

Hartford Zone
Steering Committee Meeting
1/15/10

In attendance: Jennie Bruening, Justin Evanovich, Yvon Francis, Judy Goldfarb, Hector Glynn, Cynthia McKenna, John Settlage, Emeka Virgo, Sandra Ward

1. Updates since December 21st meeting
 - a. Introductions of new members
 - i. Yvon Francis, Assistant Principal of MLK and host
 - ii. Sandra Ward, Harford Public Schools, arrived later after a prior commitment
 - b. Harlem Children's Zone Trip
 - i. Shared impressions of the Zone from the 1/7 trip. Impressed with the extent and effectiveness of services provided to the children and families. Cynthia shared how that if a student misses two days of school, someone is at the home trying to find out why and how to get the student back. In the case Cynthia heard of on the trip, the school found someone to stay at the home to help babysit younger siblings of a student whose mother was due to give birth so that student could return to school. Also people expressed their appreciation for Dr. Rock's message about the adults being crucial to the effectiveness of any school or social service. All were impressed by the open reception we received. Hector emphasized the unique organizational culture of the Harlem Children's Zone as what he was impressed with in the visit the Village went on about a year ago. Strong leadership characterizes all aspects of the HCZ.
 - ii. Brittany Perotti and Loren Darrington stopped into the meeting to share their experiences interning at the HCZ College Success Office. They too were impressed with the staff and open reception they received. They both said they would return again if given the opportunity. However they did point out that they felt the college students who returned to participate in the program over their winter break were enabled more than challenged. They were not sure how self-sufficient the college students were. Something to consider with not only the college students, but with wrap-around services in general.
 - c. Review Task Force Meetings

We highlighted aspects of each task force's meetings throughout our meeting.

 - i. Data Collection
 1. Concerns on amount of data to be gathered and any ways to narrow focus by indentifying a neighborhood and/or an age range to examine in justifying the beginning plans for a zone vs. the evolving phases of a plan. Recognize that families, not just children within a certain age range will receive the benefits of a zone, but focusing on indicators (both needs and assets) will help.
 2. Need to not only gather an inventory of services in neighborhoods but also identify what is working of those services.
 3. Difficulty in that social services data is often not connected from one office to the next. Compartmentalized. Would be an important aspect to consider devoting time, energy, and funds to as we move forward.
 4. City is implementing ETO (Efforts to Outcomes) data tracking as the HCZ uses too. Could be a positive as we move forward to have this system in place.
 5. Assignment of tasks
 - a. Hector-crime statistics
 - b. Yvon-grad rates, absentee/truancy
 - c. John-educational achievement
 - d. Cynthia-teen pregnancy

6. Will try to establish a data collection spreadsheet online so that individual committee members with permission can access and add statistics they gather.
 - ii. Funding Opportunities
 1. Still waiting for the RFP.
 2. Will assist Data Collection Task Force with gathering statistics/demographics that will help in zone selection and grant submissions.
 - iii. Community Building
 1. Need to identify and define a neighborhood
 2. Establish a mission and goals for the larger group. Need for a clear and unified vision moving forward.
 3. Discussion of what families have been asked in prior data collection that can assist Community Building Task Force in conversations with community members on their desires for a Zone.
2. Moving forward
- a. We still struggle with a mission for the group since the Promise Neighborhood RFP is still pending. What we did agree on was the need to define and establish a neighborhood.

We discussed looking at the Hartford Public Schools' zones as a starting point. Please see:

<http://www.hartfordschools.org/documents/SchoolsbyZone.pdf>
<http://www.hartfordschools.org/resources-you-need/documents/HartfordChoiceMapRevisedJune222009.pdf>

We also learned from Yvon Francis that MLK was on its last three years as the school is phased out and students are moved over the new Achievement First School to be located at the old Fox Middle School building.

- b. Discussion included HCZ goals of ending generational poverty, having those who move through the pipeline to then reinvest in the zone by returning to live and work there.
- c. The need to identify a CBO and subsequent leader or leadership team was also discussed.
- d. Steering Committee will meet every other Tuesday from 10-12noon beginning 1/26 at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, 10 Columbus Boulevard, 8th Floor.
- e. Everyone was encouraged to spend time on the Harlem Children's Zone website, access the information that is continually being posted on the UCONN website for this group, and to read *Whatever It Takes* (Geoffrey Canada's book) in order to become more familiar with the Harlem model.