



Youth Community Connections
 Minnesota's Statewide Afterschool Alliance

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM
 April 28, 2009
 1:00 – 4:00 PM
 The McKnight Foundation
 Library

Proposed Agenda

AGENDA ITEM	FOLLOW UP/ NOTES
<p>Welcome and Partner Updates – Jack Attendees: P. Lofquist, J. Tamble, K. Lentz, C. Thomas, T. Miller, S. Dixon, L. LaCroix-Dalluhn, C. Meade, J. Ficken, E. Carlin, J. Gonder-Spacek,</p>	
<p>Review and Discuss Next Steps from Retreat – Jack/Laura</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates on Current Work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Business engagement initiative (youth workforce initiative) MPM and YCC are working together with the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce to promote business engagement. The Chamber is stepping back from an earlier verbal commitment. They continue to support the idea and concept but have pulled back because it is a challenging time for their members, who are small business owners who are focused on survival and not focused on planning for the future. It is the belief of YCC and MPM that the MN Chamber are not experienced in systems building and it's been challenging for them to think about supporting the broader workforce without offering a specific program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Polly Roach will lead on the project in Joellen's absence (Joellen is taking a leave over the summer because of her Bush Fellowship). We discussed bringing the Regional Workforce Centers into this work because they are the regional experts on building the future work force, and specifically retaining the workforce; ▪ MPM will be submitting proposal to Otto Bremer for funding. YCC is applying to Mott Foundation for technical assistance from the US Chamber of Commerce's Institute for a Competitive Workforce. We've been informed that the national mentor organization and Afterschool Alliance have submitted a grant to work with workforce development. Afterschool Alliance would like to look at MN as a potential site if they get the grant. These funds could provide an opportunity to start the initiative. Sarah D. can offer connections to chambers who are already working on these issues. Workforce Centers bring in government in a different way and doesn't preclude us from 	

working with other large orgs that we already have connections/relationships with partners.

- A group of students from Carlson School of Management are working to develop materials for the business engagement initiative. They are developing a one page handout to use to talk about initiative (what our goals are), a power point presentation, a web page for us, and a video about why this is important. One of the students working on this project is Matt Norris, who has been involved in Brooklyn Park's work for a long time. Jan Ficken recommended Matt reach out to YCC for this school project.

- **Policy and Advocacy** YCC staff continues to provide regular updates during session through Action Alerts and the e-newsletter. Conference committees are being assigned and the House and Senate will begin to hammer out the differences in their bills.

- Afterschool Act – money for afterschool community learning programs was included in the House's early childhood bill. The funds are being pulled from the CCDF funds; however it is unlikely this will go through as outlined in the House bill. The CCDF funds cannot be used in the manner and the Senate Health and Human Services committee is unlikely to fund these learning opportunities. We do not expect to see funding this year for the Afterschool Community Learning grant unless legislators hear in mass from the public.
- The senate education bill did not include funding for the Afterschool Community Learning grants. In fact, the senate never heard the bill requesting funds for afterschool community learning opportunities. They did however include funding for summer school in their bill for kids who are failing 8th grade tests.
- Boys and Girls Club has secured funding through DEED in both House and Senate bills to do job preparedness/readiness skills (teen employment).
- YIPA is looking at reductions in both House and Senate but are still included in the public safety budget.
- LGA cuts will impact park and recreation programs as well as community education programs and library programs. We expect to see reductions in resources for 4-H, who will receive 5% less from state funds.
- Both bodies have tax increase proposals – our assumption is that they'll need to pass the bills and send to the Governor to have enough time to veto and get them back to the floor before the end of session. There doesn't seem to be a lot of political will to go into special session.
- We are hopeful the communication work we've done prior to session is beginning to pay off. There seems to be agreement that OST is part of a solution for children and youth. We know it will be challenging to get resources during this recession because we believe the majority of people still see these learning opportunities as nice but not essential.

- **Being Strategic About the Current Work**

- After the retreat the executive team and staff met to discuss how best to move our collective work forward as discussed at the retreat. We decided it was appropriate to try to do more with what we've already accomplished (going deeper) rather than trying to start new things.
- Potential New Work for FY 2010 – Supporting Student Success through Expanded Learning Opportunities

Initiative is funded by the C.S. Mott Foundation and sponsored by NGA, CCSSO, and NCSL. YCC submitted a proposal on behalf of the state to create a framework that aimed to align formal and non-formal learning practices, policies and resources. The Mott grant wouldn't cover the full cost of the work so we would need to raise additional funds to do the work well. Laura has contacted the Bush Foundation to seek their support on this initiative, either as a partner or through funding. YCC will hear about grant in May. Laura estimates we will need an additional \$50-75K to cover the work for an 18 month project. This would allow us to hire a consultant or project manager for the initiative.

- The SLT discussed the concerns about not accepting the proposal and impact on YCC. We discussed whether it's the right thing to turn it down. We need to think about how we do it so it doesn't reflect on YCC negatively.

- **Right Structure, Right People Discussion**

- *Reaching others in strategic and meaningful ways*
- *Reaching across the state and across disciplines*

During the retreat we discussed ways to ensure we are utilizing the "right structure" to do our work and leveraging the "right people" in our work. We discussed the idea of having 50 leaders around the state that we would bring together annually to discuss OST issues. These individuals would be leveraged to make connections locally and across the state as needed. We agreed to form a task force to look at this issue.

Key Questions to consider

- What's needed right now?
- How do we accomplish this work? Same or similar process or change the process?
- Need to take this next year and look at priorities and build on them. Now is not the time to look at new work (because of resources). We want to be more strategic about building off the work we have done.
- We need a small group to look at the work we've done to-date and look at what we know or how we can build off the work to date. What more can we do with what we've got? What connections still need to be made?
- We need help getting really strategic about how we use the messaging. This was reinforced at an event the United Way had - wanting to know about quality and what is it and how do we incorporate it when we're applying for funding and reviewing for it; people are hearing the messaging but want more definitive information about how to do it/ what it is.
- Branding – common tag line/common language; need something to rally around, the elevator speech
- Multi-pronged approach, not just a marketing/branding – raising awareness about the importance of the issue; raise awareness and then say 'here's what you can do' – it's not just about communicating better about OST – it's strategically connecting what we've done – what are the pieces of each of the field building issues relate to quality – what's the same/similar message we're going to talk about – how do we promote them with a quality lens – being intentional about connecting each of the pieces;
- Larger strategic issue – are we going to rally and propose a commonality – because those of us that have diversified funding will continue to surviving while smaller organizations will continue to struggle. Making more of what we have is an important strategy but there's still a gap between what we're doing and what we need to do to.

- Saying 'support AFS, volunteering, mentoring', it's a marketing plan – presenting what from the reports that should come forward – what's the overall message we should be encouraging people to do – we're not saying support on organization, we're saying support whatever is going on in your community
- Conversation has happened for years, we're stuck, let the small group get to work; need to think about the whole idea of a field – in current legislative session we lost some opportunities – we talk to people in silos so when money came through the public safety silo, it caught people who focused on education silos off guard; formal learning – when we talk about education we don't talk about separate classes – look at it overall; we need to find a way to do that; the infrastructure is here but we don't talk about it because we haven't figured it out yet –need to think deeper and smarter;
- Non-system would be a go-to place – what do we need to do to create a system to support non-formal learning?
- Seems there's a field building side and a systems side – in the field building side we're coming together – getting a sense of who we are, what we are, solidifying things that make sense; on systems side we don't have a good picture yet of what 'good systems' would look like in our field that value some of the core values we hold in our field including the ways the learning can happen; as a field we're highly independent (have almost an anti-system mentality) but we also value something from systems that we're not getting.

VOLUNTEERS FOR TASK FORCE:

Charges:

1. How to take what we know about the field in the field building activities, and use it to build the field, to elevate the field – look at existing work (Erin, can expand this group) (Glynis, someone from CYD)
2. Look at what are the common messages that we can consistently use as we talk about each of the different reports/field building activities – and to be able to talk to others about it; (to help build the field)
3. Discussion about systems-building side of it – how do we think of a system that would support OST – what would a system look like that would support the field of non-formal learning?

Options:

- Two task forces: 1 group to address first two charges (as stated above) and a separate one to deal with the 3rd.
- One task force: 1 group to deal with all 3 issues

Field building – getting our ability to talk about these things stronger and clearer and doing so with an eye on being able to talk to other stakeholders about it.

People are afraid of losing their individuality; early intervention doesn't want to think of themselves as out-of-school time

Is our overall goal to create a new government department?

Our job is to change the system – look outside the 'department' box

Want to infuse in all the different sectors that afterschool time is critical in a child's development -

What would being systematic look like?

Infrastructure – not something we mine here, research project, looking outside our own systems, maybe it's something we need to know what the dream might be – have to study examples/models – mutual way to approach it rather than having

The executive team will look at these options and bring a plan back to the SLT for further discussion at our next meeting.

<p>us sit around and decide.</p>	
<p>Staff Report - Laura See written report for details.</p>	
<p>Updates from SLT Representatives – Jack</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erin Carlin, Boys and Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities – just completed \$15 million campaign to upgrade sites in St. Paul. The ribbon cutting is 5/18 on summer camp cabins. We are seeing 450 kids in residential camps. • Tom Miller, McKnight Foundation – attended training institute on Minneapolis’ east side; hosting 3rd/final quality task force meeting on 4/30 at McKnight • Sarah Dixon, Minnesota Alliance With Youth – just did first round of applications for promise fellows, should find out if we can fund 10 more through the recovery act; stunning proposals. The alliance is the lead state agency for Global Youth Service Day 4/25. They are working with America’s Promise to do another drop out prevention summit on 11/17/09. They are working with MDE, Search and NYLC around the summit. The first planning meeting is 5/27, 3:30 – 5:30 @ TIES bldg, (invited SLT to attend). • Chris Ganzlin – OST grants are being reviewed, children/families in the midst of planning looking at future focus; attended event on human capital research. Chris stated she was impressed with the study Amy Susman Stillman presented that was similar to YPQA. • Jan Ficken, Minnesota Parks and Recreation Association – lobbying at the capital on the LGA issue; association seems to be focusing on whole youth and declining health issue; also working on 2010 national parks and recreation association congress, which will be held in Minneapolis. Jan stated this could be good time for us to feature/highlight work being done in Minnesota to the national arena, may be some tracks for call out for sessions/papers/research. LGA situation is dire in Brooklyn Park. Partnerships/diversifying budgets will be critical. They are pairing up with police department in terms of what works/doesn’t work in youth violence prevention. • Dale Blyth, Center for Youth Development – released gaps analysis was last week, getting it out into press releases and trying to get interviews, etc. They are hosting a webinar with Lasse Siurala on 4/29 regarding Nordic youth policies in social welfare states vs. non social welfare states, which will focus on difference between Finland and US. Center is hosting Charles Smith on 5/1 to release quality study. They will release MN data but with a primary focus on national study. This will be a joint meeting of the Center’s Inquiries to Impact series and YCC biannual meeting. Minneapolis in partnership with Karen Goodenough Plymouth Christian Youth Center to do training. We are looking at redesign and how to support 4-H staff throughout the state due to county funding issues. • Perry Lofquist, ONDC - losing \$80,000 funding – looking at schools to get teachers in there; looking at who to partner with; know we’re going to get cut through the state; looking at contingency plan but difficult to do at this point. • Jack Tamble, Minneapolis Community Education – first time we’ve collaborated with 3 conferences around the state having youth providers come together to hear about youth – 160 people in St. Cloud (Laura was keynote) 80 folks in Mankato, Grand Rapids is at 50 now. Keynote presentations are being well received and participants are finding it helpful. Information affirms the work they do. I had the opportunity last week to attend cross-functional group led by YCC at MDE about what kind of common messages can we create across EC/K-12/OST. • Kathy Lentz, Greater Twin Cities United Way – partnering again to do transportation for summer OST; presented 	

<p>statewide plan around early childhood – will continue to work with it; conference May 13-15 regarding men who batter – international conference – a lot of people coming from outside US because of low airfares – 350 registered – let Kathy know if you're interested in coming; partnering with St. Paul Saints to feature literacy efforts; heavily into funding cycles also; Lauren Segal is leaving – will be doing a national search.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carol Thomas, MDE – final copy of funding streams report is available and on YCC website. Education Today regarding national afterschool initiative that the Afterschool Alliance is leading for more national funding. Departments of Public Safety, Health and MDE have been collaborating on snapshot series on youth – there will be an afterschool piece in about a month or so. MDE is working with DPS School Safety Center to do a training academy for school resource officers through a pilot series this summer. Carol said it was time to examine our next steps after funding streams report – they will be taking a look at local funding, city level across the state and looking at how much families pay here in MN, and then looking at the link to quality and how much these things impact youth. Quality task force will have its last meeting 4/30 at McKnight. We will have a framework document that talks about quality in relation to youth programming – been pushing for first piece of work with key words, key concepts, groundwork pieced we can all use (language, info), final draft by Thursday – will be available after final edits. • Joellen Gonder-Spacek, Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota – will be using some of the learnings/ outcomes from this quality task force group to try to get more mentoring programs to use it. Working on north side also and looking at a range of funding sources for mentoring programs. Working on annual conference in October focused on quality. Partnering with Youth Work Institute to cross-market, completed a prevalent survey found 20,000 additional kids that are being connected with mentors – people are stepping up. She received Bush Fellowship and will be gone this summer, will come back in September. 	
<p>Adjourn</p>	

Next Meeting: July 30, 2009 from 1:00-4:00 pm @ McKnight