

**Waterbury Prevention Policy Board**  
**40 Developmental Asset Re-Test Committee**

**Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009**

**10:30a.m.-12:00p.m.**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Kelly Cronin (Waterbury Youth Services), Jim O'Rourke (Waterbury YMCA), Sandy Porteus (Family Services of Greater Waterbury), Jennifer DeWitt (CNVRAC)

**Absent:** Louise Allen Brown, Shannon Longo

**Staff:** Nicole Porto

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**Introductions:** Nicole Porto, PPB staff, called the meeting to order at approximately 10:45, welcomed everyone and thanked them for their time and commitment in making this meeting occur seeing how difficult it has been to gather everyone around the table.

**Overall Goals:** Nicole Porto reviewed with the committee that the goal of the Committee is to *re-administer Search Institute 40 Developmental Assets survey in Waterbury Public School grades 6, 9, & 12 during April 2010.*

**The Committee charges are to:**

- Review 2007 Developmental Asset Survey procedure
- Identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to the retest
- Identify objectives to be accomplished between now and April 2010
- Complete the PPB Committee Report concerning objectives, activities, responsible individuals, timeline, and outcomes in December 2009 and in June 2010.

**Guiding Principles:**

Nicole distributed the guiding principles for the committee. Those included the following:

- Responsibility is shared: we are all responsible for how the meetings flow or not flow; what is covered and not covered
- We expect that each member will attend or send a representative
- All meeting start at the scheduled time
- Personal agendas are set aside: we come together for the benefit of Waterbury's youth
- Listen with attention
- Contribute to the well being of the group. Focus on the goal at hand
- What is shared on a personal level is confidential
- We try to reach consensus on agenda items
- When an agreement is not reached, everyone's opinions are recorded in the minutes
- Once the decision is made, we go forward together to implement it; we set differences aside, uphold the action 100%

- All questions are welcomed and accepted

The committee felt that the list captured everything and approved them.

### **Chair Nominations:**

Jim O'Rourke accepted nomination as chair. Sandy Porteus made a motion to nominate Jim as chair of the 40 Development Asset Re-Test Committee. Jennifer DeWitt seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

### **Re-Test Discussion:**

The following points were brought up from a discussion around the City's Opt-In/Opt-Out Policy:

- Kelly Cronin (WYSS) noted that they did not receive a 5 year renewal grant for underage drinking, because there were restrictions if the schools in your City have an Opt-In Policy. WYSS did not know this at the time of the application. Kelly and the rest of the committee felt strongly that having an Opt-In Policy is going to impact funding tremendously.
- Sandy Porteus (FSGW) felt strongly that we should be put on the Board of Education's agenda for January to discuss this matter. The team also felt it would be a good idea to look at who the old board was that said yes to allowing the survey to be conducted in 2007 and where they are today.
- The committee felt that their first step would be to have a conversation with the chair of the BOE (Pat Hayes). Jennifer DeWitt was willing to contact him. Sandy suggested that Jen explain to Pat how funding for grants is being lost due to the Opt-In Policy. Jennifer also noted that any non school funded survey has to be Opt-In if mandated. If voluntary, then it is passive and parents need to let us know specifically if you do not want your child to participate. Kelly Cronin felt strongly that if we have to get parental consent, we are in trouble in terms of getting this survey done.
- Jennifer DeWitt went over the following complications that Cheshire had in conducting this same survey.
  - Took 10 years to get survey
  - Not a sanction
  - Board of Ed could have waived, but the Superintendent was against it
  - Cost over \$10,000
  - Middle school was easier to do (200 out of 800 completed the survey)
  - Survey was conducted on the whole high school and they did it in paper form
  - Cheshire had to mail out 1,160 surveys including postage
  - Some children took the surveys home making them invalid
- The committee questioned if we really have to re-administer the survey. It was determined that the survey is important to re-administer so we can see where those students' ratings are 3 years later. We have to conduct the survey in the spring of 2010 and cannot wait until September 2010, because we will not have the same cohort of students that were previously surveyed. Jen stated that funding is now data driven and therefore we need to have this data in order to qualify for funding opportunities.

- Kelly suggested that we see who needs the survey in the community. If we can get letters of support from different organizations saying they can all utilize the same data, then we can bring that forward to the BOE.

#### **Establish Next Meeting Date**

The next tentative meeting date is scheduled for **December 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:30AM – 12:00PM at Family Services** of Greater Waterbury. Thank you to Sandy Porteus who offered her space for the meeting.

#### **Establish Follow up Items**

- Jennifer DeWitt will contact Pat Hayes
- 40 DAC to be put on PPB Agenda and BOE Agenda for January
- Nicole will contact Louise or Jackie about how much was spent on the 2007 Asset Survey.

*The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:35 a.m.*