

Clay County Collaborative

Successful Partnerships building Successful Families

Coordinator's report

The past three weeks have flown by. I have learned so much that it seems like I have been on the job for three months! Let me update you on what I've been doing.

This week I finished my orientation with Barb Eiden-Molinaro. She has most helpful and encouraging – and patient -- as I work to synthesize all of the information she sends my way. She has been just great to work with and I look forward to being her colleague.

By meeting time I will have met with all of the superintendents and the project staff. I have met many of you on the CCJPC board at meetings of the Finance committee, Governance agreement group, and those involved in LCTS . In addition, I have had the great privilege of meeting with many executive directors of the non-profits that have been involved in various work groups and meetings held during the transition process. In these conversations I have learned a great deal about the work of the Collaborative, the potential for new projects as well as the work of these organizations we will soon welcome as new partners in the Collaborative. I am also in the process of gathering information about who will represent each of the partner organizations in the work groups and on new boards. In the upcoming weeks I will be organizing the first work group meetings with the goal of having all groups meeting by November 11.

Barb invited me to meet the Region 3 coordinators at a meeting on September 29. I look forward to attending their meeting again on October 26. While Clay County has met with Region 2 in the past, I have taken the opportunity to attend the Region 3 meetings in order to meet other coordinators and to learn more from them about how other collaboratives work and what they do. The next meeting for coordinators from Region 2 is scheduled for November 14.

I have had a fruitful meeting with Steph Dauenhauer from the Auditor's office. I intend on working closely with her and the employing partners in overseeing the expenditure of Collaborative funds under the new organizational structure.

The old Collaborative office is empty. Boxes Cynthia left were moved to storage in empty offices assigned to Social Services. By now the office answering machine has been disconnected and the office number will not appear with the rest of the Clay County offices in the next Qwest phone book.

In conclusion, I would like to express to all of you how much I admire you for taking the steps you have made in an effort to evolve into a more effective Collaborative. I have sensed a feeling of excitement about the future as I have talked with executive directors and others in leadership positions. I have also been able to share my excitement about the new structure. As a lifelong educator, I have always enjoyed that feeling of fall in the air and the chance to start all over again. It is indeed a new day for the Clay County Collaborative and I am excited to enter into the process of change with you!