

**Vision Council Meeting #1 Notes**  
**Wednesday, April 16, 2008**  
**United Way of Santa Barbara County**  
**12:00pm-2:00pm**

Members Present:

Kristin Amyx, Marty Blum, Mark Brickley (for Martin Conoley), Salud Carbajal, Marybeth Carty, Bill Cirone, Jon Clark, Paul Cordeiro, Paul Didier, Bob Emmons, Raquel López, Peter MacDougall, Marisela Marquez, Lois Mitchell, Ernesto Paredes, Brian Sarvis, Sharon Siegel, Christie Stanley, Luis Villegas, Pat Wheatley, Michael Young

Members Absent:

Mike Brown, Martin Conoley, Steve Cushman, Harriet Miller, Chuck Slosser, Tom Thomas, Ron Werft

Staff Present:

Jen Bowman, Charles Caldwell, Terry Miller, Jessica Stampe

Facilitator:

Dirk Van Den Bosch

Goal of this meeting: to take the first steps towards creating a Vision Statement for Children & Families.

- I. Welcome – Paul Didier
  - a. Paul called the meeting to order at 12:13pm
  
- II. Facilitated Self-Introductions – Dirk Van Den Bosch
  - a. Outcome: Introduction and group photo
    - i. The Power of Partnership Initiative
      - Began out of our community's need to take a different look at the current environment affecting children and families and to look from a higher and more organized viewpoint regarding what our community is already doing on its own.
      - Van Den Bosch asked what we can do aspirationally to facilitate the growth and development of children and families in our community.
      - A photo was taken of the group.
    - b. "Snapshot" Exercise – What is the Power of Partnership Initiative?
      - i. The Power of Partnership is... (in 3 words) – Vision Council Members
        - Vision, teamwork, results

- Opportunity, commitment, power
- Goal setting, leverage
- Vision, collaboration, initiating leading change
- Confluent, communities, collaborating
- Community, future, innovative
- Comprehensive community plan
- Integration, shared-vision, mutual-benefit
- Collective, healthy, community
- Understanding, teamwork, action
- “ICE” – Informed Community Enhancement
- Belonging, contributing, nurturing
- Community, vision, future
- Doing better together
- Collaboration, cooperation, smart
- Catalyst for change
- Vibrant, healthy, community
- Making agencies collaborative

III. The Power of Partnership Initiative – How did we get here? – Paul Didier

a. Outcome: Understanding the initiative’s history; discussion

- i. In 2006, through a series of expert forums, dozens of private and public organizations that focus on children, families, and seniors gave feedback on direction and offered their ideas. At these meetings, consensus was reached regarding the understanding that goals had not been set on a widespread community basis for children, families, and seniors. These forums also indicated that there was a need for an organization to play the role of bringing together community leaders, experts, public and private sectors to engage the community in creating long range goals and plans. Consensus indicated that United Way was the organization best suited to the task.
- ii. After doing some best practice research, it was found that there are communities that have been able to come together, agree on goals, and produce measurable changes through a process like the Power of Partnership Initiative.
- iii. The concept of partnering amongst organizations has evolved over the past thirty-five years. The timing for the Power of Partnership Initiative is right – people involved see the benefit of working together and are willing to partner and join resources to create an agenda for change.

IV. The 5 W’s – Who, What, Where, When, Why – Charles Caldwell

- a. Outcome: Understanding more about the initiative's process and procedures; understanding of binder content
  - b. See PowerPoint (handout)
  - c. Binders distributed
  - d. [www.partnershipsb.org](http://www.partnershipsb.org)
- V. Question & Answer – Charles Caldwell and group
- a. Outcome: Answer members' questions about process
    - i. One member raised a question on how the media would be involved in the process. Caldwell acknowledged the value of the media in this process, but emphasized the importance of giving members the opportunity to begin the process off the record and to give the process a chance to gain some momentum. He informed members of the press conference scheduled for early May.
    - ii. When asked about the level of participation Vision Council members will have in the Community Vision Forums, Caldwell responded that member involvement is desired if one has the opportunity to do so and to contact staff to coordinate.
    - iii. Some members expressed an interest in an online forum which would allow for communication and dialogue between meetings. Didier responded that staff was currently researching blogging and online forum possibilities. Members will receive a progress update on this possibility.
- VI. Power of Partnership Initiative Approach – Terry Miller
- a. Outcome: Understanding more about the philosophy and the approach of the initiative.
    - i. Approach
      - The Power of Partnership will use a theoretical approach, the Theory of Change Pathways Model from the Aspen Institute Roundtable on Community Change (see binder 4-6). The Theory of Change Pathways model starts with a vision and long-term goals and maps backwards to figure out what preconditions are needed to achieve results. The benefit of using the Theory of Change Pathways model is that there is a clear and attestable hypothesis about how change will occur and that allows us to be accountable and makes our results more credible.
    - ii. Philosophy
      - The Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) model (see binder 4-1,3) focuses on discovering and mobilizing resources in a community that already exist. The ABCD model believes that the community is a glass half full with assets rather than a glass half

empty with needs. Citizens are the producers of democracy and of the future. Twelve guiding principles (see binder 4-2). Example of ABCD in action, the YEP pages (Youth, Education, Parent).

VII. Vision Survey – Dirk Van Den Bosch & Group

a. Outcome: Understanding of common themes.

i. See Vision Council Compiled Results

- Van Den Bosch distributed a “representative summary” of Vision Council survey responses. Some members raised concern that most of the responses to question #1 were service based and did not answer the question of what our community will look like when all of our children and families are successful. There was also concern that the prompts to the questions may have led the answers down a certain path. The group agreed that there needed to be a clearer sense of question #1 before moving forward to create a vision statement. Members committed to reviewing and/or reanswering question #1 before the next meeting. The assessment for questions #2 and #3 were strong.
- Members who had not yet filled out the survey agreed to do so as soon as possible so that there would be a truer compilation of the survey results. Members expressed interest in receiving an updated copy of compiled survey results.

VIII. Appreciation, Aspiration, and Action – Dirk Van Den Bosch & Group

a. Outcome: Understanding of the Power of Partnership Initiative’s focus and the next meeting’s goal; group participation; sign Commitment Sheet

i. Next meetings goal is to move closer to creating a Vision Statement for Children & Families

ii. Group participation

- Submitting/re-submitting survey; signing commitment sheet.

iii. Members participated in an exercise in which they answered two questions:

- We, the Power of Partnership Vision Council will be successful when...
  - Consensus is reached on a vision
  - The community is involved in creating this vision
  - Consistently follow an agenda and action plan that is a result of the vision
  - Definable action goals are synthesized and integrated
  - What is created resonates with what the community needs
  - Leaders can be mindful and thoughtful of the citizens the represent

- Community members are engaged and the situation can be looked at in a new way
- We create a compelling case that will mobilize sustainable community change
- Community leaders are fully engaged in the process
- A plan can be developed based on candidness
- Our vision becomes a reality
- Members answered the following statement: I will do the following between now and the June meeting...

IX. Meeting Adjourned at 2pm – Paul Didier