

**Hartford Zone  
Community Building Task Force  
Minutes of January 14, 2010 Meeting**

Present: Janice Flemming, Shelly Jackson, Katie Snell, Andrew Clark, Richard Frieder, Chris Doucot, Jim Conway

The meeting began at about 3:10 with introductions.

The task force's charge is to discuss community issues involved in launching the Hartford Children's Zone, e.g., assessing and building community support

A question was raised about whether the HCZ should begin city-wide vs. in a neighborhood. We returned to this question a couple of times during the meeting. The group's consensus is that it makes sense to begin where we are, in the north end.

By starting here (the north end) we can get the most value from the resources we have. There are important resources here including HuskySport and the Hartford Catholic Worker, both of which have been doing grass roots work and building community support for years in the north end.

A question was asked about whether we began with a model in mind and then sought funding, or were motivated by funding from Pres. Obama's initiative. Answer: The project began with the model based on the Harlem Children's Zone, and was not motivated by the money. The focus is on the outcome (the children), not on the resources.

Question came up: Is HuskySport the hub of the HCZ at the start? There are compelling reasons for it to be the hub: (a) no history of infighting in Hartford, (b) the university's resources, (c) UConn-HuskySport has been doing grass roots work and building support in the community.

It was noted that we will need to answer the question from the community: "Why can't we do it? Why do we need outsiders?"

We discussed what our main questions are going forward. Some key questions:

1. What is our goal?
2. What is our timeline?
3. Are data available about what families want for their children?

There was some discussion of an appropriate goal we could propose to the steering committee. The Hartford Children's Zone's goal is for all children to go to college, but that may be too restrictive. A proposal:

**Children will make it into adulthood free, healthy, and literate.**

Next Steps:

1. Once the HCZ is clear on the goal we can formulate some questions Janice can ask of people she is already talking with.

2. Janice will ask Rex Fowler about whether there are existing data about what families want for their children.