

**Child Health & Development Committee**

**Bridge to Success**

***Preparing Waterbury Youth for Life: "A Birth to 21 Initiative"***

**Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**10:30AM-12:00PM**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Sandy Porteus, Barbara Tacchi, Christine Bianchi, Rhona Cohen, Gary Steck

**Staff:** Nicole Porto

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**Introductions:** Nicole Porto, staff, called the meeting to order at approximately 10:45 AM, welcomed everyone and thanked them for their time and commitment to join the Child Health & Development Committee. Brief introductions went around the room of those present and the agency/organization with whom they are affiliated with.

**Overall Goals:** Nicole updated the committee that the goal of the Child Health & Development Committee is that ***all Waterbury children, including those with special needs, enter and continue in school, work, and life being healthy, nourished, and ready to learn.*** The activities of the committee would be:

- **Ensuring that children in our community have access to basic medical and dental care.**
- **Offering specialty medical and dental services to the children who need it. Also, ensure that Waterbury children benefit from community programs that promote wellness.**
- **Making sure that medical and dental services our children receive are high quality.**

The charges of the committee will be to review the Waterbury Community Resource Mapping documents for completeness, and to gain an understanding of the resources that exist currently in the city; identify strengths and gaps in the community's resources; use community resources, community priority action steps, and other community data to guide selection of one or more action steps as the focus of the committee's work through June, 2010; identify two to four related objectives to be accomplished between October, 2009 and June, 2010; complete the PPB Committee Report concerning objectives, activities, responsible individuals, and timeline, and outcomes in December, 2009 and in June, 2010.

**Chair Nominations:** Nicole reviewed the responsibilities of the chair:

- Preside over meeting
- Open meeting
- Keep discussion going
- Assure that all committee members have opportunity to express opinions/views
- Help staff prepare agenda

- Attend BTSMC meetings to update BTSMC about committee (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month 3:00-5:00PM)

Gary Steck and Christine Bianchi were nominated as co-chairs.

### **Guiding Principles**

The team agreed to have the following as their guiding principles:

- Responsibility is shared: we are all responsible for how the meetings flow or not flow; what is covered or not covered
- We expect that each member will attend or send a representative
- All meetings start at the scheduled time
- Personal agendas are set aside: we come together for the benefit of Waterbury's youth
- Listen with attention
- Contribute to the well being of the group. Focus on the goal at hand
- What is shared on a personal level is confidential
- We try to reach consensus on agenda items
- When an agreement is not reached, everyone's opinions are recorded in the minutes
- Once the decision is made, we go forward together to implement it; we set differences aside, uphold the action 100%
- All questions are welcome and accepted

### **Resource Mapping**

Nicole explained that one of the committee charges is to look at the Waterbury Community Resource Mapping document which was created by 2-1-1. The Resource Mapping Document relates specifically to the Bridge to Success's 5 strategic areas and goals at hand. Nicole noted that the document has been completed and no further revisions will be made at this time. The document is available on the Waterbury Prevention Policy Board website @ [www.waterburyppb.org](http://www.waterburyppb.org).

### **Indicator/Activity Discussion**

The following discussion ensued from the indicators presented:

- The committee questioned how to get more parents involved in this committee.
- Gary Steck felt that whatever the committee decides on doing in terms of activities, it should be touchable and concrete.
- Christine Bianchi suggested an activity such as an education program on how to utilize primary care physicians. Christine noted that a lot of parents do not have enough confidence in themselves and they feel if they do not take action and take their child to the ER someone will call DCF. Christine also noted that doctor offices are not open on Sunday, leaving ER's as the only option.
- Gary brought up the idea of universal screening and stated that Wheeler Clinic is doing universal screening and they have a model to follow.
- Barbara Tacchi mentioned behavioral health issues are a problem in the community.
- Rhona Cohen felt that nutrition is vital to child development. Rhona noted that in the past she worked with New Haven and Yale to have the school systems provide organic food in the cafeterias.

- Christine noted the Hispanic Health System that is in Hartford and New Haven.
- The committee agreed that the food in the cafeterias is not really nutritious.
- Barbara felt cultural issues need to be kept sensitive in terms of nutrition. Food can be a skill building activity. Some communities send home a bag of groceries with students on the weekend.
- Gary felt that the committee should not create a new program, but expand on what's already going on in the community. Gary stated universal screening again and felt it would be great to connect with StayWell and St. Mary's since 90% of their clients are Medicaid recipients. Gary stated that the committee should come up with 3-4 concrete activities that fit with what's already going on in the community.
- Christine and Rhona both felt that dental care was important (Smile Builders & Home by 1 Project).

#### **Establish Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting date is scheduled for ***February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010 from 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM. Location TBD.***

*The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:35 AM*