

Waterbury Prevention Policy Board
Positive Youth Development
Thursday, February 25th, 2010
3:00p.m.-4:30p.m.

Meeting Notes

Present: Lisa Cheney, Lorraine Jolly, Robert Cizauskas, Mike McLaughlin, Shannon Longo, Glenis Vialva

Staff: Lori Hart & Nicole Porto

The Positive Youth Development Committee meeting as held Thursday, February 25th, 2010 at PAL.

Welcome: Lori Hart, staff, welcomed all members to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 3:05PM. A new committee member, Lisa Cheney described the PEACE camp, a program she is developing to work with middle and high school students on peaceful conflict resolution and nonviolent communication. It was suggested that Lisa contact the LIST (team investigating gaps in the Juvenile Justice services for youth), and Joe Gorman who is working on a mediation program in the schools.

Goals/Activities: The team reviewed the overall goal of the PYDC: "Waterbury children and youth develop positive values and behaviors, and are engaged members of the community as they move toward becoming independent adults."

And the 2 activities of the PYDC:

1. Increase knowledge about the 40 Developmental Assets in all sectors of the Waterbury Community so a variety of adults can help young people make successful transitions to adulthood, through clear, consistent goals for their development.
2. Provide increased # of out-of-school time activities that engage youth in learning and foster positive relationships among youth and adults as well as youth and their peers.

Progress Indicator Review: Lori reviewed recommendations from the Bridge to Success RBA Committee:

Headline:

- # of 40 Developmental Assets that Waterbury youth report having
- HS graduation Rate

Secondary:

- Juvenile Justice Rates (Arrests ages 6-21)
- School Attendance Rates
- Teen Pregnancy Rates
- Consider some 40 Developmental Asset measures

Program Measures:

- # of youth participating in 40 Developmental Assets Training
- # of agencies participating in 40 Developmental Assets Training
- # of youth participating in After School programs (consider using some agencies like PAL, Mattatuck Museum, etc. as proxies)

Headline Indicators: Committee members questioned whether High School graduation rate should be a Secondary indicator for a variety of reasons including difficulty in measuring all students like those who attend alternative programs (adult education, job corps and other education programs). The committee felt that the information needs to be consistent for all the high schools in the city and requested more information about how the graduation rates are measured. An article that appeared in the newspaper about a year ago that discussed HS graduation rates was cited. The team considered using Teen Pregnancy Rates as a primary indicator; Lori will investigate this rate.

Secondary Indicators: The committee suggested using the following as secondary indicators:

- Average Daily Attendance in Grades Pre-K-12
- Truancy Rates
- Juvenile Justice Rates

Lori will provide the Committee's feedback to the RBA Committee at its next meeting.

The difference between the Search Institute Developmental Assets Survey and the Developmental Assets Pre & Post Survey were reviewed:

- *The PPB administered the Search Institute survey in 2007 in Waterbury to a random sample of 6th & 9th graders. The average Waterbury youth has 19 assets on average. The PPB will be re-administering the survey the first week in April in grades 6, 9, and 12.*
- *The PPB worked with the Education Connection to develop a 40 Developmental Pre & Post survey for use in after school programs to assess whether or not programs increased the number of assets youth have. This survey will be free of charge.*

Resource Mapping: Lori mentioned that she has a source that may be able to GIS map the Positive Youth Development Resources to identify where positive youth programs exist in Waterbury.

Priorities for Implementation:

The committee felt that having a 40 Developmental Asset Campaign and looking at increasing out-of-school time programs go hand in hand and would like to look into how to implement these. Two specific goals the committee will flesh out next month include:

Increase the number of 40 DA Waterbury's youth possess:

- Get buy-in from:
 - Mayor
 - Kaynor Tech
 - Parents
 - Clergy
 - Merchants
 - DCF
 - Pediatricians
 - Health Department
 - Board of Alderman
 - Police/PAL – (Community Relations)
 - Youth Serving Organizations
 - SRC & Day care providers
 - Waterbury Public Schools (BOE)
 - Legislators (Kenny Curran, Joan Hartley & others)
 - Higher Ed (UConn, NVCC, Bridgeport University, WestConn, Post)
 - Fraternal/Social Clubs
- Provide general 40 DA trainings for youth , families, other community stakeholders as mentioned above
- Provide general and focused training for providers

Increase the number of and quality of out of school time opportunities available to youth in a wide geographical range within the city

- Categorize the locations and quality of current youth programs offered
- Look at dates & times programs offered
- Determine whether youth don't know about programs available, or whether there are not enough programs available to serve youth who want the programs
- Focus on youth who want to participate

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date is scheduled for ***March 23rd, 2010 from 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM at Family Services of Greater Waterbury (34 Murray Street. WTBY, CT).***

Glenis Vialva volunteered to bring a youth to the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30PM