




WeGo Together for Kids
West Chicago, Illinois

Planning with Cultural and Linguistic
Competence in Mind
June 22, 2009 Webinar



West Chicago Elementary School District 33

A suburb 30 miles west of the city of Chicago

Birth-3 and K-8

3,800 students – 2008

4,200 students – 2009

Student population

69% Hispanic, 2% Black, 53% low income

District 33 is the largest employer in the city with
over 600 employees.

WeGo Together for Kids

- 2005 Safe Schools/Healthy Students award
- 2009 Final no cost extension year
- Initiative has been integrated into the operations of the district as a department.





Strengths and Concerns of Community

- Many families at risk
 - English is a second language
 - Low literacy in Spanish as well as English
 - Low income
 - Parents working multiple jobs to afford basic needs
 - Many young parents
- Many two parent families
- Family is a strong priority
- The philosophy of “in the best interest of the child” is pervasive



Planning and program development process

Step 1

1. Coalition identified need for prevention and promotion based on family risk factors
2. What is the goal of the provider who wants to provide the program?
3. Does the community feel a need for the service?



Planning and program development process

Step 2

4. What resources are currently in place?
5. What are the characteristics of successful parent/family programs?
6. If the programs are culturally competent, what would be achieved?



Planning and program development process


Step 3

7. Consider barriers, consider advantages

- *Parent education programs are poorly attended*
- *School programs such as open house and parent teacher conferences are well attended*
- *Programs with food, childcare, raffles or giveaways draw more families*

8. Set goals

- *Provide programs that everyone feels welcome*
- *Provide opportunities for bridges to be built between the Spanish speaking and English speaking families*



Planning and program development process notes

- Every program is planned with our goals in mind
- We invite parents to be a part of the planning as often as they are available
- All materials and speakers are provided in both languages
- Education programs are provided in English and Spanish, we do not use translators for parent education
- Connect with natural community leaders
- We use word of mouth and personal invitations to promote events

Challenges

- Our new challenge is the increasing population of urban African American moving into West Chicago
 - The African American families and Latino families have different styles of interacting

Successes

- Family Nights
- Navigating the American Education System
<http://www.dupage.k12.il.us/NAES/index.html>