

Marin Respite and Childcare Collaborative MRCC's Goals and Accomplishments

The LaChris Connection's development and facilitation of Marin Respite & Childcare Collaborative - MRCC began early 2007. Following a year of meeting monthly to review service gaps in respite needs of families with special needs, we developed the below "Action Plan".

Our #1 goal *below, was 'fast-tracked' by a serendipitous collaboration with the for-profit, Boston based company, "care.com". Care.com invited us to partner with them in the creation of a branch of services that caters to the population with special needs. This effort resulted in a ***national resource for families*** of children and adults with special needs! Also, as TLC and MRCC continue to implement recruitment strategies of respite providers, care.com is available to screen, vet and do background checks on all registered candidates!

Please see the story of the MRCC / care.com collaboration on our website at <http://www.lachrisconnection.org/carecom-story.htm>. This nine month project culminated in January of 2009. Immediately following, MRCC joined forces Marin Autism Council by attending their meetings that were also considering the need for training of care providers.

Our 2010, and future meetings, will be held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at the GGRC Corte Madera, Marin office **or locations to be determined** each month. Please join us in efforts, listed below, by attending any or all of our ongoing MRCC meetings!

MRCC Action Plan 3/26/08

Possible Focus Areas (listed roughly in order of priority)

- 1) *Establish (or tap into) website that enables families to find matches with providers
- 2) Solidify and expand MRCC and increase active collaboration with other local stakeholders
- 3) Identify and implement provider recruitment strategies
- 4) Initiate and coordinate provider trainings
- 5) Educate families on access, resources, and need
- 6) Build on the work of existing MRCC members and others
- 7) *Promote and expand on "Meet the Parents" functions
- 8) Investigate and implement Coop model
- 9) Establish additional non-profit as Employer of Record
- 10) Establish active partnership with Arcadia
- 11) Establish active partnership with IHSS
- 12) Expand camp and after school opportunities
- 13) *Investigate screening options for providers
- 14) Advocate for increased rates
- 15) Professionalize role of providers

Chosen Focus Area

- 1) Establish website that enables families to find matches with providers

Website Action Steps (in no particular order)

- 1) *Define the needs of families (survey, forum, demo website in group)
- 2) *Articulate the incentive for Care.com to move forward (research their business model)
- 3) *Clarify website modifications to be requested (maintain balance between asking too much of Care.com and ensuring it meets needs of families)
- 4) *Project potential usage (locally, statewide, nationally)
- 5) *Build list of potential partner agencies (create a marketing/promotion plan). Examples of partner agencies include: UCP, TASH, The Family Resource Networks, Easter Seals, IHSS, "Autism Groups", School Districts, Pediatricians
- 6) Update our literature that clarifies who MRCC is (mission, membership, etc.)
- 7) *Investigate possibility of reduced rates based on quantity

***Via MRCC's ongoing work with care.com these asterisked items have been completed and/or continue to be addressed!**