

NEW BRITAIN YOUTH NETWORK

Meeting Minutes May 6, 2005

In Attendance: See attachment #1

Agenda

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks-Dave Davison, President of American Savings
 - Need for Network
 - American Savings Commitment to Network
 - Q & A
2. Organizing To Succeed-Rosaida Morales Rosario, Consultant/Facilitator
 - Review Draft Mission of New Britain Youth Network
 - Establish Group Guidelines
 - Defining Membership:
3. Next Steps

Welcome and Opening Remarks

David Davidson summarized in his opening remarks the need for the network, indicating that the network was a direct response from feedback they gave at the community roundtables and environmental scan. He added that the foundation commitment to the network is strong and the foundation relies on the network to work on issues on a community wide level in order to achieve any progress on solving issues that effect New Britain youth. "We can hang together, or hang separately".

Organizing To Succeed-Rosaida Morales Rosario, Consultant/Facilitator

Rosaida Morales Rosario, facilitator, began with reviewing a draft Network Mission Statement. Key words in the draft mission statement were discussed and clarified.

New Britain Youth Network Draft Mission Statement

"The Youth Network is a community forum where participants collaboratively work together to ensure that every New Britain child has access to activities and services which exemplify best practices in positive youth development."

- The consensus was that "community" meant the entire city of New Britain with a focus on youth. She then moved on to the network and its purpose.
- The network is a "forum", a place, where issues are identified and solutions agreed to.

Rosario & Associates LLC

25 Clifford Drive West Hartford, CT 06107
Tel: (860) 985-6134 Fax: (860) 206-0541
e-mail: RMRosario@comcast.net

- A “collaborative or collaboration” was defined as: Participants bring separate organizations into a new structure with full commitment to a common mission. Such relationships require comprehensive planning and well-defined communication channels operating on all levels. The collaborative structure determines authority, and risk is much greater because each partner contributes its resources and reputation. Partners pool or jointly secure the resources, and share the results and rewards. Collaborations are best when they are formed to achieve results we are more likely to achieve together than alone.

Refining and decision on the mission statement will be conducted at the second network meeting.

Establishing Group Guidelines

The Network participants then had small group discussions about what they felt were important Group Guidelines to have in place in order to have productive dialogue. It was agreed that at the next meeting we would review what the small groups had submitted and decide on one set of Group Guidelines for the Network:

The following was submitted:

1. think out of the box	2. agree to disagree	3. confidentiality of caseload/ participant sharing
4. cultural competency and acknowledgement	5. assessment – process benchmarking	6. feedback from youth as to what works
7. research based learning	8. keeping big picture	9. responsibility in participation
10. best practices and lessons learned from other communities	11. who is missing from the network and who should be here	12. attend meetings on time
13. introductions at every meeting	14. recognizing the need for change	15. recognize opportunities
16. establish lines of communications (emails, minutes, etc)	17. focus on problem solving	18. recognize peoples expertise
19. all ideas are valuable	20. keeping the overall mission at the forefront	

Rosario & Associates LLC

25 Clifford Drive West Hartford, CT 06107
 Tel: (860) 985-6134 Fax: (860) 206-0541
 e-mail: RMRosario@comcast.net

Defining Membership

Participants discussed and agreed to the following definition of Network membership:

- Each organization identifies an official Network member who will represent their organization and an alternate representative (in case official member must be absent from Network meeting)
- Network member must be a key decision maker for the organization
- Organization's network member is responsible for keeping his/her organization (and their alternate) informed with respect to network process, progress and decision making
- Network members will be required to have their sponsoring organization sign a letter of commitment to Network Mission and support.
- If there is a vote taken each organization gets 1 vote.

At the next meeting, we will discuss:

- Should there be Individual Membership as well and
- If you do allow for individual membership, what process for nomination/selection will the group use?
- Are there other organizations missing who should be in the Network?
- If yes, how do we enroll them?

Next Steps:

- Each organization must discuss participation in the network and agree on the 2 agency representatives (decision-maker, alternate). The representatives must understand their role of keeping each other informed and their organization's overall commitment to the network.
- Bring comments and feedback on the draft mission statement.

Next Meeting: May 20, 2005 at 8:30am at the ITBD building, 185 Main Street, New Britain. Room 309.

Additional Handouts: Attendance log, from cooperation to collaboration

Rosario & Associates LLC

25 Clifford Drive West Hartford, CT 06107
Tel: (860) 985-6134 Fax: (860) 206-0541
e-mail: RMRosario@comcast.net