The PYRAMID Partnership Summit
Parents and Youth Reaching Amazing Milestones with Initiative and Dedication
May 5 - 6, 2011 * Daytona Beach, FL

EVALUATION SHORT REPORT

The thrive by five (tb5) collaborative was formed after the February 2009 release of a study published by One Voice for Volusia’s Community Agenda initiative titled **thrive by five: ensuring hope, health and happiness in early childhood.** A Steering Committee of agency leaders was named and tasked with developing a Strategic Plan.

Goals of the tb5 collaborative:
- Volusia and Flagler Counties children are prepared to enter kindergarten ready to learn.
- Volusia and Flagler Counties children are emotionally and physically healthy.

Values of the holistic service delivery system:
- Collaboration not competition.
- Networking not fragmentation.
- Screening and assessment should initiate service.
- Dollars and assessment information follow the child.
- Begin with prevention not treatment.
- Service providers have to build a “no wrong door” culture.
- Services are family centered.
- All sectors of the community are engaged in and supportive of the systems.

To strengthen partnerships to build an integrated community system that supports the healthy development and well-being of young children and their families, within safe and supportive neighborhoods in Volusia and Flagler Counties, the tb5 collaborative invited parents/family members and provider representatives to a two-day summit on May 5-6, 2011 to utilize the view from “on the balcony” to advocate for the youngest children and their families.

The purpose of the summit was to develop a plan to engage, support, build, and maintain family involvement in the early childhood system of care so that families can become full collaborative partners to work together at all levels of Volusia and Flagler Counties:
- in the community system,
- in individual agencies, and
- for their own families.

Data collection tools were developed by the Research and Evaluation Team at the Georgetown University National Technical Assistance Center for Children’s Mental Health, Center for Child and Human Development to determine the utility, quality, impact, and effectiveness of the summit. The results from the pre-post surveys and overall evaluations are summarized in this short report.

The PYRAMID Partnership Summit was supported by the Florida Department of Health with development and facilitation provided by the Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development
Respondents: Participants were asked to write in their role on the pre-post surveys. More specifically, the role of family member included the following responses: parent, mother, father, and parent consumer. The role of provider included the following responses: professional, family resource specialist, clinical director, provider agency staff, agency employee, head start staff, resource coordinator, manager, supervisor, care coordinator, occupational therapist, social worker, teacher, executive director, health department worker, and children’s mental health provider.

Evidenced by the role breakdown, respondents to the pre- and post-surveys included strong family and provider constituencies.
Overview: Eighty-three of the summit participants completed the pre-survey and 65 respondents completed the post-survey. Respondents were asked to rate the following items on a scale of 1 (not at all, extremely unlikely) to 5 (extremely, extremely likely).

Results:
Results from the pre-post survey indicate that the summit was successful in raising awareness around services and supports, bringing stakeholders together to begin creating an action plan to build and maintain family involvement, reaffirming priorities, and strengthening beliefs around the importance of families and providers working as partners to enhance the quality of life for young children and their families in Volusia and Flagler Counties.

The largest increase was seen in respondents’ awareness of the services and supports needed by young children and their families in Flagler & Volusia Counties to enhance quality of life (mean rating=+0.51). Also, respondents demonstrated an increased belief that the summit will help families and providers become full partners with each other to enhance the quality of life for young children & their families (mean rating=+0.41).

An Unpaired T Test revealed significance values of less than .05 for items 1-5. Therefore, there is a significant difference between pre- and post-survey ratings for these questions. The summit did lead to changes in awareness and beliefs for the respondents.
Respondents: A total of 68 respondents completed the overall evaluation and indicated their primary area of work and role.

Primary Area of Work:

- Advocacy: 8%
- Child Welfare: 5%
- Cultural and Linguistic Competence: 1%
- Early Intervention/Special Education: 7%
- Education: 11%
- Early Childhood: 17%
- Family/Youth Support: 13%
- Health: 8%
- Interagency Collaboration: 1%
- Mental Health: 4%
- Substance Abuse: 4%
- Tribal Issues: 1%
- Other: 14%
- State level planner/administrator/policymaker: 1%
- Community level planner/administrator/policymaker: 8%
- Family Organization Administrator: 6%
- Technical Assistance Provider: 3%
- Service Provider: 23%
- Advocate: 11%
- Parent/Caregiver: 38%
- Researcher/Academician: 2%
- Other: 4%
- Parent/Caregiver: 38%
- Researcher/Academician: 2%

The “Other” category for primary area of work included parents/family members, family involvement, child care, and nutrition.

The “Other” category for role included home visitor, facilitator, speaker, and student.
**Overall Structure**: On a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent), respondents were asked to rate the structure of the summit (n=68)
- All of the items around structure were rated extremely high
- The mean rating for the summit overall was a 4.84 with 100% of respondents rating the item a 4 (good) or 5 (excellent)
- Other highly rated items include:
  - Usefulness of information
    - Mean=4.74
    - 98% of respondents rated the item a 4 or 5
  - Effectiveness of the presenters
    - Mean=4.74
    - 100% of respondents rated the item a 4 or 5
  - Quality of the information and discussions
    - Mean=4.72
    - 100% of respondents rated the item a 4 or 5

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**Overall Structure (n=68)**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Mean Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q1. Format</td>
<td>4.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2. Quality</td>
<td>4.72</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q3. Usefulness</td>
<td>4.74</td>
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<td>Q4. Effectiveness</td>
<td>4.74</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q5. Facilitation</td>
<td>4.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q6. Materials</td>
<td>4.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q7. Accommodations</td>
<td>4.71</td>
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<td>Q8. Overall Summit</td>
<td>4.84</td>
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</tbody>
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“The summit has given me renewed faith that together our goals and ideas will become a reality!”
Overall Evaluation (cont’d)

**Overall Structure (cont’d):** On a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent), respondents were asked to rate the structure of the summit (n=68)

- Results indicate that the summit was extremely successful in creating “a welcoming environment for family input”
  - Mean=4.79
  - 98% of respondents rated the item a 4 or 5
- The summit was extremely successful in providing “a supportive, safe environment for our work to build and maintain family involvement”
  - Mean=4.78
  - 100% of respondents rated the item a 4 or 5
- The summit was extremely successful in “providing information and strategies from others that I can use in my work to build and maintain family involvement”
  - Mean=4.78
  - 97% of respondents rated the item a 4 or 5
- Although slightly lower than other items in this section, respondents still indicated that the summit was very successful in providing “sufficient networking opportunities”
  - Mean=4.59
  - 97% of respondents rated the item a 4 or 5

“I enjoyed learning about new things, meeting new people, and sharing ideas!”
Meeting Components: On a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), respondents were asked to rate the helpfulness of the meeting components (n=68)

- The highest rated items included:
  - Day 2: Report Out of Action Steps (mean=4.73)
  - Day 2: Articulating of Possibilities Part 3 (Dot Activity: Identifying Priorities, Developing an Action Plan) (mean=4.72)
  - Day 1: Collaboration Activity (mean=4.71)
  - Day 2: Articulating the Possibilities Part 1 (Re-Assessing the Current Situation, Generating Action Items) (mean=4.69)
  - Day 2: Articulating the Possibilities Part 2 (Development of Theme Statements) (mean=4.69)

- Although the mean rating was still high, the lowest rated meeting component was Day 1: Laying the Foundation Part 2 (Beach Metaphor, Articulating the Possibilities) (mean=4.55)
**Impact:** On a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), respondents were asked to indicate how successful the summit was in accomplishing certain objectives (n=68)

- Respondents felt very strongly about the following items:
  - The summit increased their awareness of the value added of collaborative partnerships (mean=4.79)
  - The action plan developed was a good plan (mean=4.78)
  - The summit broadened their perspective on family involvement (mean=4.74)
  - The summit helped establish agreement on common goals held by stakeholders (mean=4.74)

- Although the mean rating was still high, the lowest rated item with regard to impact was the likelihood that the action plan will get implemented (mean=4.49)

  ➢ **Recommendation:** Next steps to ensure implementation of the action plan seem pivotal to moving the work of building and maintaining family involvement forward in Volusia and Flagler Counties

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**Overall Impact**

(n=68)

| Q22. Broad diversity of stakeholders | 4.75 |
| Q23. Engaging stakeholders in the vision | 4.69 |
| Q24. Creating a collective sense of the current reality | 4.68 |
| Q25. Perspectives of families to help guide the work | 4.69 |
| Q26. Creating a collective sense of direction by determining structures & processes | 4.78 |
| Q27. Developing partnerships & collaborations between families & providers | 4.69 |
| Q28. Creating a collective sense of commitment | 4.73 |
| Q29. Creating a collective sense of direction by developing an action plan | 4.75 |

Mean Ratings (1=Strongly Disagree, 5=Strongly Agree)

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*“Networking and coming up with an action plan that can be implemented is a start on getting things changed.”*
Overall Evaluation (cont’d)

**Impact (cont’d):** On a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), respondents were asked to indicate how much they agreed with the following statements (n=68)

After attending the PYRAMID Partnership Summit...

- I have **new skills/tools/knowledge** that I can apply to our Counties’ work to build and maintain family involvement (mean=4.32)
- I will **approach my work in new ways** (mean=4.35)

Respondents described the following new skills/tools/knowledge that they gained after attending the summit:

- Increased knowledge and understanding of the current reality for young children and their families in Volusia and Flagler Counties, needed services and supports to improve the quality of life for young children, resources, family support options, parent trainings, available programs in the community, the early learning collaborative, laws, and the importance of networking within the community
- Broadened perspective on how individual experiences may differ but the passion to create change can be shared
- Increased strategies on how to collaborate, reach out to others with similar difficulties, work together to provide needed services, gain support, support others, stay connected with the community, become and remain involved with the community, and advocate for change
- Increased ability to share experiences with others, network with parents, network with providers, communicate needs, help their families, speak out for the community, develop strategies, handle multiple issues, take action, create new ideas, and create change
- Increased confidence to continue strengthening family involvement
- Increased sense of connectedness, unity, respect, and open-mindedness

Respondents described the following new ways to approach their work to build and maintain family involvement after the summit:

- Continue to seek out knowledge and learning opportunities
- Share information, teach others, encourage and provide guidance to others, and contact agencies to obtain more information
- Increase involvement with the community and schools, join groups, participate in activities, attend meetings, attend the Early Learning Coalition's quarterly parent forum, and start a centralized resources center
- Continue to collaborate, build relationships with peers and partners, think in terms of we instead of I, stay connected with other participants, expand network of contacts, bring more parents together, connect parents with providers, and maintain contact with One Voice for Volusia
- Engage in self-care and plan more family outings
- Keep an open mind, stay hopeful and remain aware
- Create new ideas and advocate for change
- Follow through on action plan steps and try to have an impact
Overall Evaluation (cont’d)

Impact (cont’d): When asked to please list 3 action steps that they will take in the next few months to build and maintain family involvement, respondents shared the following:

- Collaborate more effectively by...
  - Involving all family members
  - Guiding other parents
  - Reaching out to different partners, provider agencies, and leaders in the community
  - Staying connected with other participants
  - Setting up meetings with work group members
  - Following up with contacts
  - Organizing an activity that everyone will enjoy
  - Joining family involvement groups
  - Contacting faith-based organizations
  - Contacting pediatricians and hospitals
  - Taking care of one another -- “having each other’s backs”

- Foster better communication by listening, inquiring and asking questions, providing feedback, working harder to reach more families, talking to other families, and increasing availability

- Learn more about different agencies, resources for families, community resources, and physicians in Volusia and Flagler Counties

- Use available resources

- Create change by...
  - Sharing the importance of family involvement with others
  - Continuing to learn
  - Developing an agenda and working on a theme
  - Staying focused on the goal to maintain family involvement
  - Advocating more
  - Providing better services and optimal customer service
  - Getting answers
  - Being more involved in law making
  - Voting
  - Writing letters to government officials and the legislature
  - Attending public meetings to share viewpoints
  - Holding a public meeting on strengthening family involvement
  - Being more involved with the school system
  - Becoming involved with Head Start
  - Serving on boards
  - Attending classes
  - Doing more research
  - Writing proposals
  - Implementing strategies
  - Following through on steps from summit action plan

“I like how the summit was a collaborative effort instead of one way and one way only.”
What respondents liked or valued most about the summit:
- Personal interaction
- Meeting new people with shared interests
- The sense of comradery with families and providers coming together
- Having a forum for families and providers to be heard
- Feeling involved
- Having the opportunity to work together
- Opportunity to bond
- Depth of family involvement in the summit
- Diverse group of participants
- Networking opportunities
- Team work and work groups
- Welcoming, caring, comfortable and accepting environment that allowed all to speak confidently and without hesitation
- Supportive sharing of personal experiences and points of view
- Commonalities shared
- Ability to think freely, generate and share ideas
- Knowledge gained
- Learning about resources and knowing who to contact for help
- Overcoming challenges as a team
- Organization of the summit
- Hands on activities
- Presentations
- Seeing the potential to build family support options
- Development of an action plan for the future
- Working towards accomplishing the vision
- The sense of movement generated

What respondents liked or valued least about the summit:
- A number of respondents answered this question by stating nothing or NA
- Many of the respondents noted that there was too little time and more days were needed
- One respondent thought day 1 was too long and suggested breaking the summit into 3 days
- One respondent noted that there was a lot of talking
- One respondent wrote down public speaking
- One respondent commented on the lack of representation from Child Support Enforcement
- One respondent noted condescending comments the first morning
- One respondent commented on the sense of entitlement to help by some people
- One respondent indicated that not all participants wanted to take part in the action list
- One respondent shared that they were unable to see the presenter flipchart from their seat
- A number of respondents commented on the cold room
- One respondent wrote down lunch
- One respondent noted that there was no coffee
- One respondent noted that there was no bottled water

“It has been very helpful to gain a clearer understanding of where Volusia and Flagler Counties are in terms of how they/we view family support.”
Feedback & Next Steps (cont’d)

**Challenges respondents could imagine getting in the way of implementation of the action plan in the next 6 months:**
- Personal concerns and other commitments
- Time constraints
- Lack of a defined timeline
- Time for others to get on board
- Busy schedules and active lifestyle of parents
- Stress
- Frustration
- Lack of child care and/or transportation (location barrier)
- Lack of trainers and/or materials
- Lack of opportunities to work together
- Lack of defined milestones
- Lack of interest or motivation to follow through on action steps
- Lack of confidence in individual level impacts
- Lack of information on who to contact for help
- Finding effective communication pathways
- Stubbornness
- Negative advice
- Funding issues
- Legislature and failure of government to respond

**Additional ideas to help support peer networking between attendees:**
- Develop a contact list with names, emails and telephone numbers and share the information with participants to facilitate continued contact
- Send progress updates to participants
- Share new contacts with other participants
- Develop a newsletter
- Develop a website
- Meet with work group to continue working on the action steps
- Hold additional summits to further the work to build and maintain family involvement – quarterly, if possible
- For the next summit...
  - have each participant bring another individual that would benefit from participating
  - invite more representatives from different places
  - encourage participants to sit at different tables for each section of the agenda
- Reach out to the community and continue educating others
- Set time aside for networking
- Provider agencies partnering to support “client” parents
- Encourage provider agencies to share family support activities through community connection
- Go to parent forums in your community
- Contact government officials to share information and get them involved in the change process
- Reach out to the community and continue educating others
- Set time aside for networking
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Feedback & Next Steps (cont’d)

**Follow-up activities that would be most helpful:**

- Hold additional summits on building and maintaining family involvement
- Invite additional participants to the next summit
- Hold meetings on specific topics of discussion from the summit
- Hold follow-up parent forums in the community
- Explore funding for an annual retreat to maintain focus on strengthening family involvement
- Provide other networking opportunities
- Provide opportunities for community outreach
- Consider follow-up with other community stakeholders
- Continue communication pathways between families and providers
- Employ strategies learned at the summit
- Use newly discovered resources
- Contact provider agencies for assistance
- Continue to make community connections
- Continue involvement with Early Learning Coalition
- Talk to child care providers
- Contact and write letters to the legislature
- Follow through on action steps from the summit
- Follow-up with participants to track action steps (via email or telephone)
- Develop accountability mechanisms
- Exchange contact information
- Find a way to keep in contact with other participants
- Contact members of your work group to monitor progress towards goals
- Hold biweekly work group meetings
- Meet with work group on a regular basis to brainstorm and overcome obstacles
- Receive updates on the progress of other work groups

“Everything is possible!”

For more information on the thrive by five collaborative, please contact Lynn Kennedy, One Voice for Volusia, at Lynn@ovfv.org

For more information on the evaluation of the PYRAMID Partnership Summit, please contact Lan Le, MPA, at ltl5@georgetown.edu or Bruno Anthony, Ph.D., at bja28@georgetown.edu