

**Bridge to Success - Family Engagement Committee Meeting Notes**  
6/7/2010 – Catholic Charities – 10:00-11:30AM

**Attendees:**

Giselle Booker	Lydia Granitto
Linda Janowitz	Nicole Porto
Tina Agati	Lori Hart
Mary Held	Angie Medina
Debbie McCusker	Jackie McGrath Curtis
Caryn Olcik	

**Updates:**

- **Comer Project:**
  - Debbie McCusker noted that the Comer Project developed originally by Dr. James Comer in New Haven is in the early stages of implementation here in Waterbury at Walsh Elementary School, Wilson Elementary School, and Wallace Middle School. The Comer Project has been successful in making urban schools more supportive of student learning through an organized program involving staff, administration, and parents. The approach is comprehensive and collaborative, focusing on both shaping the climate of the school and improving the instructional program.
- **Extended Team:**
  - WOW Community Center – Debbie McCusker and Giselle Booker attend this extended team meeting
- **SADD:**
  - Caryn Olcik reported that the SADD Club works on two social marketing campaigns throughout the year (Graduation and Prom). First, the students go to neighborhood florists during prom. Second, the students went to local pizza parlors asking them to put stickers on their boxes that said something such as “Party tonight at Jen’s! Bring alcohol...” – then the message that underage drinking is against the law. The students had to work neighborhood by neighborhood. Lori Hart noted that the Positive Youth Development Committee is looking to go to the mall merchants to build understanding of the 40 Developmental Assets. They would use the youth to develop relationships. Caryn felt we should build on what is happening – global concept. Debbie noted that for community activities in the city, they bring in the young talent. Local food distributors have our support, but it is hard to get past the Board of Health. Caryn felt there is a menu of opportunities.

**Feedback from PPB Meeting:**

Linda reported that at the full PPB meeting she reported on this committee and received feedback that the Family Engagement Committee is doing well and she received especially positive feedback on the hub concept. The PPB was interested in locations of the hubs and provided feedback. They also needed clarity on a few criteria for the hubs. It was noted that Terry Brown, chair of Workforce Development Committee wondered if the interns at Naugatuck Valley Community College (NVCC) might be able to help with the marketing campaign and may be able to develop public relations. Other questions the PPB had were about the Family Hub logo, New Opportunities survey, accessibility (hours of operation).

**Hub Plans:**

- **Tiers/Locations:**  
Suggested locations were revised as follows:

Tier 1:	Tier 2:	Tier 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catholic Charities</li> <li>• Gilmartin School</li> <li>• Sprague School/Waterville Rec Center</li> <li>• WOW</li> <li>• Family Services</li> <li>• Hispanic Coalition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wilson FRC</li> <li>• Chase FRC</li> <li>• Waterbury Youth Services</li> <li>• Brooklyn Section (old Police Station owned by Bobby Allen)</li> <li>• St Anne’s (link with Loyola Development Corp)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Berkeley Warner</li> <li>• North End Rec Center</li> <li>• New Opportunities</li> <li>• PAL (partner with North End School?)</li> </ul>

- Jackie wondered how the parents will know when the hubs are established. It was noted that marketing/PR and the logo will help with this.
- Lori will provide information gathered from some of the Tier 1 locations.
- **Grants:**
  - Linda noted that the Family Engagement Committee might apply for grants on behalf of their committee. There are agencies around the table that can help write grants and also be potential fiduciaries. The PPB will research grant opportunities and bring them forward to the appropriate committee and however, the committee might work with fiduciaries to seek further funding. It was decided that at the next meeting we should find out how other “hubs” are funded, what they pay for and what is offered.
  - A community team considered applying for a Promise Neighborhood planning grant - however they felt we’ve done so much planning we should strategize on how to apply for implementation funds when they become available which is expected to be late Winter/Spring 2011. Lori noted that the Promise Neighborhoods Grant is an Obama-Biden transition project that was inspired by the Harlem Children’s Zone which is an approach to rebuilding a community so that its children can stay on track through college and go on to the job market place. We will be hearing more about Waterbury’s collaboration on this grant.
- **Systemic/Sustainability:**
  - Caryn wondered if people in the neighborhoods would better determine hours of operations and what their needs are. Mary felt that in her neighborhood, Mondays and Fridays were not good days, but Saturday’s and Sunday’s are better. It was agreed that individuals who will use the services will be the best resources for determining open dates/hours.
  - The suggested requirements for a Neighborhood Hub were revised as follows (red indicates changes/additions):

<p><b><u>Space/Resource</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Readiness Assessment</li> <li>• 1000 SF</li> <li>• Need privacy for Intake &amp; assessment)</li> <li>• Utilities (phones, Internet, etc)</li> <li>• Rest Room</li> <li>• Handicap accessible</li> <li>• Copier Machine, Computer</li> <li>• Furnishings</li> <li>• Secure location (Panic buttons)</li> <li>• Card visibility/signage (Family Hub Logo &amp; certification)</li> <li>• Accessibility (Day &amp; Evening Hrs)</li> <li>• Staff / knowledge, friendly</li> <li>• Refrigerator</li> <li>• Microwave</li> <li>• Coffeepot</li> <li>• Services/Good Clean Environment</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Integrated Services</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-institutional</li> <li>• Child play are</li> <li>• Water Feature (Ex: Water Fall)</li> <li>• Multi or bilingual staff</li> <li>• Non- threatening</li> <li>• Non- judgmental</li> <li>• Intergenerational Programs</li> <li>• Large enough entrance areas</li> <li>• Play area small</li> <li>• Small people chairs</li> <li>• Teamwork</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Core Services</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Screening Tool for eligibility for state services</li> <li>• Data Management</li> <li>• Assist family fulfilling basic need (New Opportunities Survey EBO)</li> <li>• Home Visit</li> <li>• Tools specific to family demographic, culture, education, dental health behavior.</li> <li>• Assist Family Focuses</li> <li>• 40 Developmental Assets</li> <li>• One Stop Shop (<b>wrap around</b>)</li> <li>• Accessibility <b>determined by the Neighborhood and its people</b></li> <li>• <b>Referrals to emergency services might be appropriate</b></li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Systemic/Sustainability</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policies and procedures in place</li> <li>• Confidentiality Policy</li> <li>• Source of funding</li> <li>• <b>Form connection with schools</b></li> <li>• <b>Neighborhood residents make key decisions</b></li> </ul> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify location</li> <li>• Interview Questions</li> <li>• Assessment Phone/Personal</li> </ul>

- **Maps:**
  - The Positive Youth Development Committee had a map created to map where the youth programs in the City are.
  - The Family Engagement produced a similar map locating where potential hub sites would exist.
  - The map developed from the resource mapping meeting.
  - Debbie reported that Together We Shine is not in the resource mapping document.

### Next Steps:

- Invite Tiffany Murasso to discuss hub site in Hartford (Funding, resources, etc.) – **Gisele** obtain dates from Tiffany Murasso for late July meeting (not Monday)
- **Barbara Tacchi/Paul Bisnette** report progress on needs survey
- **Lori** provide documents about:
  - Harlem Children's Zone
  - Information about community needs from focus groups at WOW, Sprague, Hispanic Coalition
- **Lori** investigate Loyola Development Corporation and its relationship with St. Anne's and potential for Neighborhood Hub in the area
- Assess "implementation readiness" of Tier 1 potential locations
- Create financing plan
- Marketing Campaign – keep Terry Brown in loop
- Hold off on Born Learning with ECEC
- Gather success stories about families helped with wrap-around services

### Other:

- **FDC (Family Development Credentials) Course:**
  - Offered at New Opportunities- this is an 80 hour course. Philosophy is that everyone comes with resources (rather than deficits).

### Next meeting:

TBD