

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
November 18, 2005**

Agenda

1. Welcome & Introduction of Guests
2. Update on American Savings Middle School Youth Initiative-Dave Davison, President of American Savings Foundation
3. Review/Confirm Vision for the Future
4. Finalize Priority Goals
5. Begin Discussion on Priority Objectives
6. Next Steps

Welcome & Introductions

Rosaida Morales Rosario, Consultant, welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda for today's meeting.

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 talked briefly about the staff development training being offered by the Middle School Initiative and asked that those who had attended share with the group their thoughts. Several of the Network members who attended the workshops shared their enthusiasm about the training. Paulette Fox, OIC Executive Director commented that she and her staff were surprised how much they learned from the workshops despite the years of experience they had in the field. Dave Davison stated that these staff development opportunities would be on going and a direct benefit of being a member of the Network. He encouraged all agencies to submit their Memorandum of Understanding and to avail themselves of the trainings offered.

Review/Confirm Vision for the Future

An ad hoc committee consisting of Paulette Fox, Vicente Siberon, and Morgan Fippinger took the recurrent vision themes identified at the October

Rosario & Associates LLC

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

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meeting and drafted a vision statement for the Network members to review/revise and formally adopt. The recurrent themes utilized were as follows:

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

The Ad-Hoc Committee then presented Morgan Fippinger's recommended draft vision statement:

"The New Britain Youth network fosters the belief that with the right tools, youth in New Britain have both the potential and the capability to achieve a lifetime of success. The New Britain Youth Network aims to supply the tools necessary for our cities youth to become positive members in the local and global community. By securing state and federal funding and streamlining access to quality after school programs throughout the city, the New Britain Youth Network will help youth make positive and healthy choices in academic and social settings."

After some full network discussion the following vision statement was agreed to:

Vision Statement

"The New Britain Youth Network supplies the tools necessary for our cities youth to become positive members in the local and global community. By securing state and federal funding and streamlining access to quality after school programs the New Britain Youth Network has helped youth make positive, healthy choices and attain increased success in academic and social settings."

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Finalize Priority Goals

Next the Network participants reviewed priority areas they had voted on at the last meeting. Rosaida presented the fact that via an email survey 5 Network members had expressed a desire to continue discussing the priority areas before breaking up into taskforces while 11 Network members had expressed a desire to start the taskforces and fine tune the priority areas via taskforce discussion. The Network members agreed to continue their discussion in order to achieve consensus on the priority goal areas prior to creating the taskforces. The decision was to create four taskforces by merging some areas as follows:

1. Improve quality of programs:
 - a. Improve programming
 - b. Increase staff quality
 - c. Increase support system for youth
 - d. And establish evaluation system
2. Obtain sufficient and sustainable funding
3. Expand and improve after school transportation system
4. Increase parental involvement

The group then divided themselves into the four taskforces according to what goal area they wanted to work on. Some network members asked if they could recommend other ad hoc members to join the taskforces and the answer was that the taskforces welcomed anyone who wanted to work on that priority goal area.

Begin Discussion on Priority Objectives

The taskforces then met and worked on creating formal goal statements and began to identify objectives for each priority goal area. It was recognized that this is a work in progress and that the taskforces would review each others work periodically and give feedback to each other as the planning process continued.

First Report from Network Taskforces is as follows:

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4

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GOAL #1: All New Britain Youth will be provided with opportunities to access high quality, engaging programs that will meet their individual needs and interests to enhance their overall quality of life and become productive citizens.

OBJECTIVE #1: Assess program quality.

OBJECTIVE #2: Adopt program standards.

OBJECTIVE #3: Ensure high quality staff.

OBJECTIVE #4: Implement research-based programs.

OBJECTIVE #5: Assess students' interests and needs.

GOAL #2: Increase existing parent engagement in program planning, board participation, volunteering, and program implementation.

OBJECTIVE #1: Increase quality of parenting (guardians/caregivers) leadership skills.

OBJECTIVE #2: Increase knowledge/awareness

GOAL #3: Enhance transportation to permit all youth access to out of school activities.

OBJECTIVE #1: Increase awareness of the transportation systems

OBJECTIVE #2: Meet with the Vision New Britain Transportation Committee

OBJECTIVE #3: Community transportation meeting (all organizations that have vans or other transportation vehicles).

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5

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<u>GOAL #4:</u> Obtain sufficient and sustainable funding from the local, state and federal level.

<u>OBJECTIVE #1:</u> Identify and develop constant communication with key stakeholders.
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<u>OBJECTIVE #2:</u> To develop a fact sheet.
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<u>OBJECTIVE #3:</u> Grant seeking and grant writing.
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Next Steps:

1. Rosaida will review taskforces' draft goals and objectives and give feedback
2. Taskforces will continue to revise strategic goals and objectives and present to full network for vote
3. Next Meeting:

December 9, 2005

8:30-10:30 AM ITBD Building Room TBA

Happy Holidays!!!

Few months present the multicultural "teachable moments" that December does! The following multicultural events and celebrations are among those that will happen this December:

- Saint Nicholas Day (Christian) -- December 6
- Fiesta of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Mexican) -- December 12
- St. Lucia Day (Swedish) -- December 13
- Christmas (Christian) -- December 25
- Boxing Day (Australian, Canadian, English, Irish) -- December 26
- Kwanzaa (African American) -- December 26 to January 1
- Hanukkah (Jewish) -- December 26 to January 2
- Omisoka (Japanese) -- December 31

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