

## Hartford's Promise

June 8, 2010

In attendance: Hector Glynn, Cynthia McKenna, Jose Colon-Rivas, Christina Peterman, Sandra Ward, Richard Sussman, Ann Ferris, Jennie Bruening, Aldwin Allen, Marilyn Calderon, Grantify (Keith Whitescarver, Jackie Cossentino, Reanna Blackford)

Meeting began with a discussion on SAND principal Desi Nesmith's involvement to this point. Hartford Public Schools are still determining what his role will be and how communication with him will occur. Grant writing team has yet to meet him.

Members of the steering committee were not pleased that the principal is not at the table yet. Hector explained that Desi Nesmith will be talking to Kelvin Roldan on 6/9 and then a larger meeting with the Village, Desi Nesmith, and Hartford Public Schools (Kelvin Roldan, Sandra Ward, Christina Kishimoto, and Kevin McCaskill, the new School Design person) will occur on 6/10. Assuming these meetings go well, the principal will be then be made available to the grant writing team.

Once the committee had said their peace on the urgency of getting the principal and SAND leadership team actively involved in the process, the meeting moved on to focus on the plan for the grant application.

We discussed the 365+ students at SAND and that once the rest of the Clay Arsenal school-aged population is added to the equation the number would more than double. That does not include early childhood numbers. So when we are talking about how many children the zone would serve, all these numbers need to be considered. Jose was going to coordinate giving the Village the early childhood numbers.

Committee members stressed the importance of completing the mapping of the America's Choice curriculum and objectives with the Promise Neighborhood plan. This is a process the committee had suggested in mid-May. The PN planning grant should work to supplement the school's progress toward the America's Choice objectives. We discussed the Results to Intervention (RTI) model and how that aligns with the America's Choice goals. Establishing a resource team for each child who demonstrates the need for additional support. But also the necessity of thinking about prevention and that every child needs this kind of support.

Discussion about possible foci along the pipeline being a preschool cohort and a mid-grade (2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>) cohort. This would align with the strengths in school readiness in Hartford, and in particular, in the SAND vicinity. Mid-grade would align with CMT emphasis and allow school to determine what grade would be best for them to have the Promise Neighborhood efforts center on in planning year.

Aldwin spoke to the need to increase foot traffic to SAND and for community members to see it as the center of the neighborhood. Need to identify galvanizing personalities that can bring parents and community members into the fold. He also emphasized the need for the PN advisory group to be facilitators for this kind of influx of community, not the ones who call the shots, as that needs to rest

with the SAND leadership team. It is crucial that the responsibility for creating and fulfilling the vision of this project is shared.

Ann suggested we look at the CARES model from Yale as a resource.

We talked through the draft of the theory of change and theory of action and emphasized the need for the Hartford application to take advantage of the resources that are unique to Hartford, those that will make the application stand out.

Keith and Jackie gave the group a list of tasks and information needed for the coming week, including identifying partners and what partners will provide for the project. We set tentative meetings for Monday, June 14 at 11:30am and Friday, June 18 at 9am to discuss subsequent drafts of the application. Hector called our attention to the formation of the advisory committee and the budget and staffing. Jackie asked that 2-3 people are needed to give in depth feedback on the application drafts. Ann suggested that one of those people needs to be the principal.