

HCZ – UCONN Meeting – 03/16/10

Short introductions by everyone in attendance ended by Dr. Marijke Kehrhahn speaking as a representative the Neag School of Education, pledging the school's support for the on-going efforts to replicate and implement the Harlem Children's Zone within the city of Hartford.

Thank you to everyone for reading over the three documents sent via email:

- HCZ White Paper Summary
- Identification of Risk Factors within the City of Hartford according to Neighborhood
- List of participants/contacts working on this in Hartford so far.

Overview of the replication process thus far provided by Dr. Jennifer Bruening

- Attendance in November at the HCZ Conference in New York City
- Promise Neighborhood Grants – Through the Dept. of Education
- Hartford Area Meetings still on-going
 - Grant must be assigned to a Community Based Organization
 - Wrap-around services will require a commitment across disciplines, organizations, services, areas of expertise, and neighborhood boundaries
 - Identification of Risk Factors according to city neighborhoods
 - Aligning decisions with a city wide plan, political offices, and show of support from Mayor and Superintendent's offices
 - Determining a cluster of neighborhoods to begin working within
 - Identifying resources, agencies, and community assets within the different neighborhood clusters

Promise Neighborhood Replication would require:

- Creation of a pipeline that maintains wrap around services
- Entire neighborhood buy-in. Families, Adults, Children
- Prenatal Care through College Graduation/Professional Employment
- Education
- Social Services
- Health and Human Services
- Economic
- Housing
- Environmental

Timeline:

- RFP may come out any day – 1 year planning grant
- \$500 K Federal Grant that would require a dollar for dollar match
- Approximately 20 cities will receive this grant

Amongst the many important points raised:

- A community based organization has yet to be officially determined
- A partner to match the federal grant has yet to be determined
- Information on the grant will help to further dictate the scope of replication in so far as size of city, population, demographics, risk factors, necessary community assets
- Competition from other cities across the country
- Issue of School-Choice within the city of Hartford
- Not a pre-existing neighborhood plan that would trump/compete with this initiative
- Need to collaborate with other surrounding universities
- Operational Issues
 - Transportation
 - Student and Professional Training Necessary

Expectations:

- Long Term Commitment
 - Harlem literature suggests a minimum of 10 years before true change is witnessed as young children grow throughout a “pipeline”
- Need for a unified and strategic UCONN involvement
 - Identification of existing and relating programs
 - Evaluation oversight
 - Opportunities for research
 - Opportunities for student internships and placements
 - Outreach programming
 - Identification of relating grants in operation or on the horizon
 - Identification of additional personnel, programs, and organizations that could contribute