

4-1-2010

Community Connections

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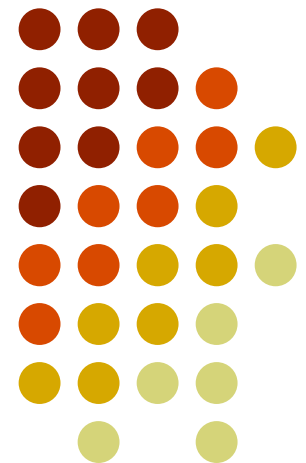
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Kemper Internship
Becca Williams

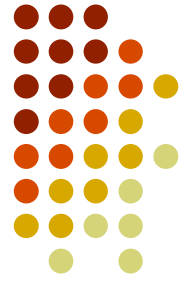


Experiences Leading up to Internship



- Research for Sociology Thesis
 - “We’ve Got to Come Together: *Networking to Meet the Need in a Small Oregon Community*”
 - Field work and interviews with service providers
 - Research highlighted gaps and overlaps in the social services
 - Wanted a practical application to research

Commission on Children and Families



- “2-1-1”
 - Social service hotline
 - Resource for community members and providers
- **Listserve** – an email group
 - Service Providers can pose questions and share information with others doing similar work
- **Networking Meetings**
 - Community Compassion Brown Baggers

Goals of Internship



Facilitate Community Collaboration

1. Strengthen Knowledge of Providers
2. Develop a Communication System
3. Inform Providers of Networking Opportunities
4. Identify Gaps in the Database

Accomplishments



1. Shared information about 2-1-1 and the Listserve at the community events
2. Developed “Who to Contact” materials
3. Promoted the provider Listserve at networking meetings
4. Compiled a list of Networking opportunities for Service Providers

Accomplishments



- Increased use of email network group
 - 16 new members (48 total)
 - Increased usage:
 - January 2010 – 1 message sent
 - February 2010 – 10 messages sent
 - March 2010 – 21 messages sent
 - April 2010 – 20 messages sent
 - May 2010 – 29 messages sent

Challenges



- Is 211 actually effective?
 - Service providers and community members are skeptical
 - Problems with system
 - call center located outside the county
 - all resources not listed, difficult to find in database



What I Gained

- Became more aware of my ability to synthesize and help others connect
- Learned about the environment in which I work best
 - Allows for initiative
 - Opportunity to 'check-in'
 - Encouragement