



Family Engagement Committee  
Bridge to Success

*Preparing Waterbury Youth for Life: "A Birth to 21 Initiative"*  
Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 - 1:00p.m.-2:30p.m. - Catholic Charities

Minutes

**Present:** Kelly Sedlak, Gisele Booker, Linda Janowitz, Paul Bisnette, Pamela Ortiz, Tiffany Murrasso, Caryn Olcik, Trish Spofford

**Staff:** Lori Hart, Nicole Porto, & Barbara Tacchi

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**Introductions:** Gisele Booker & Linda Janowitz (co-chairs), called the meeting to order at approximately 1:05pm. Linda thanked Catholic Charities for hosting the committee in their new Family Center.

**Updates from last meeting:** Lori Hart (staff) noted that a Neighborhood Hub meeting will occur next Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009 from 3:00-5:00pm at United Way of Greater Waterbury to discuss what a hub should look like. We do not want to duplicate resources that are already out in the community, but more so, enhance what's already out in the community. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Lori also noted that at the November meeting she stated she would research the languages spoken within the community. Findings included:

- 76% speak English
- 18% speak Spanish
- 6% speak Indo-European
- 14% come from non-English speaking homes
- 12% are not fluent in English

Barbara mentioned that at the Early Care and Education meeting, members were willing to provide transportation for those who needed assistance. Caryn Olcik and Linda Janowitz felt that this was a great idea and were more than willing to help with transportation. ***Parents will contact Nicole and Nicole will then find someone to provide the transportation for them!***

Pam Ortiz (New Opportunities) noted that in 2007 the board established a new strategic plan. There are 6 groups for the betterment of the community including economics, basic needs, education (focus on youth development, advocacy, career paths, post secondary options, etc.), and relationships (circle initiatives). Pam felt that their goals were similar to the Bridge to Success goals and she wanted to be involved with BTS because of that.

**Stats/Indicators/Goals:** Lori explained that the Bridge to Success draft was developed from the Waterbury Prevention Policy Board's Youth Plan and the School Readiness Council's Blueprint which was already fully developed. In the process of revising the Bridge to Success draft, we realized the importance of incorporating additional sections from the Blueprint. The BTS-FEC members were provided with the updated strategies, goals and action steps from the original Blueprint merged with the PPB Youth Plan and the current Bridge to Success plan.



The team was asked to review the list of indicators provided and recommend those from the list or additional indicators that will show our success in achieving the goals of this committee. The headline indicators are the overall end result - which if we have affected it, we would have achieved success. These refer to the whole population and are measures that quantify the achievement of a population result. The secondary indicators are measures that will prove we are on the right path – show that we are making progress. Barbara added that we can only use indicators that we have data for. Caryn Olcik felt it would be great if we had an RBA session to learn the terms so when we hear terms, we know what they mean.

The committee felt that in the overall goal where it reads “fulfill roles as their child’s first teacher” that it should read “fulfill roles as their child’s **primary** teacher.”

After a lengthy discussion, the committee considered the following headline indicators for Family Engagement:

- Rate of children ages 0-8 abused or neglected
- Child Poverty Rates
- % whose income indicates at or above self sufficiency.

The committee felt that the following might be appropriate secondary indicators for Family Engagement:

- Participation in family programming
- Rate of children ages 0-8 abused or neglected
- Average daily attendance in K-3
- Maternal Education level
- Parent involvement in school

#### **Establish Next Meeting Date/Agenda**

The next meeting date is scheduled for **January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010 from 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM at Catholic Charities.** At the next meeting the committee felt they should continue their decision about the Headline and secondary Indicators.

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

- Lori will follow up with Jacqueline McGrath-Curtis

*The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:25p.m.*