

New Britain Youth Network

Members of the New Britain Youth Network work collaboratively to ensure that every New Britain child has access to and participates in activities and services that exemplify best practices in positive youth development

Meeting Minutes June 10, 2005

In Attendance: Attachment

Welcome and Introductions

New members introduced themselves. Exercise worksheets were distributed to new members to individually submit in writing their agency information in order to share with other members: Who they were? What was their organization's mission? Moreover, what did they hope to achieve through the New Britain Youth Network? Their responses will be added to everyone else's written responses which will help begin a directory for Network members. (Attachment)

Organizing To Succeed

- **Membership Issues:**
 - Are there Key Players (Individuals or Groups) missing from the Network?
 - How do we enroll them?

After much discussion on who and how does the Network add members it was agreed that all new members were to be welcomed to the table as long as they agreed with the mission and signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

The Network established an Ad-Hoc Welcoming Committee that will welcome and orient new members appropriately. Committee members are: Tracey Madden-Hennessey, Gary Robinson and Mike Madigan.

- **Clarify Network Values and Beliefs**

Facilitator asked members to:

1. Individually write down the values/beliefs they felt the Network should have as the foundation for future work, then
2. Share in their small groups and come up with no more than 5 values/beliefs statements they wanted to contribute to the Network

The 4 small groups then shared their values/beliefs statements with each other and voted for the top values/beliefs statements for the Network. These were:

Network Values and Beliefs

1. *Youth have the right to a safe environment where parents and children have the right to be treated with the utmost respect and dignity (23)*
2. *Decisions should be made based upon what is in the best interests of Kids. (18)*
3. *Every child has the potential for growth and goodness and need proper nurturance and support to achieve their potential. (16)*
4. *Children should have an opportunity to express their voice and input. (16)*
5. *Children deserve an opportunity to enhance their educational component with extra-curricular life experiences. (15)*
6. *Parents want the very best for their children. (14)*
7. *Children should have an open access to a broad range of artistic, cultural and athletic experiences. (14)*
8. *Staff must have an understanding of all aspects of diversity and that all people have assets (especially children). (14)*
9. *All agencies should be willing to share ideas and resources for the benefit of all children (18)*
10. *Every child deserves to have at least 1 consistent caring adult in their life. (13)*
11. *Children have a basic human need to be loved and accepted. (12)*

- **Identify Key Components of Memorandum of Agreement**

Network members revised the Memorandum of Agreement model and agreed to obtain the necessary signatures for the next network meeting if at all possible. (Revised model attached)

Middle School Initiative Update-Dave Davison, President of the AS Foundation

Dave Davison announced the awardees of the first round of planning grants for the New Britain Middle School Initiative to the group. He stated that this was going to be an on-going process and that Network members should not be discouraged if they applied for the first round and were not awarded. He invited organizations to come in and talk to him and his staff regarding their applications to obtain feedback. He also encouraged organizations that had not submitted to come and discuss possible ideas before submitting a letter of intent.

Next Steps

- Next Meeting: **July 21, 2005 8:30-10:30 AM**
ITBD building, room 319
185 Main Street, New Britain
- Obtain Memorandum of Agreements from all collaborative members
- Presenter: Susan O'Connor, Coordinator, WestMOST Network, MA

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