

Hartford Children's Zone
Steering Committee Meeting
2/9/2010

We welcomed new steering committee member Martha Page from the Hartford Food System. Also in attendance were John Settlege, Christina Peterman, Aura Alvarado, Katie Snell, Jose Colon-Rivas, Chanelle Peters, Judy Goldfarb, Chris Doucot, Justin Evanovich, Cynthia McKenna, Ann Ferris, Jennie Bruening

Jose Colon-Rivas gave a brief overview of the meeting that he and Jennie Bruening had with Kelvin Roldan, as a representative of the Superintendent's office, just prior to the steering committee meeting. Both the Mayor's Office and the Superintendent's Office support the establishment of a Zone in Hartford and the pursuit of a Promise Neighborhood Planning Grant.

We discussed the Hartford Foundation's offer to pay for a consultant to help us move forward with planning a zone and preparing for the Promise Neighborhoods RFP. We were not at a stage to make a decision on a neighborhood in the meeting on 2/9. Data still needs to be collected to inform that decision. The Hartford Foundation has also asked for a lead agency to be selected before the money would be available for a consultant. That cannot happen without the selection of a zone.

All three of the individuals (Colon-Rivas, Roldan, and Bruening) in earlier meeting agreed that a smaller group should be formed to take the recommendations of the steering committee along with data from the task force, mapping of services and programs throughout the city, and information on strategic plans for future services and initiatives, including school-related strategic plans, and come to a decision on the area of Hartford that will make up Phase I of a Zone.

A point of clarification from the meeting, this smaller committee will not be comprised only of the Mayor's Office and the Superintendent's Office, although those two offices will be a part of the group. Representation from UCONN and community based groups and leaders from both the North and South side of Hartford will be included to form a group of 5-7 individuals. Discussions have also ensued since Tuesday about appointing a facilitator for this group who would be responsible for leading meetings. This person would also assure that all members of the group have a voice in the decision on a Zone and that all data and information are considered equitably.

From there we moved on pulling all the information together to complete the data spreadsheet by February 16. Individuals were assigned areas of data:

Ann Ferris-birth info and other health indicators including asthma, anemia. Childhood obesity data.

Martha Page-housing data from City and related poverty indicators (e.g. lead paint)

Andrew Clark-crime data for youth and parents

Chanelle Peters with John Settlege and Casey Cobb-Missing education data

Jose Colon and Enid Rey-Mapping of services in the city for birth-age 8 and 8-18. Information on opinions of services by residents-does this data exist?

Hector Glynn-DCF, Foster care, welfare removals. And (with Sandra Ward at the Hartford Public Schools) mapping the city's students by address to find how many children are attending schools in the different areas of the city.

Jennie Bruening-CT Center for Population Research follow-up and food stamp data

Next, and a new development since Tuesday's meeting, we have been able to contract the services of Katie Martin, from the UCONN Center for Public Health and Health Policy to compile a report from the data that summarizes each of the key points for the Promise Neighborhood application, as we know them as this point, and links those points to the data that has been gathered about Hartford.

With Katie's report, we will present the results to the Steering Committee on February 23 and enable them to make recommendations on where Phase 1 of the Zone should be located.

Other items of note since Tuesday's meeting and a call for assistance:

1. Funding Task Force needs to schedule a next meeting prior to 2/23 in which they pull together all information they can find on the pending RFP. Ann, can you participate in a call with Policy Link's Office that is working with the White House to prepare this RFP either Tuesday 2/16 after 3pm or Thursday 2/18 between 1-3pm?
2. Community Building Task Force-Jennie has meetings set up with CRT on Tuesday 2/16 at 2pm and the Urban League on Tuesday 2/23 at 12:30pm to share with them what our group's progress. Is there one person who could accompany her to each meeting?
3. Also, for both the Data Task Force and Community Building Task Force, our group has been invited to the Census Forum sponsored by The Young Professionals of the Urban League of Greater Hartford, the Hartford Public Library, The Hartford Revived Network, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. on March 10 from 5:30-7:30pm at the Hartford Public Library. We have been asked to present approximately a 10- to 15- minute presentation on the demographic characteristics of the City of Hartford's school children, with special attention to the significance of these characteristics for forming education policy and requesting grants to provide services for Hartford children's needs. In addition, we hope you will feel free to use this presentation to introduce the Zone's concept to the Hartford community, while stressing the significance of the Census in recognizing the community's needs and policy redress. We will need several volunteers for this event.