

## New Britain Youth Network

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*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 August 18, 2005**

**In Attendance:** See attachment #1

#### **Agenda**

1. **Welcome and Introductions of New Members**
2. **Collaborative Planning Process: What have we accomplished thus far and what remains to be done by when?**
3. **Discuss Environmental Scan Findings**
  - **Which key findings in the Environment Scan should be addressed by this Network**
  - **How can the Network begin to address these issues?**
4. **Group Feedback on Network**
  - **What's Working?**
  - **What needs to change/improve?**
4. **Next Steps**

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

New members present introduced themselves to the group. They will complete the questionnaire and be added to the directory for Network members. (See attachment 1)

#### **Collaborative Planning Process**

Rosaida Morales Rosario, Facilitator, handed out the outline of the Network Collaborative Planning Process and reviewed with the group what the group had accomplished in the process thus far. She stated that they had completed the section on Organizing to Succeed and that for many Networks/collaborative this was the most difficult because it was usually the most tedious. But now the Network was entering the exciting phase of the planning process. The task before the Network now is to begin to identify the key priorities in order to establish goals and objectives for the Network to work on for the next several years. In order to begin this she recommended that the group spend some time during today's meeting reviewing the key findings of the *New Britain Study of After School Programs for Middle School Youth Environmental Scan Report* completed by Priscilla F. Canny, Ph.D. and Carole Weisberg, M.A. Connecticut Voices for Children, that was commissioned by American Savings Foundation.

#### **Discuss Environmental Scan Findings**

The facilitator reviewed with the group the key findings from the Environmental Scan and then the Network members divided up into 2 groups. The groups were facilitated by

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Rosaida Morales Rosario and Maria Sanchez. The 2 groups deliberated on two key questions:

1. Which key findings in the Environment Scan should be addressed by this Network
2. How can the Network begin to address these issues?

The following are reports from the 2 groups:

<u>Group 1</u>	<u>Group 2</u>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Increase Resources<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advocacy for increased public \$\$\$</li><li>• Joint planning and resource development for foundation and private \$\$\$</li><li>• Advocacy and education of funding sources about real costs of quality after school programs</li><li>• Increase staff to student ratio</li><li>• Increase quality of staff<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Through staff development</li><li>○ Higher staff education</li><li>○ More experienced staff</li><li>○ Increase Bilingual/Bicultural Staff hiring</li></ul></li><li>• Incentives for Parent Involvement</li></ul></li><li>2. Quality of Programming<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Joint Curriculum Development</li><li>• Joint Evaluation</li></ul></li><li>3. Quality of Staff<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Training in Cultural Competence-particularly in working with Latino children and families</li><li>• Training on Poverty and its impact on families</li><li>• Training on development of Parents as resources/staff</li><li>• Cultural competenc and</li></ul></li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Transportation<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Trolley type services</li><li>• Expenses to hire transporter</li><li>• Look at models that work elsewhere</li></ul></li><li>2. Quality<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Staff training for the population</li><li>• Cross training across programs</li><li>• Use of Expertise of members</li><li>• Standards that are effective</li><li>• Consistency in Staff</li></ul></li><li>3. Collaboration<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Time and expertise is time consuming</li><li>• Location sharing</li><li>• Inventory of services/wants/resources offered and needed</li><li>• Making connections to share</li></ul></li><li>4. Access<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “kids that need it most” what does that mean?</li><li>• Serving sibling at the same time</li><li>• The whole family/case management offered the help to access services</li></ul></li><li>5. Evaluation<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Feedback from kids/surveys</li><li>• Feedback from families, teachers as well</li></ul></li></ol>

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### **Meeting Minutes**

**August 18, 2005**

understanding of teenage pregnancy and sexuality.	6. Collaboration <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Collective apply for \$\$\$ and collectively use evaluation and to tools to attract funds</li><li>• Database of programs and outcome standards to assess city wide. Through a website venue, contact info etc. Staff to maintain database</li><li>• Sharing/discuss 1 or 2 of the big issues</li><li>• Joint training</li><li>• Sharing staff</li><li>• Sharing program ideas</li></ul>
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### **Group Feedback on Network**

The facilitator then asked the group to give feedback on: What's Working? And What needs to change/improve?

<u>What's Working?</u>	<u>What needs to change/improve?</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learn so much from Network</li><li>• Learning about what everyone is doing and sharing opinions</li><li>• Drawn together the right people</li><li>• Looking at the Big Picture of youth issues</li><li>• Time and opportunity to form collaborations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Start on time</li><li>• Less on Agenda</li><li>• Give materials/ tasks in between meetings.</li><li>• Too long in between meetings</li><li>• Send out minutes a week of meeting</li><li>• Find out who and why people are not attending.</li><li>• Need to schedule a session on cultural competence for the Network</li></ul>

### **Next Steps:**

Next Meeting: September 23 8:30-10:30 AM ITBD Room  
Agenda Item: Continue with Identification and discussion of Key Priorities for Network and Lessons Learned from Waterbury Network.

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