

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
October 21, 2005**

Agenda

1. Welcome & Introduction of Guests
2. Update on American Savings Middle School Youth Initiative-Dave Davison, President of American Savings Foundation
3. Establishing a Vision for the Future
4. Setting Priority Goals
5. Next Steps

Welcome & Introductions

Rosaida Morales Rosario, Consultant, welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda for today's meeting. She also announced the names of the organizations that had officially submitted the Memorandum of Understanding and asked if anyone had any others to submit. To date the following organizations are official New Britain Youth Network members

1. OIC of New Britain
2. New Britain Museum of American Art
3. Junior Achievement of SW New England
4. New Britain Board of Education
5. Girl Scouts
6. Coalition Against Substance Abuse
7. Friendship Service Center
8. YWCA
9. United Labor Agency
10. Connecticut Virtuosi Symphony Orchestra
11. CPEP
12. Boys & Girls Club of New Britain, Inc.
13. Pathways/Senderos Center (Greater NB Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Inc.)
14. Aspira of CT
15. Vision New Britain
16. Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters

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New Britain Youth Network

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17. Family Services of Central Connecticut
18. City of New Britain Parks and Recreation Department
19. United Way of New Britain & Berlin

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

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 that Eric Gurna, TA Consultant will be conducting a workshop on November 2 on Meeting the Developmental Needs of Middle-School Youth. He stated that while the workshop was specifically for the grantees in the Initiative Cluster there would be available a few additional spots in the workshop that would be opened to members of the Network who had submitted their MOU's. This kind of staff development opportunities would be on-going and one of the direct benefits of being a member of the Network.

Establishing a Vision for the Future

Rosaida then led the group through a vision setting process. First, the participants reviewed the handouts that Rosaida had created which summarized the Mission, Group Guidelines, Values & Beliefs, and Critical Issues Identified. Then she asked them to envision and write down individually what they believed the accomplishments of the Network 5 years from now would be. Each Network participant then shared with the group their individual vision statements and the group then identified the recurrent themes. An ad hoc committee consisting of Paulette Fox, Vicente Siberon, and Morgan Fippinger will take these recurrent themes identified and draft a vision statement for the Network members to review/revise and formally adopt at the next Network meeting.

Recurrent Themes

1. Increased sustainable funding that includes State and Federal money
2. Youth have increased success in Academics and standardized test scores

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3. Increased number of youth are in higher education/post secondary education
4. Youth have improve behavior : in school, out of school, and lower criminal activity
5. Youth have decreased pregnancy rate
6. There is improved access to programs with respect to transportation
7. There is increased quality after school services for youth
8. There is increased access leading to increased number of youth participating in programs
9. There is increased community participation and linkages for after school programs

Setting Priority Goals

Next the Network participants reviewed the handout that Rosaida had prepared which pulled together the discussions that the group had previously had around the important critical issues which the networked had to address. Network members discussed and voted on the priority areas as follows:

1. Improve quality of programs and establish evaluation system – 78 votes
2. Obtain sufficient and sustainable funding – 53 votes
3. Expand and improve after school transportation system – 47 votes
4. Increase staff quality – 45 votes
5. Increase parental involvement – 37 votes
6. Create a wrap around system for outreach to an support of youth – 34 votes

Next Steps:

1. Rosaida will communicate with Network members to obtain feedback as to whether they need further discussion on the priority areas before establishing strategic taskforces on the top 4 Priority Goal areas
2. Ad Hoc Committee will draft Vision Statement utilizing the recurrent themes which emerged from the Vision discussion
3. Next Meeting: November 18, 2005 8:30-10:30 AM ITBD Building Room TBA

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