



City of Waterbury

Waterbury Prevention Policy Board • 95 North Main Street • Waterbury, CT 06702 • (203) 573-0264

Waterbury Prevention Policy Board Kickoff Meeting
September 24th, 2009 – 12:30-2:30- Family Services of Greater Waterbury

Meeting Notes

Present: Brie Sodano, Dorothy Adams, Maryangela Amendola, Christine Bianchi Louise Allen Brown, Mary Bruce, Terry Brown, Robert Cizauskas, Maureen Coelho, Kelly Cronin, Kenny Curan, Jennifer DeWitt, Lydia Granitto, Laura Hadder, Byran Hall, Tricia Harrity, Mary Held, Yoellie Iglesias, Janet Freimuth, Shannon Longo, Jackie Lundie, Ed McCann, Maria Padera (Representative for Ed McCann), Debbie McCusker, Angie Medina, Elizabeth Murphy, Carol O'Donnell, Jim O'Rourke, Caryn Olcik, Sandra Porteus, Stacy Propfe, Laurie Reisman, Joann Reynolds Bolanda, Dan Rezende Vanaster Rountree, Elaine Skoronsky, Gary Steck, Barbara Tacchi, Joanne Thomas, Jason Ward, Jessica Callahan
Staff Present: *Lori Hart and Nicole Porto*

Welcome & Introductions: Louise Allen Brown, Chair, welcomed everyone to the PPB Kickoff Meeting. Introductions went around the room of all who were present. Lori Hart acknowledged that Jim O'Rourke has just been promoted as the Executive Director of the Greater Waterbury YMCA. Louise also mentioned briefly how Bridge to Success began (School Readiness Council 0-8 plan, WPBB Youth Plan 9-21 and the Public Schools). In March, decisions were made to combine the plans and come up with one plan focusing on children ages 0-21. We are now ready for implementation!

PPB Executive Team Elections: Lori Hart, Director PPB & Bridge to Success, explained that eligible PPB Board Members will be able to vote to fill 4 open board positions with 4 of the following candidates:

- Sandy Porteus ~ Family Services of Greater Waterbury
- Neil O'Leary ~ Wolcott Police Department
- Jim O'Rourke ~ Greater Waterbury YMCA
- Yoellie Iglesias ~ AFCAMP
- Louise Allen Brown ~ City of Waterbury
- Dorothy Adams ~ Dispute Settlement Center

*Eligible board members have 7 days from today's meeting to submit their votes.

Bridge to Success Review: Nicole Porto, Community Liaison PPB & Bridge to Success, explained that Bridge to Success has 5 strategic areas: *Family Engagement, Early Care & Educational Services, Child Health & Development, Positive Youth Development, and Workforce Development*. Each area has activities that will be accomplished through the

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committees. Nicole went on to explain that starting in March 2009 a group from the Bridge to Success Interim Management Team went out to the community and held 15 forums where parents were asked what areas in the plan were most important to them and their families. A total of 242 people participated. In July 2009, Nicole sent out a letter to all 242 participants asking if they would like to be involved with implementing Bridge to Success. Approximately 30 people have responded and a letter is going out this week to those people about the committees which will be starting on October 14th, 2009.

Review of Committees: Staff and Executive Committee members reviewed plans and goals for PPB and Bridge to Success committees.

- The committees are based on what people wanted to see with PPB goals & priorities and dates & times that would work for PPB members.
- Regular PPB meetings will be held on the 2nd Wednesday every other month (lunch may be provided pending receipt of a grant). The committee meetings will fall on the alternate months; however committees may decide to meet more frequently.
- The plan is to hold 4 meetings (2 at a time by splitting the room with the divider) on the alternate month.
- **Waterbury Prevention Policy Board Executive Committee** ~ The Executive Committee serves as the Leadership/Steering Committee of the Prevention Policy Board. The Executive Committee shall take a leadership role in determining the need for periodic community needs assessment(s); capacity building; professional development; and development, revision, and implementation of the Community Youth Plan (Bridge to Success).
- **Waterbury Prevention Policy Board Capacity Building/Governance/Member Retention Committee** ~ The goal is to develop an Advocacy Plan to further advocacy efforts. The Member Retention Committee really needs to be representative of the City of Waterbury (caretakers, parents, etc.) *Lori Hart will facilitate this committee.*
- **Waterbury Prevention Policy Board 40 Developmental Asset Re-Test Committee** ~ The goal is to re-administer Search Institute 40 Developmental Assets Survey in Waterbury Public School grade 6, 9, & 12 during April, 2010. Back in 2007, 6th and 9th graders were sampled and now we want to retest to compare since these students are now in 9th and 12th grade. This committee will expire. Kelly Cronin and Jim O'Rourke both mentioned that they try to make sure their programs align with some of the Developmental Assets. It was noted that December, 2010 needed to be changed to December, 2009. *Nicole Porto will facilitate this committee.*
- **Waterbury Prevention Policy Board Family Focus Partnership Committee** ~ The goal is to assure that the statewide System of Care functions to best meet the mental health needs of children and their families in the community. Mary Held (Together We Shine) and Mary Bruce (Family Services of Greater Waterbury) are co-chairs of this committee. It was noted that the October 27th meeting is FFP's annual meeting and will be held from 9:30-12:00pm; November 24th meeting is changed to November 17th due to the Holiday; December 22nd meeting is changed to December 15th, 2009 due to the Holiday. Also, the times of all the meetings needs to be changed to 9:30-11:30. Finally, December, 2010 needs to be changed to December, 2009.
- **Waterbury Prevention Policy Board Mayor's Task Force Against Substance Abuse Committee** ~ The goal is to coordinate Waterbury community efforts in the area of Substance Abuse. Jennifer Dewitt mentioned that the meeting dates, times and locations may be different, because there may be some changes with this committee. Jennifer said to contact Joe Gorman for more details and questions. Louise asked
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Jennifer to keep PPB up to date on this. Finally, December, 2010 needs to be changed to December, 2009.

- **Waterbury Prevention Policy Board Positive Youth Development Committee ~** The goal is to increase the number of out-of-school time opportunities so that all area youths, including those with special needs, can participate in safe, wholesome activities outside of school and home, to include supervised youth employment. The committee will review the resource mapping document which is a comprehensive 166 page document listing all areas of the Bridge to Success Plan and all resources that address ages 0-8 and 9-21. December, 2010 needs to be changed to December, 2009. The times need to be changed to 1:30-2:30pm. *Lori Hart will facilitate this committee.*
- **Waterbury Prevention Policy Board Workforce Development Committee ~** The goal is that Waterbury youth are ready for life after school- whether for college, trade school, military services, and/or work. December, 2010 needs to be changed to December, 2009. *Nicole Porto will facilitate this committee.*
- **Waterbury Prevention Policy Board Child Health and Development Committee ~** The goal is that all Waterbury children, including those with special needs, enter and continue in school, work, and life being healthy, nourished, and ready to learn. The meeting dates, times, and locations are to be determined, but we will let you know when the schedule is established. Debbie McCusker and Mary Held commented that this committee would need to occur after 9:30am and before 2:30pm as parents have to get their children to and from school. December, 2010 needs to be changed to December, 2009. *This is a joint committee with Waterbury School Readiness Council.*
- **Waterbury Prevention Policy Board Family Engagement ~** The goal is that all families have the support they need to be their children's first teacher, so kids learn at school and at home. December, 2010 needs to be changed to December, 2009. It was again noted by Debbie McCusker and Mary Held that this committee would need to occur after 9:30am and before 2:30pm as parents have to get their children to and from school. *This is a joint committee with Waterbury School Readiness Council.*

A question was raised as to whether PPB staff would contact people to see if they want to be involved in a committee or if a person is interested should they contact PPB staff. It was concluded that persons interested would contact PPB staff. Louise Allen Brown also noted that organizations should reach out to other colleagues and invite them to be involved with a committee.

40 Developmental Assets Pre/Post Test: Lori Hart updated the members that Mhora Newsom Stewart from Education Connection suggested we conduct a field pilot with a program that has a beginning and an end. For example, a program that begins in September and ends in December. We need some programs to volunteer and assist. The following agreed to help:

- Boys Club
- CJR
- Boy Scouts
- WYSS
- YMCA
- AHEC

Terry Brown (NVCC) noted that it is best to have a sample of 300 kids.

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It was also noted that maybe that the state of the current economy should be addressed on the pre/post test.

Grant Updates: Louise Allen Brown noted that this week we found out that 20 communities were funded and Waterbury received 3 of them. Those included:

- After School Adventures
- Down Town Academy (YMCA, Mattatuck Museum)
- HS Students Dare to Dream (performing arts program)

*440 new afterschool seats are available for the next 5 years.

YEP (Youth Empowerment Grant) was due on September 4th, 2009. PPB has partnered with NVCC and WCC. Potential funding would be \$300,000 for 3 years. This grant would support kids at Sprague Elementary School and the Waterville Recreational Center. The programs would go on at NVCC. Terry Brown (NVCC) expressed the Daisy Coco DePhilipis is “deadly serious” about the colleges involvement with the Waterbury community both on and off the college campus.

Child Mental Health Grant: Sandy Porteus of Family Services of Greater Waterbury mentioned that Waterbury was one of 4 in the state to receive this grant and Waterbury was the only urban community. Staff will be housed at Sprague Elementary School and Waterville Recreational Center. The grant is for one year, with the potential to receive funding for four additional years.

Conference Update: Nicole Porto updated the members of the upcoming conferences that she and Lori Hart would be attending. Those include:

- Teacher Resource Series – 9/22, 10/1, 10/7
- Taking Stock in CT’s Investment in Youth – 9/23
- Faith, Families and Schools Conference – 9/25
- WCOB Breakfast – 10/10
- National Summit on Your City’s Families – 10/11, 12, & 13
- Prospering Communities, Thriving Families – 10/19
- America’s Promise – 10/19
- Stone Soup – 10/20
- CT After School Network – 11/14

Other: Several PPB members noted that their agency/organization was not listed on the WPPB Membership flyer. Those to be added include:

- Dispute Settlement Center
- NVCC
- Office of the Congressman
- Parents and Caregivers
- Staywell
- CPEP
- Girl Scouts of CT

JoAnn Reynolds Bolanda mentioned that she had some flyers for Housing Homeless and volunteers are needed.

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It was also noted that on October 24th, 2009 Mardi Gros will be happening at Library Park from 11:00-9:00pm. There will also be a haunted house from 6:00-9:00pm.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:40pm.

The next meeting of the Waterbury Prevention Policy Board is on **October 14th from 12:00 -1:45 PM** at Family Services of Greater Waterbury