

## **BTS – Positive Youth Development Workgroup (PYDW) Meeting Notes**

11/9/2010 ~ Family Services of Greater Waterbury – 1:00-2:30PM

**Attendees:** Ana Flamango – CJR; Robert Cizauskas – PAL; Jennifer DeWitt – CNVRAC; Peter Blum – Junior Achievement; Yoellie Iglesias – Family Services/SUN; Dolton James – Parent; Louise Allen Brown – WPS; Lisa Cheney – Parent; Anna Henry – Girls Inc.; Shannon Longo – Girl Scouts; Glenis Vialva – WYSS; Lori Hart – BTS Staff; Nicole Porto – BTS Staff

### **Welcome Workgroup Members & Introductions:**

Brief introductions of those present went around the room. Dolton James (newly elected Chair of BTSCC) dropped in to introduce himself as the Chair of the Bridge to Success Community Council. He explained that he sits on the Council as a parent and he is on our side in terms of wanting what is best for the children and youth in Waterbury. He asked Workgroup members to contact him if they have questions or concerns.

### **Clarify Chair & Vice Chair:**

It was noted that at the last meeting Bob Cizauskas was elected as Chair of the PYDW and will have a seat on the BTSCC. Yoellie was elected as Vice Chair of the PYDW. It was confirmed that the vice chair will lead the PYDW meetings. Chair will report activities back to Council. Vice chair will back up the chair and delegate other responsibilities. Chair and vice chair will help Workgroup identify priorities to assure move from planning to implementing. They will also help identify priorities and action steps. In addition, help set up to-do's for between meetings.

### **Free Training Opportunity for all Workgroup Members:**

Lori Hart announced that on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010 from 1-5PM at United Way of Greater Waterbury, all Workgroup members are welcome to attend a leadership training provided by William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund.

### **Adult Youth Liaison:**

Jennifer DeWitt mentioned that she had just met with the Mayor's Task Force planning team with Joe Gorman, Caryn Olcik, and Rep from Governors Prevention Partnership about how to maintain their work. Jennifer updated them about this team. The Mayor's Task Force has developed mini grants for youth to do projects. They receive funding in the amount of approximately \$7,000 and the thought was to have mini grants of \$700. The idea is to bring youth (those who looked at the 40 Developmental Asset data and other youth) together in November/December (November 29<sup>th</sup> – December 10<sup>th</sup>). Jennifer and Glenis will communicate with the youth and bring the information back to the PYD Workgroup. A youth goal should be to recruit other youth so that there is representation from all schools in the city (public and private). Also, the youth will be asked if they want referrals from other groups; however it will be up to the kids to decide. It was suggested that this may be called "Coalition of Youth." Lori will get more information on the Youth Council from Bridgeport – RYASAP. In addition, the Mayor's Task Force thought that the Basketball Jamboree on December 11<sup>th</sup> at PAL might be a good place for the youth to communicate their ideas to the community.

### **PYD Activities Brainstorming:**

It was suggested one of the first initiatives of this workgroup is to post the list of 40 Developmental Assets in English and Spanish on their website and/or Facebook page as well as have hard copies in their facilities for those who do not have access to a computer. Currently, Junior Achievement, Waterbury Youth Services, Family Services, and PAL have Facebook pages.

Lisa Cheney wondered how we can get this information posted in the schools. Louise suggested using the parent liaisons and Joe Gorman. Louise suggested that the Workgroup link up with PTO's and PTA's and establish a proposal/plan to reach parents during open house nights, etc. It was

noted that PAL has always been called about attending Open House Nights. Bob suggested that he can add the 40 Developmental Asset sheet as something they distribute.

Bob noted that PAL sends out a monthly newsletter to all the teachers and he can add the 40 Developmental Assets to that. It was also suggested that we branch out to other community agencies with bulletins such as United Way of Greater Waterbury and the Chamber of Commerce. Louise mentioned the Nancy Vaughan puts out a quarterly newsletter throughout the Waterbury public schools and the PYDW might want to ask her to send out a little blurb to insert into the newsletters.

**Other:**

- Peter Blum (Junior Achievement) – Peter explained that JA has programs that relate to life and character education skills. They offer financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and workforce readiness programs. They use volunteers in the community to provide education. Programs are offered for grades K-12. Currently programs are offered in 7-8 grammar schools in Waterbury (Tinker, Driggs, Wilson, Regan, etc.). They also offer afterschool programs. All programs are free of charge.
- Glenis Vialva (WYSS) – Reported that there is a new FWSN Liaison assigned to Waterbury who has asked to join the PYD Workgroup.

**Next Steps:**

Clarify Mission, Assign Objectives & measures to our action steps

Out of School Time programs

Increase the number of opportunities youth have available to them

Assure programs are in the right places in the city to cover the need

40 Developmental Assets

Communicate and disseminate assets

Increase knowledge and number of people who understand the assets

Increase the number of people who use the 40 Developmental Assets in their programming

Measure Asset programming effectiveness

Specific Actions suggested:

November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – DCF Resource Fair at PAL (Nicole Porto to cover from 9-12PM)

BTS Overview & contact info

Handout 40 Developmental Asset Info

% Assets in Waterbury

Gather email list and interest about getting involved on BTS Workgroups

Each Positive Youth Development Workgroup member should post the 40 Developmental Assets on their website (if they have one) and in their organization.

Establish a plan to reach parents with 40 Developmental Assets information

PAL Coaches training – perhaps give 20 minute intro to the coaches

Trainers in the Community include - Jennifer DeWitt & RAC staff (Central Naugatuck Valley RAC), Jim O'Rourke (YMCA), Kelly Kerrigan (Girls Inc.), Yoellie Iglesias (Family Services – SUN) and can provide the 4 ½ hour training sessions

**Next Meeting: December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – 1:00-2:30PM – Family Services of Greater Waterbury**