

Waterbury Prevention Policy Board
Capacity Building/Governance/Member Retention Committee
new recommended name: Community Advocacy Committee
Tuesday, November 10th, 2009
11:30p.m.-12:20p.m.

Minutes

Present: Kathie Lang – Catholic Charities, Dan Rezende – CT Junior Republic, Carol O’Donnell – CT Community Foundation, Louise Allen Brown – Wtby Public Schools, Yoellie Iglesias – SUN/Family Services

Absent: Laurie Reisman, JoAnn Reynolds Balanda, Elaine Skoronski, Dorothy Adams

Staff: Lori Hart & Nicole Porto

Introductions: Lori Hart, PPB staff, called the meeting to order at approximately 11:30, welcomed everyone and thanked them for their time and commitment. Brief introductions went around the room of those present and the agency/organization with whom they are affiliated with. The minutes were reviewed. Lori recommended that we keep the committees informal; the committee agreed.

Chair Nominations:

At last month’s meeting, the committee nominated the following individuals for Chair/co chair:

- Elaine Skoronski
- JoAnn Reynolds Balanda (has concerns about being a funder and in this position)
- Dorothy Adams (cannot go to BTSMC meetings as required) – co-chair?
- Yoellie Iglesias – co-chair?

Carol made a motion to nominate Joann Reynolds Bolanda and Dorothy Adams as co chairs of this committee. Kathie seconded the motion. Lori will contact Joann and Dorothy to confirm since they were not present at today’s meeting.

Overall Goals: Lori Hart reviewed with the committee that the goal of the Committee is to ***develop an advocacy plan to further advocacy efforts.***

The Committee activities will be to:

- Develop updates targeted to legislators concerning Waterbury’s needs for out of school time programming
- Develop and conduct educational campaigns for legislators and other policy makers on the value of positive youth development program and activities
- Research grant sources for PPB operating funds and out of school time programming
- Develop a plan to, and recruit strategic partners to become members of the PPB

Carol O’Donnell suggested that the 4th bullet should be assigned to the executive committee so we can focus on our efforts of this committee. All subcommittees need to think of people who are not involved and contact them. Kathie Lang agreed and felt that maybe this committee can recommend/recruit

people. The team agreed to recommend rephrasing the 4th bullet to read “Recruit strategic partners in support of the effort.”

Committee Name:

After a brief discussion, the team reached an agreement to change the committees’ name to “Community Advocacy Committee.” Louise Allen Brown suggested that we bring this change to the Executive Committee so they are aware. All agreed.

Priorities & Actions

The team suggested the following at the last meeting:

- Host a listening forum
- Determine role of agency
- Ensure that all nonprofits are working together
- Have a breakfast get together with the alderman to reach an understanding of how important programs are within the community.

Lori shared an overview of Waterbury statistics intended to spark conversation by the team members. She will also provide an overview of the Committee charge and a listing of individuals on the committee.

Carol expressed that there are other cities that are working much more in sync. Waterbury is usually left off the “short list”. She recommended that we meet with the Board of Aldermen. We need to determine what the priority projects are for the Positive Youth Development and Workforce Development Committees. It was recommended that we need to determine what are we going to do with the federal money; including what the Waterbury Public Schools are doing with the grant money. Finally, Carol felt that many agencies are working at the state level and Waterbury is always 4th; we are never 1st, 2nd, or 3rd. Dan Rezende noted that Waterbury does win several Juvenile Justice grants and perhaps we could look at how they are successful in showing the need for these programs.

Louise Allen Brown shared what she currently knows about the Waterbury Public School grants. Louise noted that there are plans for use of the money, but they are not publicized. Only states can request Race to the Top grants and the Waterbury Board of Education has voted to work with the State Board of Education. There are also three types of I3 grants (information about these grants was shared with the team; below is taken from US Department of Education website):

- Scale-up Grants: The largest possible grant category is focused on programs and practices with the potential to reach hundreds of thousands of students. Applicants must have a strong base of evidence that their program has had a significant effect on improving student achievement.
- Validation Grants: Existing, promising programs that have good evidence of their impact and are ready to improve their evidence base while expanding in their own and other communities.
- Development Grants: The smallest grant level designed to support new and high-potential practices whose impact should be studied further.

Louise suggested that maybe through this committee and the executive committee we can come up with some ideas. Louise also noted that the city is hiring an ARRA coordinator and there is money in the budget for this. Lori questioned if we can invite that person to come to PPB meetings and to this

committee in particular? There was also reference made to TPTA - Targeted Prep Time Academy which offers extra afterschool help in math and writing). Carol asked if these programs are budget or programmatic.

Lori Hart noted that actions of the PPB, BTS, & SRC will be to report progress of each committee at bimonthly PPB meetings. Also, noted that the community resource list has been established - programs and resources that relate to the Bridge to Success goals have been compiled by 2-1-1 and should be finalized by the end of December. The Resource Mapping document was brought out to two community forums (1 for providers/parents of children 0-8 and 1 for providers/parents of children 9-21). At those meetings, they reviewed the document and provided feedback. The feedback was provided back to 2-1-1 and each current subcommittee is providing information of missing resources which is then forwarded to 2-1-1. The committees will further look at where the opportunities are. They will look for where the strengths are in the committee areas and where the gaps are in the committee areas.

Lori also noted that we are aware that the financial piece is missing and that is the responsibility of the BTSMC to put it all together. Carol mentioned that we are aware of opportunities at the state level. We know of Race to the Top Grants, I3, and Child First.

The committee felt that there are so many opportunities out there and we need to let everyone know of the opportunities so others can help out.

Louise Allen Brown volunteered to contact Linda Riddick Barron about joining PPB. Carol O'Donnell recommends getting her to first come to a PPB meeting and then try and get her to come to this committee. Louise suggested that Linda be an invited guest to our next meeting to discuss ARRA specifically.

Establish Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date is scheduled for **December 9th from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM at Family Services** of Greater Waterbury. Thank you to Sandy Porteus who offered her space for the meeting.

Establish Follow up Items

- Dan & Yoellie will try to recruit Committee members from faith-based community
- Lori will send revised packet to Yoellie and Dan
- Louise will invite Linda Riddick Barron to the December 9th meeting.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:20 p.m.