

Family Engagement Committee Notes

5/12/2010 – United Way of Greater Waterbury – 10:00AM-11:30AM

Attendees:

Nicole Porto – PPB/BTS
Lydia Granitto – Girl Scouts of Connecticut
Lisa Cheney – Parent
Linda Janowitz – WYSS
Laura Hadder – Together We Shine
Diana Baxter – Together We Shine
Debbie McCusker – Together We Shine
Jackie McGrath Curtis – Together We Shine
Lori Hart – PPB/BTS
Tina Agati – LVGW
Paul Bisnette – Silas Bronson Library
Mary Bruce – FSGW/FFP
Maryuetta G – Parent
Gisele Booker – Catholic Charities
Yoellie Iglesias – SUN Program – FSGW
Caryn Olcik – WYSS Coalition to Reduce UAD

Updates:

Tina Agati reported that a new program called Alphabet Explores will take place at Silas Bronson Library this coming May 22nd, 2010 at 10:30AM. The program will resume in September and occur on a monthly basis. Each family participating will receive a free book each month.

Lisa Cheney reported that at the last meeting Guilmartin School was identified as a potential site. Lisa did not see a connection, but will follow through with her contact.

Hub Discussion:

At the previous meeting, potential hub sites were discussed. Linda took a map of the city and marked the sites that were identified. She showed to the group that they had left out neighborhoods. Linda provided the group with individually marked maps to show the gaps. The potential pilot cohort locations for family hub were reviewed and the following was concluded:

Tier 1:	Tier 2:	Tier 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guilmartin• Sprague School/Waterville Rec Center• WOW• Family Services• Hispanic Coalition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wilson FRC• Chase FRC• Maloney Community Center• Brooklyn Section Brooklyn Section	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Berkeley Warner• North End Rec Center• New Opportunities• PAL (partner with North End School?)

The committee previously discussed what a neighborhood hub should look like. The list was reviewed and clarified (**red ink indicates changes/additions**):

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

Linda asked the following questions: How did you find out about child care? Who took care of your child? The exercise was to brainstorm what families in the community would need and how would they go about it.

Jackie: Found out on own; pediatrician told about Birth to 3 and Access Rehab

Laura: DCYF (they provided transportation too)

Angie: 2-1-1 referral service; friend

Paul: Telephone books; ads in paper

Caryn: Church, library, town/city hall

Diana: Birth to 3; friend

Giselle: Yale New Haven Hospital

Linda: Relative with home day care

Yoellie: Day Care Association

Lydia: Grandparents & network within the schools

Tina: Word of mouth; bartering with neighbors

Debbie: Schools; neighbors

Nicole: Family Care

*The exercise concluded that everyone finds out their information through different avenues, thus it is crucial we get our information out there as best we can. Caryn Olcik suggested the following as marketing tools:

- Newspaper
- Internet
- Demonstration
- Public Access Channel (12AM-6AM)
- Face book
- Sky Cable

The following points were also discussed:

- Internal Support (do people volunteer?)
- Involved people within neighborhood to staff
- Where in school would hub be located
 - Would it have its own entrance
 - Would we be able to access hub during the weekend and night hours
 - Look to parent liaisons (Linda Riddick)
 - Need by in from principle at schools
- UCONN & NVCC interns in Urban Community Degree Program

Next Steps:

- Identify partners
- Establish marketing campaign for hubs
- Financing campaign
- Design & launch a joint parent initiative network to encourage parent learning and peer support at the neighborhood level
- Work with BTS-ECE Committee on Born Learning goal
- Discuss Grant/Funding Opportunities (Linda will look at grants)

Next Meeting: Monday, June 7th, 2010 10:00AM-11:30AM @ Catholic Charities