

**Bridge to Success – Family Engagement Committee Meeting Notes  
8/18/2010**

**Attendees:**

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Nicole Porto    | Debbie McCusker |
| Tiffany Murasso | Diana Baxter    |
| Lisa Pawlik     | Xiaowen Lian    |
| Nate Case       | Lori Hart       |
| Ms. Feliciano   | Barbara Tacchi  |
| Giselle Booker  | Tina Agati      |
|                 | Linda Janowitz  |

**Updates:**

Lori Hart explained that the Bridge to Success and Prevention Policy Board are in the process of merging into one identity (Bridge to Success). They have been meeting in three hour meetings once a week since the beginning of July. Lori explained that they are in the process of creating a Board which will be comprised of:

- **PPB** – 3 members
- **SRC** -2 members
- **ECC Provider Group** -1 member
- **Office of the Mayor**-1 member
- **Waterbury Public Schools**-1 member
- **Parents/caregivers**-2 members
- **FEC Workgroup** -1 member
- **CHDC Workgroup**-1 member
- **ECEC Workgroup**-1 member
- **PYDC Workgroup** -1 member
- **WFDC Workgroup**-1 member
- **Fiduciary**-1 member
- **Funder**–1 member
- **Faith Based Community**–1 member
- **Reflective of the community**-1 member

Initial BTS Board members will have staggered terms so that the complete board does not turn over at the same time. Lori was looking for feedback from the committee that the chair/co chairs will have different responsibilities.

Expectations as board members will include:

- Prepare for and attend all BTS board meetings (at least monthly)
- Leadership skills
- Bring resources to the table
- Be ambassadors/advocates for BTS to the community
- Service without compensations from BTS; expense reimbursement to allow board members to attend will be considered
- Serve on at least one BTS board committee
- Live in Waterbury is preferred; or work in Waterbury
- Recruit/cultivate board members to replace those whose terms expire or leave the board for other reasons

- For this “start up” board – to be able to create and implement the fine points of the BTS structure

**Catholic Charities Family Center:**

Tiffany Murasso presented on Catholic Charities – Wolcott Street Family Center. Her presentation was about the philosophy and what a family center is. Programs and services that are offered are based on what funding is available. Tiffany noted that the key to Family Center Philosophy is “power with the families not power over the families.” Families need to decide what they want and need. A lot of programs and services are done through collaboration.

**Parenting Strengthening Services include:**

- Family Support and Education
- Family Literacy
- Case Management
- Basic Human Needs
- Adult Education
- Access to Health Services (HUSKY)
- Home Visitation Program (DCF Family Enrichment Program)
- Behavioral Health Services

**Family Support and Education Services include:**

- Family Literacy Activities
- Kindergarten Transition
- Healthy Kids
- Nutrition
- Value of play
- Budgeting

**Case Management Services include:**

- Health Insurance including SAGA applications
- SNAP applications
- Energy assistance
- School registration
- Medical
- Housing
- Employment
- Basic Human Needs
  - Access to Emergency Food
  - Diaper bank
  - Apartment listings
  - Furniture/household needs
  - Employment listings
  - Notary Public
  - Resource and Referral
  - Clothing/uniforms/coats

**Malta Health Care Van:**

- Every Tuesday (1:00-5:00pm) for 8 weeks, the van will be parked outside Catholic Charities for uninsured persons in Waterbury. After eight weeks the van will move to another location throughout the city.

Tiffany noted how important it will be to have community meetings to get parents involved about what they need. It is also beneficial to have a community agency run/oversee the hub. Catholic Charities started with just one staff person who does everything. There was question around the topic of background checks and it was suggested that background checks be done for volunteers working with people.

**Next Steps:**

- Look at draft neighborhood hub prototype and pick a few key components for neighborhood hubs

**Next meeting:**

- TBD – Tiffany will come again if need be.