

Hartford Zone
March 2, 2010

In attendance: Martha Page, Loren Darrington, Justin Evanovich, Lee Hunt, Russell Jarvis, Sandra Ward, Carlos Rivera, Claire Dowd, Andrew Woods, Chanelle Peters, Emeka Virgo, Katie Martin, Chris Doucot, Julie Ackerman, Krista Heybruck-Santiago, Casey, Cobb, Ann Ferris, Sandy Santy, Richard Sussman, Elise Pierce, Gabriel Boyd, Rich Brown, Anthony Griffin, Janice Flemming, Kathy Reilly, Elby Gonzalez Schwapp, Aura Alvarado, Christina Peterman, Troy Stewart, Jennie Bruening

The March 2 meeting of the Hartford Zone Working Group, and guests, was called in order to present the data analysis and report on neighborhood selection recommendations compiled by the Data Task Force and consultant Katie Martin of the UCONN Center for Public Health and Health Policy.

All materials circulated at the meeting can be located at www.education.uconn.edu/research/huskysport/hcz

The Working Group has been meeting since early December and had collected data on the neighborhoods in Hartford leading toward the recommendation of cluster of neighborhoods that would be the first phase of a Hartford Zone. With a pending Promise Neighborhoods Planning Grant RFP being issued by the U.S. Department of Education, the group decided to enlist the services of a consultant to speed up the data collection and help focus efforts to identify a cluster of neighborhoods. Katie's report identified two clusters, based on the risk factors and asset analysis she conducted. Each cluster formed around a highest risk neighborhood, Clay Arsenal and Frog Hollow. Clay Arsenal clustered with two medium risk neighborhoods of Northeast and Upper Albany and Frog Hollow clustered with a medium risk neighborhood, Barry Square.

We discussed the data sources (see file for documentation of these) and potential additional sources for data. We agreed that additional sources for data would be necessary for the actual planning grant application rather than now. What Katie's report allowed the group to do is focus attention on these two clusters of neighborhoods and narrowed the recommendation process considerably, exactly what Katie was asked to do.

The group, after some discussion, agreed that the best course of action was to go ahead with the planned Steering Committee meeting on March 9. Between March 2 and March 9 all Working Group members and guests will be asked to submit information to Jennifer.bruening@uconn.edu on additional community assets that exist in each cluster of neighborhoods. This information will allow the Steering Committee to make a more informed recommendation.

Comments were also made about how to assess the information on community assets as far as what services and programs would be willing to partner with a Zone project. We were reminded that the RFP will be for evaluating options and planning the parameters of these types of partnerships.

Katie's report and plans for March 9 will also be shared with the Mayor's Office and the Superintendent's Office immediately so those two important supporters of the Hartford Zone effort will be kept informed on our progress.