

Waterbury Prevention Policy Board  
Community Advocacy Committee  
Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
12:00-1:00 PM

Minutes

Present: JoAnn Reynolds Balanda, Elaine Skoronski, Carol O'Donnell, Yoellie Iglesias, Sandy Porteus (for Laurie Reisman), Heather Garofalo (for Christine Bianchi)

Staff Present: Lori Hart

Guest: Antonio Paulo Pinto (Tony)

Absent: Kathie Lang, Louise Allen Brown, Dorothy Adams, Dan Rezende

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Introductions: Lori Hart, PPB staff, called the meeting to order at approximately 12:00, welcomed everyone and thanked them for their travels through the snow and ice. Tony Pinto, ARRA Project Manager, Waterbury Department of Education was introduced as our guest speaker and team members introduced themselves.

Tony Pinto Discussion Highlights:

He and Jeff Berger, Professional Development Coordinator, will be working closely together on overseeing and tracking the use of ARRA funds through 9/30/2011. Jeff reports to Tony. Jeff's role will be to schedule professional development, manage payment process, and help to improve the level of teaching instruction by using the funds.

Tony and Jeff share an office in the School Intake Center on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and their phone number is (203) 346-3500. Tony's email: [apinto@waterbury.k12.ct.us](mailto:apinto@waterbury.k12.ct.us)

Tony's role will be to do oversight reporting, working with Elaine on spending the IDEA funds, and work with Linda Riddick Barron on the Title 1 funds. Most of the Pre-School Specific \$240K IDEA funds will go towards construction of the Bucks Hill playground, assuring it is handicap accessible; construction may start in April.

The budget is still being finalized, and funds are just now becoming available, some cuts have already been made, and others are probably going to be made. The State of CT accepted ARRA funds, but then cut some Early Childhood Education funds, so it appears that most of the funding to Waterbury is net zero.

The ARRA focus is not just new jobs, but now the focus is also on retaining jobs.

Some ARRA info can be found on the website: <http://www.recovery.ct.gov/recovery/site/default.asp>

There are additional funds for individual tutoring which can serve approximately 1,400 children as part of Title I set-aside.

TPTA is planned to be ARRA funded - Tony will check on bus sharing between after school programs (such as Century 21 and TPTA) and other providers such as PPB – Lori will send him and Elaine a note requesting information about this possibility at Sprague School.

Site based summer school is planned to be funded with ARRA funds.

Professional Development training is in the budget and Tony thinks the 40 Development Asset training the PPB is planning to complement PBS may be supported with this funding, as well preschool, Algebra

Project, etc. Tony didn't see any specific prohibitions on including community providers in these trainings but was going to check it out.

4 new driver positions for pre-K buses are planned with the purchase of 4 new pre-K buses scheduled for delivery in Spring of 2010.

IDEA funds will be provided to fund new behavioral therapists and new para professionals – these positions will be merged into the school HR positions.

Assistive Technology for classrooms and individual use will be purchased including smartboards and pre-K specialized equipment – especially for NAEYC accreditation required equipment or other expenses associated with accreditation. Tony will check to see if this allows for pre-K at sites that are not designated SRC sites.

When the question came up about using 15% of the IDEA part B funds for early intervening services Elaine indicated that the application submitted had proposed items relating to early intervening services. Funds for parent education relating to special education are also proposed. No exact amounts or items can be determined so early in the process.

Waterbury has asked to be included in the data collection system the state is planning on a state level supported by Race to the Top funds.

#### Priorities and Actions:

It was agreed that we should establish an advocacy agenda for the year. Issues like our recommended process for advocating for issues such as the recent After School Programs and Community Plans for Early Childhood potential funding cuts, and the upcoming 40 Developmental Assets re-test. How do we gain input from the PPB on this issue. Which legislators should be contacted and by whom, how do we leverage issues, etc. Templates need to be developed to easily and quickly respond to urgent issues – include key data and stats. Mobilizing parents is key.

It would be helpful if the CAC were to know what kinds of issues are coming up in each of the other Committees. Each Committee chair should be making a presentation at the BTSMC meeting, and an overview of those presentations could be provided to the PPB-CAC.

#### Establish Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date is scheduled for *January 13<sup>th</sup> 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM at Family Services of Greater Waterbury*, immediately following the PPB meeting. It was suggested that we invite Jeff Berger to this or another future meeting to discuss Professional Development.

#### Establish Follow up Items

- Lori will follow up with Elaine & Tony on sharing buses and expenses with the TPTA program.
- Discuss inviting Jeff Berger to attend a future meeting.

*The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:15 PM*