

LOCUS Stipend Progress Report – Public Health Initiative

Completed:

- Proposal of > 20 initiatives for inclusion in Marquette Elementary School's curriculum
  - Includes multiple proposed community partnerships, including:
    - Dane County Master Gardener program
    - Volunteer chefs
    - UW Extension Youth Nutrition Educators
    - UWSMPH through programs such as DOC talks
    - UW Health physicians, including a planned talk at Marquette by Dr. Dave Rakel
    - Slow Foods Madison, WI Chapters
    - Local food co-ops, example Willy Street Co-op
    - Fit City Madison
    - Covering the Uninsured/ Covering Kids and Families – Wisconsin
    - Local yoga instructors
    - Montessori schools and educators in Dane Co.
- Formation of a Public Health Initiative Guide, providing valuable information for similar projects in Dane County schools
  - Includes > 30 public health initiatives with contact information and available resources
  - Grant opportunities
  - Community volunteers and partnerships
  - Public health programs proven successful at Marquette Elementary School
- Attended School Health Initiatives Midwestern Regional Conference: Indianapolis, IN, July 23-24, 2008
  - Identified potential resources/collaborations
  - Provided with many instances of successful school health initiative programs
  - Networked – provided copies of the Public Health Initiative Guide to interested individuals

In Progress:

- Grant writing is in progress/completed for several funding opportunities specific to the Marquette Elementary Initiative:
  - WMS Community Grant – Application due in October 2008
  - Madison Community Foundation – Initial letter of interest completed

- Collaboration with Population Health Sciences to create a scientifically valid survey to demonstrate any behavioral changes/increased knowledge after successful implementation of public health programs into Marquette Elementary School

#### Future Directions/Goals:

- Waiting for approval from school staff to proceed with specific public health initiatives
  - Proposed timeline:
    - 1<sup>st</sup> semester – Fall 2008: Propose and promote public health initiatives to school staff/community for support
      - Provide Powerpoints, informational documents to promote specific programs
      - Invite into the school individuals in the community targeted for collaboration to inspire staff
        - Examples: Dr. Dave Rakel, Willy Street Co-op representative, Master Gardener representative, volunteer local chef
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> semester – Spring 2008: Implement accepted/supported public health initiatives into the curriculum
      - Provide before/after surveys to determine impact on school, students, families, and community
        - If positive change found, provide this information to Dane County schools and potentially publish these results
- Continue promotion/distribution of the Public Health Initiative Guide:
  - Distribute hard copy of Guide to Dane County schools
  - Provide copy of Guide on LOCUS website
  - Promote the Guide to LOCUS members/other individuals interested in pursuing similar projects
  - Promote the Guide at the Healthy Classrooms Symposium
  - If positive change found with pilot at Marquette School, have another push to promote the Guide

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