

DRAFT

Funding Sub Committee
March 31, 2010

Present: Ann Ferris, Kim Russo, Richard Sussman, Hector Glynn, Christina Peterman, Cynthia McKenna, Sandra Ward

The group discussed several potential funders and outreach that had occurred in the last several weeks. Several issues were raised from these exchanges with individuals who have not participated to date with this group including comparisons to other initiatives that were not successful in Hartford. It will be helpful for the group to look at lessons learned from other past initiatives to prevent them from reoccurring.

It will be helpful to finalize the Mission and Vision statement for the group and identify one or two indicators to focus the efforts such as poverty, early childhood, to look at over a 10 or 30 year timeframe. The theory of change that is the focus of the initiative will be very valuable in identifying potential funders as well as additional stakeholders. Determining the major foci of the initiative will allow the funding committee to identify some additional potential resources and include more stakeholders in the planning.

The group made several recommendations to assist the project:

- Establish a working name so there is consistency and something to use prior to planning and potentially making this a contest for children or other options
- Develop a Request for Qualifications with criteria for potential CBO's. This needs to make it crystal clear what the groups expectations are for the CBO. An RFQ would be used for the CBO selection. The suggested criteria is detailed below. The RFQ should be approved by the Steering Committee and sent out to potential CBO's with a short turn around time (1 week) to facilitate identifying the CBO applicant for the Promise Neighborhood or other applications for planning funds.
- Define the relationship between the steering committee and CBO (Sandra Ward will draft a suggested format and potential content)
- Identify a potential grant writer – Mark O'Donnell was a suggestion. (Christina Peterman will follow up with him to determine potential interest and cost). Others were mentioned but Mark had the qualifications and experience (federal grants, education, knowledge of Hartford) that were preferable.
- Selection of the neighborhood is needed in order to move ahead with funding opportunities

Criteria for CBO selection

- Fiscal capacity- ability to handle large grants with multiple funders, sub contracts, timely turn around of financial information, and reporting requirements

- IT-ability to handle and manage data needed for planning and tracking outcomes
- History and capacity to work with residents, funders, and multiple stakeholders
- Cultural competence- language capacity, experience with target populations, staff diversity, staff development,
- History of successful collaborations
- Reputation in the community. References supplied for working with diverse stakeholders- funders, residents, parents, community leaders, etc.
- CBO's demonstration of a track record of working in concert with citizen boards and integrating soliciting citizen and parent input.
- Commitment to work with the Steering Committee (with a defined role by the Steering Committee)

The group will also ask Jen for a list of those who have been contacted concerning this project to make sure we do not redouble efforts. This information would be used to build upon for additional contacts.

Contacts include

John Larsen's office (at a later date)

Paul Dworkin (Ann and Richard- at a later date)

LISC concerning "Choice neighborhoods" (Richard will contact now to assure communication between both groups)

We will email draft notes, MOU's, and follow up thoughts.

Next meeting:

: April 13, 2010 12:30 to 2 pm

The Village

1680 Albany Avenue