

## Waterbury Prevention Policy Board

### 40 Developmental Asset Re-Test Committee

Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010

1:00pm-2:40pm

#### Minutes

**Present:** Jim O'Rourke, Louise Allen Brown, Jennifer DeWitt

**Staff:** Nicole Porto

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#### Board of Education Meeting Discussion:

The following points arose from a lengthy discussion regarding the upcoming Board of Education meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010:

- Jennifer noted that we need to have our packet to the Clerk by January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010 so the Board can review it.
- Nicole noted that no one has yet replied to the email that was sent out on January 4<sup>th</sup> asking: The PPB is planning to complete an update to the 2007 40 Developmental Asset Test in early 2010. To support us in that effort, would you please provide the following information by January 15<sup>th</sup>:
  1. Have you used the 40 Developmental Asset results to guide programming, or to address specific developmental assets?
  2. Please tell us more about how you have done that including any of the following:
    - Details about new programs you have developed or revised as a result of the assets data
    - How and when you have sought funding to address specific assets
    - Were you successful in obtaining funding
    - How the assets data has helped you request funds
    - Other ways you have used the asset data
- The group decided that Nicole would send out another email with a letter attached in which organizations will sign, put on their own letterhead, and mail back to WPPB no later than January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Nicole would also make phone calls to WPPB members reminding them of the email and encourage them to sign and return it.
- Louise will call Kenny Kuran and request a letter on what the current trends are with the Feds and where the Feds are going toward data collection for grants.
- Jen felt that one of the biggest arguments that need to be made very clear is that the data we receive doesn't evaluate the schools, but Waterbury youth.
- It is important that this survey is conducted, because we receive more extensive data when you have more than just baseline data. Louise will contact Amora about data collection/analysis.
- The group discussed that they would have less than 5 minutes to present. Jen would like to create some poster boards which would include SAMHSA's Strategic Prevention Framework, an ecological model, and/or Connecticut's version of the Strategic Prevention Framework. Jim also

suggested showing how \$320,000.00 has already been lost and there is a grant out there right this moment that we would like to apply for, but without an Opt-Out Policy it isn't possible.

- The group also noted how crucial this survey is in getting done this year in grades 6, 9, and 12, because we need to use the same cohort in order to compare our results from the 2007 survey.
- Louise noted that from her understanding, the Positive Behavioral Supports (PBS) program in the schools that Anne Marie Cullinan is in charge of, are in favor of the 40 Developmental Assets and would like training in the 40 Developmental Assets. Maybe the group could ask Anne Marie for her support on this issue of getting the test re-administered and possibly give us a few minutes.
- Jim noted that the funds for nonprofits are dwindling and although programs may have funding for a program now, they may not be there in the upcoming years. This is another reason why it is so crucial to have an Opt-Out Policy since funders seem to require it as part of their agreement.
- The group determined that they are asking for Opt-Out as well as permission to re-administer the survey every three years, so we do not have to come back to the table every three years.
- The question arose as to whether or not the group should bring up Opt-In. This is an option; however Jim and Jen both noted that by Federal Legislation, any survey funded by the US Department of Education must use an Opt-In procedure. WPPB is not funded by the US Department of Education, thus we are not bound by that law. If the Board approves Opt-In, the group would ask that they have access to their IRIS system, can distribute flyers, and attend any open house nights where they will answer any questions parents may have.
- The group also discussed the issue of security and we would offer that the results be housed with the Board of Education.
- Louise created a parent flyer and consent form for the last survey. Louise noted that everything needs to be all on one pages. Jennifer highly suggested that this letter be mailed home to the parents rather than go home with the students. It was also suggested that if parents want to call to excuse their child from taking the survey, they should contact Nicole Porto rather than put the extra burden on the secretaries at the schools.
- It was concluded that the group will first request Opt-Out and will pay whatever the cost to mail notice home to grades 6, 9, and 12. They will ask to utilize their telephone system for a second notice.
- It was also suggested that maybe we ask for 6<sup>th</sup> grade to be Opt-In, however 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade must be Opt-Out. By asking for Opt-In in 6<sup>th</sup> grade this may alleviate the concern of asking those "risky" questions.
- Jennifer will give a 2-3 minutes overview of the Prevention Framework- using the asset model and tying it into academic achievement.

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

- Louise will complete history bullets and have them added to the booklet. (Louise created a large booklet to give to Board members which includes everything WPPB has accomplished with the help of the 2007 Search Institute Survey results. Nicole Porto & Nicole Steck will work together on putting those packets together).
- Jennifer will type of what the phone recording will say.
- Jim will work of FAQ's page that will also include what prevention is as well as explaining how for every dollar spent so much money is saved for treatment.
- Jennifer will create list of communities across Connecticut who used Opt-Out for this survey.

- Louise will write a letter to the Board asking for permission to do the survey every three years as well as mailing a letter home to parents and using their telephone system. Sandy Porteus (chair) will sign the letter.
- Nicole will write a letter and attach it to email asking WPPB members to sign, print on organization letterhead and mail back no later than January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Nicole will also call the organizations to remind them of this email and encourage them to respond.
- Nicole will write another letter which will go around at the January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 WPPB meeting for individuals to sign.
- Nicole will resend the original email to WPPB members.

*The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:40pm*

**The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 10:00am**