

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

Minutes July 21, 2005

Agenda

- 8:30 AM** **Welcome and Introductions of New Members**
- 8:45 AM** **Organizing To Succeed-**
- Memorandum of Agreement
- 9:30 AM** **Presentation- Susan O'Connor, Consultant**
Lessons Learned-Davis Foundation After-School Initiative
- 10:15 AM** **Next Steps**

Welcome and Introductions

Facilitator asked new members present to introduce themselves to the group. She then distributed an exercise worksheet and asked all new members to individually submit in writing on order to share with the 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. Copies will be available at the next Network meeting.

Organizing To Succeed: Memorandum of Agreement

Network Members discussed the final draft of the Memorandum of Agreement and made some clarifications in the Guidelines and Values Statements. The revised MOA is attached. Network Members agreed to obtain necessary signatures by the next meeting if possible.

Presentation: Lessons Learned-Davis Foundation After School Initiative

Dave Davison introduced Susan O'Connor, Consultant to Davis Foundation on After School Initiative (WestMOST). The WestMOST Network began in spring 2004 to build the capacity of OST programs in western Massachusetts. WestMOST member coalitions build on the strength of seven existing coalitions that serve over 600 members. In addition, they are the first regional network which links to the statewide Massachusetts After-school Partnership (MAP), and are supporting their efforts to create similar regional networks across the state. The Network consists of over 30 Hampden County OST providers and organizations. The goal is to identify priority needs to create a shared vision and voice to increase resources for OST AND increase program supports like training and technical assistance. Copies of materials distributed will be available at the next Network meeting.

Place on Your Agency Stationary

Memorandum of Understanding

_____ agrees to be an active member of
(Agency Name) **the New Britain Youth Network.**

We designate _____, _____
(name) (Title)
as our representative to the New Britain Youth Network and _____,
(name)
_____ as the alternate.
(Title)

As an active member, we commit to:

1. Adhere to the Mission of the New Britain Youth Network; established as:

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

2. Abide by the agreed upon group guidelines, values and beliefs established as:

Group Guidelines:

- Listen to and respect the opinions of others, remember all ideas have value
- Agree to disagree
- Participate actively and consistently
- Recognize people's expertise
- Attend meetings on time
- Establish and maintain lines of communications (emails, minutes, etc)
- Maintain confidentiality when requested
- Recognize the need for change in service delivery for children
- Keep the overall mission of the network at the forefront. Be guided by the Mission in all our deliberations
- Focus on problem solving

Network Values and Beliefs

- Youth have the right to a safe environment where parents and children have the right to be treated with the utmost respect and dignity
- Decisions should be made based upon what is in the best interests of Kids
- Every child has the potential for growth and goodness and needs proper nurturance and support to achieve his/her potential
- Children should have an opportunity to find their voice and express their views

- *Children deserve an opportunity to enhance their education with extra-curricular life experiences*
- *Parents want the very best for their children*
- *Children should have open access to a broad range of artistic, cultural and athletic experiences*
- *Staff must have an understanding of all aspects of diversity and that all people, especially children have assets (strengths and talents)*
- *All agencies should be willing to share ideas and resources for the benefit of all children*
- *Every child deserves to have at least 1 consistent caring adult in his/her life.*
- *Children have a basic human need to be loved and accepted*

3. Carry out our roles and responsibilities as collaborators; 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 both within the collaboration and within the partner agency's own organization. The collaborative structure determines lines of accountability, and each partner contributes resources and reputation. Partners pool or jointly secure the resources, and share the results and rewards.

Members of the Network strive for consensus; however, at times it might be necessary to call for a democratic vote. Additionally, if group decisions involve or affected policies of organizations, then a consultative decision-making process might also be necessary. This would involve Network members going back to their respective organizations for consultation and returning to the group with their decision.

Furthermore, we commit to work to create the New Britain Youth Network Strategic Plan and do our utmost to implement action steps.

Executive Director Signature

Date: _____

Board President Signature

Date: _____

Agency Representative Signature
 (if other than Executive Director)

Date: _____

Agency Alternate Signature

Date: _____