



**Visioneering Wichita
Mentoring Alliance Meeting
March 8, 2007
Meeting Notes**

Attendees: Polly Basore, Cornelia Stevens, Donovan Karber, Terry Behrendt, Andy Solter, Susan Estes, Karen Blucher, Chris Wolgamott, Nichole Williams, Jan Davis, Norma Bricker, Lottie Miller, Lyndon Drew, Lonnie Barnes

Leadership Team: Terry Behrendt, Norma Bricker, Debi Corrigan, Jan Davis, Bill Hanna, Annette Singletary, Cornelia Stevens, Jeff Usher, Jeff Wenzel, Lottie Miller

Norma Bricker welcomed the group and led the Self-Introductions.

Featured Organization

Compeer – Cornelia Stevens, Mental Health Association

Compeer started in Rochester, NY as a mentoring program for individuals in a psychiatric institution. They found patients to be more compliant and determined this is the result of the "friendships". Then decided to see what impact this would have outside of the institutional setting. They currently have 85 programs throughout the US and other countries, 8 in Kansas. Wichita's program serves both adults and children.

Community based one-to-one program, Lunch Buddies, Skillbuilders, Compeer Calling, and Compeer C.A.R.E.S. are the programs offered and are described in detail in a brochure that was distributed to the Alliance membership. The Compeer C.A.R.E.S. program differs slightly from the others in that the child does not necessarily have a diagnosis of mental illness. The focus is children who have one or both parents incarcerated.

Cornelia shared the story of Bill, an adult consumer, who has been with his match for 19 years. His illness has improved greatly and he currently serves on community advisory boards

This year Compeer has served 71 adult one-to-one matches. Over 100 have been served in community outreach programs. A total of 240 are currently served in the adult program. In 2006, they served a total 115 children in their combined programs. Compeer has served 85 youth to date in Compeer C.A.R.E.S. Compeer also partners with other organizations in the community that serve persons with mental illness.

Cornelia shared recruitment activities for Compeer. They also have volunteers who are consumers themselves. They do have to be screened and trained. They receive their referrals from Mental Health Professionals and they agree to be the support system during that match. For Compeer C.A.R.E.S., the caregiver for the child refers the child. For lunch buddies, Communities in Schools help identify the youth.

Café Connections Update

Cornelia Stevens and Donovan Karber presented a mock version of the business presentation created by the newly named "Visioneering Mentoring Recruitment Team". Alliance members were asked to play the role of a business audience. Audience members were included in the process by reading stories of youth awaiting a mentor. The audience was encouraged to ask questions and offer comments as employees would in a presentation.

Alliance members offered input on the quality and content of the presentation:

C: Ok to be specific with folks about the types of screening and background checks that are performed

C: Excellent job!! Be aware of audience level of literacy. Reframe the question about number of folks who lived in a two parent home. Be careful of this.

C: Ok to develop the issue of the importance of fatherhood.

C: Maybe reframe to "how many have had five or more significant people who had an impact"

C: During the presentation might throw out the idea of "flex time".

C: Maybe share the individual stories before the number of mentors needed. Helps grab the audience emotionally.

C: Would the numbers in "Good for Business" be believable? Would it be better to frame without the numbers?

C: Relate this to the challenges that businesses face - building good employees.

C: Add a picture of a mentor relationship on 2nd slide. Repeat graphic from first slide at the end.

C: "Church" presentation may need to be altered to be more sensitive to other potential faith based organizations such as temples, synagogues, and mosques.

Alliance members were asked to review the list of organizations that were suggested for presentations and then sign up to make contact with those organizations. (See attachment)

Data Collection Update

Terry distributed the current data report. We are holding level. There have been some adjustments in numbers that are counted. The data looks like a decrease but this is due to how we are now reporting the numbers.

Organizations need to assess ways to be able to count other mentoring models that currently exist. Student mentors are going to be a wave in the school districts.

Visioneering Updates

- Community Identity Survey – Alliance members were asked to forward the link to all networks. The survey is scheduled to close March 12, but may be extended if more demographically representative responses are needed. As of last week, over 1000 responses had been received. Need more responses from minority populations, young people and low-income families.
- Annual meeting - May 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the WSU Metroplex

Other Celebrations/Announcements

- “Real Man, Real Heroes” project – Downing Foundation. Will be honoring African American men who are good role models. Will be a community campaign launched in October. Will have a website. Developing a deck of playing cards distributed to school children highlighting these individuals. “Heroes” must agree to background checks and to being a mentor if they are not already.

Next Meetings

- Leadership Team meeting: April 5, 8:30-9:30 at The Chamber
- Mentoring Strategic Alliance meeting: May 10, 8:30-10:30 at the Self-Help Network, 358 N. Main in Wichita