



BEST BEGINNINGS

Alaska's Early Childhood Investment

Best Beginnings Homer

c/o Homer Public Health Center, 195 Bunnell Avenue, Ste. C, Homer, AK 99603

A coalition of non profit agencies and individuals supporting early childhood education in the Homer area.

Co-Chair

Bonnie Betley,
Homer Public Health
907-235-8857

Co-Chair

Lolita Brache,
Kachemak Kids Early Learning
Center

Treasurer

Liz Cupp
Homer Public Health Center
907-235-8857
Fiscal Agent: Sprout

Contract Coordinators

Jenny Martin
907-435-7101
Red (Lisa) Asselin
907-399-1567

FY14 Work Group Leaders:

Community Awareness

Margarete Wisner,
South Pen. Behavioral Health

Language & Literacy

Ann Dixon,
Homer Public Library Director

Parent Engagement & Education

Jenny Fonkert,
Parent

Playspaces

Kate Crowley,
Parent

Business & Economic Impact

Hanna Young,
Homer Head Start teacher

Best Beginnings Homer has developed a 5 yr Strategic Plan based on specific requirements from our grantor, Best Beginnings (statewide), and our local community needs. This Strategic Plan was created by our coalition leaders with input from parents, professionals and community members who support early education. Each Spring, our coalition as a whole reviews our progress and creates a new operating plan for the upcoming year based on our Strategic Plan.

FY14 Goals:

Community Support

- Increase awareness about early education in local community (i.e. Week of the Young Child events, Community Café with Rotary Health fair, PSAs and advertising, etc.)
- Increase awareness and participation early education legislative issues (i.e. Family Meeting with Legislators, testifying and writing legislators, etc.)

Language & Literacy

- Increase access and use of literacy resources.
- Increase attendance at literacy trainings and presentations for parents, caregivers, and professionals.
- Increase accessibility and use of literacy services (i.e. storytimes, outreach programs, Imagination Library, etc.)

Parent Engagement & Education

- Increase accessibility and use of home visiting programs (Parents as Teachers, Head Start, etc).
- Increase attendance at early education / parenting class trainings and presentations.

Playspaces

- Increase quantity and accessibility to safe and developmentally appropriate indoor and outdoor playspaces for young children. (i.e. Adopt a Park / Bayview Park, Toddler playgroups, Community Center advocacy, etc.)

Business & Economic Impact

- Increase number of quality child care programs in community (i.e. mini grants for providers, advocacy and support for training, etc.)
- Increase number of family friendly businesses within local business community (for both customers and employees).



Best Beginnings Homer Coalition Partners

- Our coalition partners with over 18 different groups/sectors ranging from professionals and early learning programs to parents and individual community members.
- Over 60 volunteers and members on our email list serve that participate on various levels
- BBH is also a work group member within our MAPP community coalition and provides MAPP with all quarterly and yearly stats from each year's projects and events.
- Here are just some of our partners:
 - Sprout Family Services
 - Homer Head Start
 - Homer Public Health
 - Homer Public Library
 - South Peninsula Hospital Pediatric Unit
 - Child Care Centers
 - Paul Banks Elementary & PreK
 - South Pen. Behavioral Health
 - & The Children's Program
 - City of Homer
 - Kachemak Bay Research Reserve
 - SVT
 - Office of Children Services & GALS
 - Thread
 - Haven House
 - Kachemak Bay Family Planning
 - Homer Foundation
 - Homer Job Center
 - Alaska Center for Resources
 - Kachemak Bay Campus
 - UAA Early Learning programs
 - Many local businesses, parents, caregivers, and community members!

Funding

- 37% from Best Beginnings Alaska (\$45,000 in FY14. Since FY10, our funding has increased due to positive results from our projects and motivated partners and volunteers.)
- 3% from local grant writing and donations (\$4,000 estimated FY14.)
- 60% Inkind Donations (\$74,000 estimated FY14 from partners and volunteers assisting with projects and events.)

How our coalition functions:

- Monthly coalition meetings to review work group progress and planning for upcoming events. CoChairs, Coordinators, Work Group Leaders and other members present.
- Work Groups meet as needed to address their operational plans and projects.
- 2 paid part-time contract coordinators assist work groups with projects, grant writing, and fulfilling grant reports.
- Monthly email updates about work group progress and upcoming members events are sent to all members and posted on our MAPP work group page and our BBH Facebook page.
- Strategic Planning happens annually in April during our Week of the Young Child / Professionals Community Café. CoChairs, Coordinators, Work Group Leaders, other members, and new community professionals and individuals meet during a working lunch to review the year's progress and outline goals and an operational plan for the upcoming fiscal year.