



Family Engagement Committee
Bridge to Success
Preparing Waterbury Youth for Life: "A Birth to 21 Initiative"
February 23rd, 2010 - 1:00p.m.-2:00p.m. - Catholic Charities

Meeting Notes:

Present: Lydia Granitto, Lisa Cheney, Paul Bisnette, Tina Agati, Linda Janowitz, Gisele Booker

Staff: Lori Hart, Nicole Porto, & Barbara Tacchi

Bridge to Success Overview: New committee member Lisa Cheney was welcomed to the team. She described the PEACE camp, a program she is developing to work with middle and high school students on peaceful conflict resolution and nonviolent communication. Committee members offered their help on this project.

Overall Goal: Lori Hart updated the committee that the goal of the Family Engagement Committee is that ***all families have the support they need to be their children's primary teacher, so kids learn at school and at home.***

It was suggested that we get the word out into the community that we are moving ahead, establish some "easy wins", and set up a goal to accomplish by June, 2010. A grand opening was suggested, or provide an update in the newspaper – highlight accomplishments in a prominent place. Lori will bring these suggestions to the PPB Community Advocacy Committee.

Priorities for Implementation: Committee members discussed the goals and reviewed the Community Priorities established in mid-2009. The following priorities were outlined; further objectives and responsibilities will be discussed in detail during our next meeting:

1. Establish a prototype of a Hub:

- Develop criteria for Neighborhood Hub
 - Use the minutes from 12/7 mtg to guide plans
 - Look at best practices including Catholic Charities
 - Consider how a Hub is designated so
- Prioritize criteria
- Identify existing & planned Hubs in Waterbury
- Identify partners
 - Parents & Community members
 - Town councils
 - Businesses
 - Current Rec Centers (WOW, Berkeley Warner, North End)
- Establish marketing campaign for hubs
- Financing campaign – perhaps approach businesses



2. **Design & launch a joint parent initiative network to encourage parent learning and peer support at the neighborhood level**
 - Involve parents with designing and staffing the hub
3. **Work with BTS-ECE Committee on Born Learning goal**
 - Need more information – perhaps someone from ECE committee can attend FEC

Other:

Additional items were discussed including:

- Provide 2-1-1 training for community
- Translate the highlights and overview of the BTS plan into Spanish and Albanian (perhaps the schools or the Albanian Center can provide assistance)

Follow-up Items:

- Lori will provide information to PPB-CAC relating to grand opening and other ideas about getting the word out about progress
- Need more information from the ECE Committee on Born Learning
- Lisa Cheney will follow up with Bill Milliken about Family Hubs
- Lisa Cheney will follow with Ruth Glasser from UConn about professional development for families
- Lori will provide information including:
 - Updated resource mapping document
 - Updated BTS plan
 - Minutes from 12/7 community hub meeting
 - Summary of community focus group meeting findings over 2008 (Amanda Hunyadi and Lori Hart conducted these groups for Child Mental Health grant & PPB)

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date is scheduled for **March 25th from 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM at Catholic Charities.**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30p.m.