

Hartford's Promise: Children Achieving and Succeeding

Steering Committee

May 20, 2010

In attendance: Lee Catagnaro, Sandara Ward, Krista Heybruck Santiago, Julie Ackerman, Aldwin Allen, Lee Hunt, Carmen Chapparo, Jose Colon-Rivas, Hector Glynn, Evelyn Richardson, Richard Sussman, Cynthia McKenna, Maureen Anderson, Jennie Bruening

I. Lead Organization

The Village for Children and Families will be the lead organization for the Promise Neighborhoods grant. CRT, the Urban League and the Blue Hills Civic Association all decided not to apply for the lead, but instead to be partners to the Village considering its pre-existing and positive relationship at SAND.

II. SAND

Jennie met with Kelvin Roldan and Christina Kishimoto, Assistant Superintendent who was responsible for the redesign of SAND, of the Hartford Public Schools on Tuesday to further discuss the recommendation of SAND as the school at the center of the Promise Neighborhoods application. They are concerned that Promise Neighborhoods be in concert with the already sizable agenda SAND principal, Desi Neismith, has to manage. They suggested having Sandra Ward take an active role in the conversations with Desi and the SAND leadership team to assure that the curriculum goals in place at SAND are not affected by Promise Neighborhoods. Sandra will follow up with Christina as well as help to schedule a meeting with the SAND leadership for early next week. Sandra will also provide Hector Glynn with the school design specifications to help with integrating the Promise Neighborhoods plan with SAND's academic goals.

III. Grant Writer

Two applicants have submitted their materials, Keith Whitescarver and Ceila Robbins. Hector Glynn will follow up with both and determine what role the Village wants either/both to play moving forward. The Village has interest in working with a writer who can help pull all the pieces together from partners in order to write the grant. They will also be using their internal grant staff, but the Village does not have experience writing US Department of Education grants so a grant writer with that kind of experience will be key. Hector will also put together a proposal for the Hartford Foundation to fund this grant writer.

IV. Project Design

A smaller team representing the Steering Committee has been asked to spend considerable time next week (5/24-5/28) assisting the Village in the first stages of designing the plan for the Promise Neighborhoods application. The Village will be in communication to set a schedule and has asked that everyone who takes part spend time familiarizing themselves with the RFP. The group will be as follows:

Desi Neismith/SAND leadership team
Jose Colon-Rivas
Sandra Ward
Jennie Bruening
Ann Ferris
Lee Hunt/or Blue Hills Civic Association representative
Julie Ackerman/Krista Heybruck Santiago
Cynthia McKenna
Evelyn Richardson
Christina Peterman

IV. Letter of Intent

The Village will submit the letter on Friday, May 21.

V. Next conversations

SAND/Clay Arsenal community

Local and state political leaders

Private sector

The next Steering Committee meeting has not been set. The Village will be sharing the evolving plan with the committee for comment at certain points along the way.