

Children & Families Steering Committee Meeting #1 Notes
Thursday, April 17, 2008
United Way of Santa Barbara County
9:00am-11:00am

Members Present:

Bill Batty, Mark Brickley, Ginny Brush, Tere Jurado, Georgene Lowe, LuAnn Miller, Pedro Paz, Nancy Rapp, Amrita Salm, Rick Scott, Mark Tollefson, Margie Trejo

Members Absent:

Penny Jenkins, Theresa Weissglass, Katharina Zulliger

Staff Present:

Susan Baker, 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 – Charles Caldwell
 - a. Caldwell called the meeting to order at 9:05am
- II. Facilitated Self-Introductions – Dirk Van Den Bosch
 - a. Outcome: Introduction
 - 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.
 - b. “Snapshot” Exercise – What is the Power of Partnership Initiative?
 - i. The Power of Partnership is... (in 3 words) – Steering Committee Members
 - Process, collaboration, involvement

- Best practices for sharing resources towards a common goal
 - Making change collectively
 - Community planning process
 - Inclusion, innovation, action
 - Listening, strength, change
 - Hope, efficiency, exponential
 - Family, progressive, lifestyle
 - People working together
 - Necessary collaboration to show responsibility
 - A vision to unite
- 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
- V. Question & Answer – Charles Caldwell and group
- a. Outcome: Answer members’ questions about process

- i. Members expressed enthusiasm for the process; have always thought a community-wide approach is necessary.
 - ii. Need to encourage others to partner and come together.
 - iii. Connection was drawn between the Power of Partnership Initiative and other planning efforts such as the one on Youth Violence.
 - iv. Accountability is a huge issue that needs to be addressed.
 - v. The divide between the Board of Directors and Service Providers
 - Making the budget look good versus making real strides for change.
 - vi. One question was raised about the level of involvement of Steering Committee members in the Community Vision Forums.
 - Caldwell responded that the forums were open to all members' participation at various levels and to contact the Power of Partnership staff to coordinate.
- 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; Review of Community Survey
 - i. See Vision Council Compiled Survey Results
 - The responses to the Vision Council Survey were reviewed from a compiled list of answers. Van Den Bosch noted that there was some concern in the Vision Council that many of the answers 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 lead the answers down a certain path.
 - Open discussion:
 - a. What will the community look like when all of our children and families are successful?
 - i. Member responses:
 1. Integrated, accessible
 2. A mosaic
 3. The community will nurture problem solving, creative thinking, and innovation
 4. There will be a “community thread” that brings everyone together
 5. Parents will know that they have support
 6. “Community” versus “Communities” – Santa Barbara as one community, not a bunch of segregated communities
 7. Citizens will be empowered and will add value by being active; there will be a sense of ownership
 8. Our community will be a safe and healthy place with opportunity for engagement
 9. Parents will be confident in their skills
 - Members who had not yet filled out a survey agreed to do so as soon as possible so that there would be a truer compilation of the survey results; the option was given

for those who had already submitted the survey to re-submit new answers given question #1's new given clarity. Members expressed interest in receiving an updated copy of compiled survey results.

- Staff will send out the full compilation of survey responses for the Steering Committee's review.

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 meeting's goal is to move closer to creating a Vision Statement for Children & Families

ii. Group participation

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

iii. Community Survey (handout)

- Members were asked to review the Community Survey and communicate suggestions to staff.

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

- We, the Power of Partnership Children & Families Steering Committee will be successful when...
 - a. We can fully integrate our Vision into the system
 - b. We realize our own Vision of "community"
 - c. A system is created that accurately reflects the needs of our community
 - d. All demographic sectors are engaged and feel empowered in our community
 - e. There will be more "Assets" in our community
 - f. We can sustain the progress we make as a result of our Vision
- I will do the following between now and the June meeting...

IX. Closing – Paul Didier adjourned the meeting at 11:10am

Next meeting on Thursday June 5, 2008, 9am-11am