



## City of Waterbury

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Waterbury Prevention Policy Board • 95 North Main Street • Waterbury, CT 06702 • (203) 568-0575

Waterbury Prevention Policy Board Meeting  
November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – 12:30-2:30- Family Services of Greater Waterbury

### Meeting Notes

**Present:** Yoellie Iglesias, Jim O'Rourke, Shannon Longo, Stacy Propfe, Linda Janowitz, Dan Rezende, Carol O'Donnell, Louise Allen Brown, Kathie Lang, Sandy Porteus, Jennifer DeWitt, Abby Anderson, Jacqueline Kabak, Kelly Cronin, Christine Bianchi, JoAnn Reynolds Bolanda, Andy Torres, Mary Bruce, Elaine Skoronski, Jackie Lundie, William "Terry" Brown

**Staff Present:** *Lori Hart and Nicole Porto*

**Welcome & Introductions:** Sandy Porteus, Chair, welcomed everyone to the PPB Meeting. Introductions went around the room of all who were present.

**Mayor's Action Challenge:** Lori Hart, Director PPB & Bridge to Success, noted that you might recall back in March, decisions were made to combine the three complimentary initiatives which include: Waterbury School Readiness Council's Blueprint focusing on children birth to eight, the Prevention Policy Board's Community Youth Plan focusing on youth and the Waterbury Public Schools District Improvement Plan. The three realized that it made sense to combine the plans and come up with one plan addressing the needs of children and youth ages 0-21.

The Mayor's Action Challenge for Children and Families call upon mayors to set at least one bold, measurable goal or target to guide local action in each of the following areas to ensure that every child has:

- Opportunities to learn and grow;
- A safe neighborhood to call home;
- A healthy lifestyle and environment; and
- A financially fit family in which to thrive

Waterbury is the first in CT to join the mayor's action challenge. Lori noted that we would like to consider the Bridge to Success Plan goals when establishing draft goals for Waterbury's Mayor to review. We are currently working on headline indicators, secondary indicators and data development measures. Lori noted that in today's packet there are lists of what some communities have done and there are more on the website. The more we align our plan with the strategies, the better our chances are for future funding. Race to the Top was mentioned, and the hope is that they are all coordinating their indicators so they align.

Sandy asked if we should have a strategy to discuss this opportunity with the Mayor. How do

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we approach the mayor? Maybe the executive committee reminds him and shows him the benefits and the opportunities to collaborate.

**State of CT Office of Workforce Competitiveness:** Kelly Cronin and Lori Hart updated the members that John Swift – State of CT Office of Workforce Competitiveness and Barry Goff- Charter Oak Group are working with the State Department of Education developing some standard RBA measures, and they want the pilot communities to do the following by next April/May:

- Establish common indicators
- Come up with strategies to address them
- Find out where dollars are being invested currently

The State will look at potentially replicating what's working well- there may be funds associated with this in the future.

Carol O'Donnell noted that staff needs enough time complete this. Everything has to align. Regarding funding, are we working too hard on small grants and not enough on large grants?

#### **Committee Updates:**

- ***Community Advocacy Committee (PPB CAC)*** – Dan Rezende updated members that we recommended changing our name to Community Advocacy Committee, and revising the last bullet of the activities to state: “Recruit strategic partners in support of the effort.” Chair nominations were discussed. Priorities and actions were reviewed and a deeper discussion ensued. The next meeting is scheduled for December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009.
- ***40 DA Retest Committee (PPB-40DAC)*** – Our first meeting did not occur due to low participation. We have a planning meeting scheduled for November 16<sup>th</sup>. Jim O'Rourke has reached out to the Search Institute to see what others have done in terms of getting the survey done within the school system. A question arose as to how many surveys we really need to have. It was noted that it is probably based upon the community population. Another question came up as to what do we have to have given that this is going to be a difficult process. The committee will determine how to go about this at the next committee meeting.
- ***Positive Youth Development Committee (BTS-PYDC)*** – The PYD committees met on October 14th and are meeting again today. The committee will review the goal, activities and charges; guiding principles; chair nominations; the data that is available to the community. The data will determine what to identify to work on first and how we will accomplish the goals. The committee will also discuss changing the time of the meeting to a later time in the day to incorporate youth involvement. Sandy Porteus noted that the teen pregnancy rate in Waterbury is the highest in CT. Dan Rezende also stated that DSS cut the pregnancy awareness program due to budget cuts. Also, it was expressed that the current Board of Education does not allow sex education in the classroom. A question for Dan was how did they determine who gets into the pregnancy awareness program and he stated that it is determined by income levels. He also noted that they cannot accept pregnant teens into the program, because it is a prevention program. It was noted that Joan Hartley brought this up as an issue at the Early Childhood Forum. Linda Janowitz mentioned that at this forum it also was discussed the teen moms do not have anywhere or anyone to take care of their child.

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Grandparents are taking care of the children. These types of things are affecting the School Readiness Programs.

Sandy Porteus suggested that we include a goal relating to reduction of the teen pregnancy rate in Waterbury in the Mayor's Challenge.

- ***Family Focus Partnership (PPB-FFPC)*** – Mary Bruce- co-chair of FFP, stated that FFP is a collaboration a family, caregivers, and care providers. At last month's annual meeting, they held a forum on Truancy. Anne Marie Cullinan and Glenis Vialva talked about what is happening in Waterbury. They also had someone from the CT Law Center out of Hartford. That particular program has an agreement with the school systems and the truancy project links a lawyer with the child who becomes a mentor for him. They look at the needs of the student. Their take is a proactive approach and does not go after the school system. FFP meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month from 9:30-11:30 at United Way of Greater Waterbury.
- ***Workforce Development Committee (BTS-WFDC)*** – Terry Brown, chair, updated the committee that at the recent meeting they had a meet and greet; discussed the resource mapping document; went over the charges of the committee. They went through the data and indicators and had a lengthy discussion. They are going to try and get someone from the Waterbury Public Schools to be a part of our committee. They are still looking at the activities and decided what they want to do first. If we talk about getting youth career ready, what are the kinds of things we can do to make them ready? Some suggestions included: expansion of summer youth programs, mentoring programs, College Day for HS students where they come to college for a day. Terry also noted that 93% of the incoming college freshmen at NVCC are placed in Developmental English and Math course. Thus, what can colleges do to help prepare the students? The committee is still discussing what their next steps are going to be,
- ***Family Engagement Committee Joint Committee with School Readiness Council (BTS-FEC)*** – Linda Janowitz, chair, updated the committee that at the first meeting, the overall goals were reviewed; reviewed BTS; charges to the committee; and elected chairs. The co-chairs of the committee are Giselle Booker and Linda Janowitz. The following points were brought up at the meeting: how do we all fit together; native languages need to remain a top priority as does parents and family involvement in this committee.
- ***Child Health & Development Committee Joint Committee with School Readiness Council (BTS-CHDC)*** - The first meeting did not occur due to low participation. We are rescheduling to obtain higher participation levels.
- ***Mayor's Task Force Against Substance Abuse Committee (PPB-MSAC)*** – no update was available

**CT Juvenile Justice Alliance Breakfast:** Abby Anderson brought forth to the PPB that her organization would like PPB to host their annual breakfast. Being a host means that we use PPB's name for credibility and that PPB sends out our invitation to their contact list. The agenda this year will include:

1. Implementation of continued funding
2. Disproportion minority contact
3. Truancy Issues

The schedule is that everyone gathers for breakfast, followed by a PowerPoint presentation and then a question and answer session. Several members had questions about the goals of the Alliance. The PPB decided to discuss the question of hosting with members of the PPB Executive Committee meeting.

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**Other:**

- Linda Janowitz mentioned a Kellogg grant that Youth Services of Greater Waterbury applied for on behalf of the PPB and asked that PPB staff organize a meeting to discuss how to use the funds that are available to investigate future funding.
- Sandy Porteus noted that Family Services is hosting a free Flu Shot Clinic on Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00-2:00pm. There are 110 shots available to Waterbury residents ages 9 and older with no health insurance. Proof of residency is required. Call to schedule an appointment.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30pm.

The next meeting of the Waterbury Prevention Policy Board is on **January 13th from 12:30 -2:30 PM** at Family Services of Greater Waterbury