focuses on one special education related topic every month and includes an impact story, recent research, a statewide organization, and online resources related to that topic. The newsletter also features statewide trainings and webinars, instructional trends, and in-home learning strategies on literacy and mathematics for families to implement in the home.

Topics for 2017 included:

- Communication
- Emotional Behavioral Disability
- ADD/ADHD
- Speech and Language
- Learning Disabilities
- Intellectual Disabilities
- Autism
- Transition
- Early Childhood
- Mental Health
- Other Health Impairment
- Assistive Technology



60% of newsletter readers indicated that they share the newsletter with parents, increasing the indirect reach to families. 78.72% indicated that they read the newsletter almost always or often. Most sections of the newsletter were rated useful or very useful by 70% or more of readers.

Quotes about the Newsletter:

- This is the most intelligent, comprehensive, useful and most shared resource I have in my arsenal to help advocate for my son! Thank you for providing this every month.
- I just have to say - I love the Family Engagement Newsletter! It's so well done. I really appreciate the CCR-IEP process steps being individually highlighted and reviewed in each newsletter. Great idea!
- Thanks, Wendy! These newsletters are so incredibly informative, and you are amazing! I share them with staff and families and they really appreciate the information.
- Thank you for making this a publicly shared resource.