

New Britain Youth Network

1

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

Network Minutes September 23, 2005

In Attendance: See attachment #1

Agenda

1. **Welcome & Update on American Savings Middle School Youth Initiative**
2. **Introductions of New Organizational Guests**
3. **Memorandum Of Understanding**
4. **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?**
5. **Waterbury YouthNet: Lessons Learned**
6. **Next Steps**

Welcome & Update on American Savings Middle School Youth Initiative

Dave Davison, President of the American Savings Foundation welcomed everyone and gave a brief update on the status of the American Savings Middle School Youth Initiative. He announced the selection of Children's Aid Society from New York City to be the technical assistance organization for the Middle School Initiative grantees and that they would be conducting some workshops for Network member organization over the coming months. He also announced that the first grantees were: YWCA and OIC. YMCA had received a planning grant but opted not to submit a full proposal at this time.

He also encouraged all Youth Network Members who would like to discuss possibilities of becoming part of the Middle School Initiative to set up an appointment with either Maria Sanchez or himself.

Introductions

New members present introduced themselves to the group. They will complete the questionnaire and be added to the directory for Network members.

Memorandum of Understanding

Rosaida Morales Rosario, Facilitator, reminder everyone of their commitment to signing and submitting the agreed upon Memorandum of Understanding for official

Rosario & Associates LLC

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

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

membership into the Youth Network. A signed Memorandum will become increasing more important in order for them to exercise their decision-making rights and responsibilities and to participate in benefits such as free network staff trainings. Some members requested that the model of the memorandum of understanding be sent out again. Maria Sanchez said she would make sure that that happened.

Thus far the following organizations have submitted their MOU's and therefore are allowed to fully exercise their membership privileges:

1. Girl Scouts-CT Trials Council, Inc.
2. CT Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra
3. Opportunities Industrialization Center
4. New Britain Public Schools
5. Junior Achievement
6. YWCA of New Britain
7. Coalition Against Substance Abuse
8. United Labor Agency
9. New Britain Museum of American Art
10. Friendship Center

Some members also expressed concerns that they were not receiving emails and notices from the Network. Maria Sanchez explained that they were having difficulties with sending out emails to such a large distribution list and that the foundation would be consulting with their IT consultants over next to few weeks to try to resolve these issues. In the meantime, she suggested that whoever was missing information or minutes to please call her office and she would fax or mail it to them.

Discuss Environmental Scan Findings

The facilitator recommended that the group continue to spend time 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. The Network members then divided up into 4 groups. The 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?

Rosario & Associates LLC

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

New Britain Youth Network

3

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

The following are reports from the 4 groups:

<u>Group 1</u>	<u>Group 2</u>
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Transportation issue to after school program2. Funding-increase resources: bringing understanding to those who decide on budget to realize collective need3. Collaboration: national collective effort grant seeking	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1)Transportation<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Double decker bus to get kids from point A to B• Like dial a ride for Seniors• In Hartford a mini bus takes people around new conference center (Adrian's Landing) Why not kids to attend special events?• School buses –investigate idea• Kids need safe transportation otherwise they need to protect themselves2)Evaluation<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feedback from kids-are kids being asked about the programs. Are they listened to and programs then rated?• ASPIRA reviews report card after several interventions• Difficult to measure outcomes3)Quality of Staff<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continuous training and development needs• Assistance with recruitment issues4)Cost of programs fees<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Even \$10 has been an economic barrier5)Access<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who needs it more difficult to determine6)Resources<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Need to set priorities: poverty is huge issue• Extras like recreation, and cultural activities are often dropped

Rosario & Associates LLC

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

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

<u>Group 3</u>	<u>Group 4</u>
<p>1)Quality of Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What should be the minimum qualification to work with kids? • There should be basic qualities within a person. Can't just grab anyone off the street because of salary • Focus on people within the community or do we look outside of New Britain? • Should living in NB be a requirement? • Not a requirement but if you have a qualified individuals from the community they usually have a "leg-up" • Sophisticated level of college training to work with kids. Education may also depend on the type of program it is • Role of Network: help funders to see that we to raise the \$\$ of individuals to get qualified people. "Can not turn water into wine!" <p>2)Evaluation: Have to look at outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to collect data that documents progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) School Attendance ii) School Grades iii) School Behavior iv) Successfully passing v) How many in summer school vi) How many graduate • Need closer collaboration with schools to get data <p>3)How does all this turn into priorities for the network?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting will be prioritizing 	<p>1)Quality/Relevance of Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does it take to engage a middle school student? • Variety • Identify the characteristics of our audience • Cultural competence: middle school students need relevance-global perspective • Multicultural clubs are most popular and well attended • Junior club versions of high school clubs-patterned after high school • High school mentors <p>2)Quality/Relevance of Teachers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers should be as diverse as the groups and reflective of the community. Hire, train and maintain. Teachers must be relatable. • Middle school kids can be great judges of characters and can tell if the teacher is fake or insincere • "Growing your own" teachers from New Britain • Non-traditional sources for teachers • How do we maintain quality instructors • Build in for teaching turnover • Career ladders for after school programs • Look at CCSU to collaborate with us <p>3)Transportation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kids to programs or programs to kids? • Get bus into the neighborhoods.

Rosario & Associates LLC

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

New Britain Youth Network

5

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

<p>the components</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We want to turn this info into action!	<p>Middle school kids can walk from central location in neighborhood</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use mass transit system if it were more effective• Downtown lots of programs-lots of buses• Kids tokens-will parents allow this? <p>4)Parent Component</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Need their trust• Need to involve stakeholders-parents• Can't plan for <u>all</u> state officials <p>5)Resources/\$\$\$</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maybe we need to advocate for more money but we need better budgeting and take into account the need for \$\$\$ for transportation• Quality programs, quality staff, and transportation all requires more resources \$\$\$
--	---

Next Steps:

Next Meeting: October 21, 2005 8:30-10:30 AM ITBD Room

Agenda

- 1. Establishing the Vision and**
- 2. Setting of Key Priorities/Goals for Network**

Rosario & Associates LLC

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