

Hartford Zone
Steering Committee Meeting
1/26/10

In attendance: Aura Alvarado-Strudwick, Christina Peterman, Cynthia McKenna, Hector Glynn, Sandra Ward, Ann Ferris, Chris Doucot, Carmen Chaparro, Casey Cobb, Emeka Virgo, Judy Goldfarb, Chanelle Peters, Jennie Bruening

1. Updates since January 15st meeting
 - a. Introductions of members (SEE ATTACHED FILE)

We went around the table and asked each person to answer the following questions to better assess the network we have established thus far and what gaps still exist.

- i. What brought you here?
- ii. What voices do you represent?
- iii. Who is missing?

As we generated this list, members of the steering committee volunteered and were asked to contact individuals and organizations that we felt were missing from the conversation to inform them of what our group has been doing over the last few months and where we are headed. There are still a few individuals/organizations (see those highlighted in yellow) that need to be contacted. **Please let Jennie know if you are able to help in that regard.**

- b. Review Task Force Progress
 - i. Funding

1. Promise Neighborhood RFP is coming by mid-February at the earliest. We discussed the offer of the Hartford Foundation to support the hiring of a consultant to help us move forward with a.) preparing for the RFP and possibly b.) assisting in the grant writing process. An Ad Hoc committee of Hector Glynn, Ann Ferris, and Cynthia McKenna will meet on Friday, January 29th to compose a document that outlines the deliverables the Steering Committee would like a consultant to be able to provide. Possibilities were data analysis, information on need and services by neighborhood as related to neighborhood selection. Need to consider a consultant with understanding of community, local and national scope of this project. Experience with grant writing. Cost and availability for a short turn around.

- a. Judy Goldfarb was able to talk to Richard Sussman on Thursday 1/28 and he indicated that the Hartford Foundation was prepared to fund the cost of a consultant to take the group up to and through a Promise Neighborhood application. Richard, or Chris Hall in Richard's absence over the bulk of the month of February, will need a letter from the Mayor and Superintendent stating their support of a Promise Neighborhood application and acknowledging the work our Hartford Children's Zone group to move forward with funding a consultant.

Through Jose Colon, of the Mayor's Office for Young Children, we have gained the support of the Mayor for a Promise Neighborhood application and our work. On Feb. 9, just before our next Steering Committee meeting, Jose and Jennie will meet with Kelvin Roldan, Director of Strategic Partnerships for the Hartford Public Schools, to establish the same support from the Superintendent's Office.

2. Other Funders-see attached file for mention of others we should begin to strategize on involving.
 - i. Data
 1. Spreadsheet is being moved over to Office Live and will be posted to website soon. Thanks to Chanelle Peters, who is interning with Judy Goldfarb for taking the lead on this.
 2. Data still needed
 - a. Emeka Virgo is collecting information on the civic associations around the city.
 - b. Chanelle will be contacting those who have volunteered to help with this process to make sure the data gets to her.
 - ii. Community Building
 1. New members
 - a. CREC is sending several members to the task force.
 2. Access to survey data
 - a. Janice Flemming is working to gain access to survey data from neighborhood residents from recent years.
3. Moving forward

We spent more time talking about neighborhood selection and the mixed opinions of the committee on whether Hartford could unite around the selection of one area of the city as the first phase of a HCZ-like project, while other areas of the city were waiting for future phases. We talked about the project having a "city wide vision with a neighborhood focus" where the selection, or the stepping forward, of a CBO with a city-wide vision would make for a greater chance of Hartford stakeholders and citizens perceiving the project as beneficial to all neighborhoods over time.

We discussed the different, but united, goals of replicating the HCZ model in a fashion that fits the barriers and supports that exist in Hartford. The stages in establishing the goals must include the following kinds of impact:

- i. Short Term=Knowledge Base of Leadership Team and Community Members

We are in the midst of this process now by building a team and working toward the formulation of a plan, at this point directed at a Promise Neighborhood Planning Grant, to focus the first phase of replication/adaptation of the HCZ model on a community within the City of Hartford. Regardless of the financial outcome of the planning grant application, we will have a plan from which to move forward with strategic decisions on collaboration on those aspects of the plan that can be implemented without substantial funding. We also will have a plan to approach other potential funders with in order to continue our progress. Key in all of this is not only our progression as a leadership team, but also how we involve community members in the process through our individual (e.g., communication with community leaders we come into contact with daily in our own professional and personal lives) and collective efforts (e.g., community building task force).

ii. Mid Term/Tipping Point=Learned Behaviors and Organized Systems

We mentioned how Geoffrey Canada realized early on that if only 10% of the neighborhood families were actively engaging in the programs and services of the HCZ then the impact would be slight. But, when the percentages reached 60%, or the tipping point, of the neighborhood families entering into the organized systems of the Zone then an impact on the culture of the neighborhood could begin to be seen.

iii. Long Term=Prevailing Conditions and Community Ownership

Please read the following statement as a vision of a sustainable Zone where ownership has become ingrained in the community and not dependent on individual leadership but rather on collective investment in the future of the children and families of the community.

“A community united under a shared mission works together in a collaborative fashion to ensure that every person has equal opportunity to the resources and social capital needed to succeed and to achieve individual and collective health. When leaders, who are embedded in the community, have the appropriate awareness, organization, and tools, they can serve as a means for the relationship building and collaboration necessary to create healthy, safe and inclusive environments that lead to individual and collective well-being.”

b. Hartford's Rising Stars:

We did not have much, if any, time to discuss the suggestions and impetus from the community building task force to establish overarching outcomes for a Zone in Hartford. Bear with the lifting of the “rising star” piece. The HCZ uses the term “gems” to describe first the infrastructure assets that exist in the neighborhood to aid in the creation and growth of the Zone, but then they also use “gems” in naming their early childhood and preschool programs thus stating that the children of the community are also a central strength. So, based on the work of the community building task force, here are several elements to consider as we determine what outcomes will guide us, first focus on the children as “rising stars” in Hartford. And, as we discussed at the 1/15 meeting and as the data collection task force continues to discuss, these elements can lead us to the indicators we will analyze to assess progress toward outcomes.

- i. *Children are healthy and prepared for school entry*
- ii. *Children and youth are healthy and succeed in school*
- iii. *Youth graduate from high school and college, and*
- iv. *Families and neighborhoods support the healthy development, academic success, and well being of their children.*

4. Next meeting: Tuesday, February 9 Hartford Public Library 10am