



**Visioneering Wichita
Mentoring Alliance Meeting
August 16, 2007
Meeting Notes**

Attendees: Mark Eby, Nichole Williams, Denise Koerner, Leila Gallagher, Bill Hanna, Terry Behrendt, Kendall Heier, Benjamin Stiff, Andy Solter, Donovan Karber, Cornelia Stevens, Margie Phelps, Angela Kessler, Lottie Miller

Leadership Team: Terry Behrendt, Debi Corrigan, Jan Davis, Bill Hanna, Cornelia Stevens, Jeff Usher, Lottie Miller, Angela Kessler, Denise Koerner

Angela Kessler welcomed the group and led the Self-Introductions.

Recap of Alliance's Accomplishments and Goals

Terry Behrendt recapped the accomplishments and Goals:

- Developed an agreed upon definition of mentoring:
 - "To facilitate the development of healthy, successful children through the establishment of one-to-one relationships with caring individuals."
- Established guiding principles for working together
- Implemented a marketing/branding plan developed by Bothner & Bradley, including a PSA to air during National Mentoring Month
- Developed a process/system for tracking data
- Collected information from mentoring organizations to set a baseline to measure the benchmark
- Developed an online resource for people to access more information about mentoring and how to become a mentor
- Identified strategic action areas to pursue in 2006
- Partnerships, Collaborations, and Public Awareness
- The Mentoring Alliance manned a booth at the Expoventure Conference and the Chamber Mixer to bring about awareness to the need for mentors.
- A Communications task force has produced a document called "Mentoring Quick Facts" that is generic and can be used for a variety of audiences. Their focus is on recruitment within businesses, but will evolve at a later date to the recruitment within churches, schools and neighborhoods.
- The structure of the Alliance has changed to allot time for workgroup discussions, updated Alliance information as well as highlighted a

featured member organization to increase communication and awareness of community programs and resources.

Terry Behrendt provided a detailed view of the data collected for Year 2006 in a PowerPoint presentation (see attached). The findings included that the goal for Year 2006 was not met. One issue is the exclusion of high school mentors. The Alliance agreed to collect the data and to present it to the public, but not to include them in the numbers of mentors because they are not "screened" mentors.

Recruitment Presentations Update

Donovan Karber reported that he attended the Joint Leadership Team meeting for the Alliances and made three connections for presentations.

Given that the Alliance recruitment process has been moving forward for some time and the Alliance failed to meet its mentoring goal, it was suggested that the Alliance consider reframing "mentoring". The following are suggestions or things to consider while recruiting:

- Reframing the issue for lower socio-economic communities that allow them to see that each person has the ability to mentor while catering to the higher socio-economic communities that allows them to see that there is time in their schedules to mentor.
- State the difference between tutoring vs. mentoring. In some communities, especially the African American community, people don't want to necessarily tutor, but they will mentor.
- Understand that faith-based organizations offer the infrastructure, but they are in need of a "best practice" model.
- Plug into things that faith-based organizations are already doing.
- Go to Interfaith and make a presentation.
- Make a connection with someone from the agency that you are presenting to and have them act as a conduit and ambassador for mentoring.

Best Practices Update

Terry Behrendt introduced a Best Practices Model for Mentoring Recruitment:

- Screening/training
- Case management/follow-up
- Reward/thank you
- Recycle/Start over/Ongoing

Denise Koerner from Big Brothers/Big Sisters gave a presentation about an organization being able to implement Best Practices via the BB/BS program.

The following are the steps in which BB/BS takes action in the area of recruitment:

- Who and Where do we recruit?
 - Business recruitment
 - School recruitment
 - Local and National Website
 - Booths at events
- Process after recruitment
 - Must attend info session
 - Background checks (5 checks are run)
 - 3 Personal and employer references are checked
- Personal interviews with case manager
- Training
- Match is made
- Big and Little are introduced
- Follow-up is CRITICAL
 - Volunteers need to be supported and mentoring relationships need to be nurtured. Case managers have monthly contact with mentor and the child.

Current Partnerships within Alliance Members

The Alliance engaged in an activity of which each member was asked about what segment of recruitment does the organization offer services or provides TA. It was noted that currently YouthFriends provides TA in for screening/training for schools and school sanctioned programs. The other organizations provide services within their own organizations. The following is a list of organizations that provide services:

Screening/Training

Compeer

Youth Horizons

BB/BS

Communities In Schools

Foster Grandparents

Case management/Follow-up

Compeer

Youth Horizons

BB/BS

CIS

Foster Grandparents provide personnel management

Reward/Thank you

YouthFriends
Compeer
Youth Horizons
BB/BS
CIS
Foster Granparents

Recycle/Tracking/Ongoing

YouthFriends
Compeer
Youth Horizons
BB/BS
CIS
Foster Grandparents

Due to limited resources, there is a great deal of partnering to reach all areas of the best practice model. The following is a depiction of such partnerships:

- YouthFriends provides technical assistance (screening, training, tracking) to CIS. CIS connects the community to Compeer who match volunteers with the youth in their organization.
- YouthFriends provides technical assistance (screening, training, tracking) to CIS. CIS connects the community to BB/BS who match volunteers with the youth in their organization.
- YouthFriends provides technical assistance (screening, training, tracking) to Foster Grandparents. FG recruits grandparents for CIS, Compeer, and USD 259.
- Youth Friends provides technical assistance (screening, training, tracking) for Americorps.
- YouthFriends provides technical assistance (training) to the Kansas Career Pipeline. Kansas Career Pipeline recruits e-mentors.
- Communities In Schools connects mentors to Youth Horizons.

The Alliance welcomes newer or struggling organizations to be open to partnering with the Alliance members. Currently, the Alliance as a whole is trying to work on partnering with the Kansas Mentor Coalition (a statewide coalition).

Other Celebrations/Announcements

- "Real Man, Real Heroes" project – Wichita TOP Children's Fund. 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 trading cards distributed to school children highlighting these individuals. "Heroes" must agree to background checks and to being a mentor if they are not already.
- Brian Black, Urban League, has been awarded a technical assistance award from Essence Magazine to increase the number of black male mentors. Cox Cable and Essence will provide advertising.
- The Expoventure will be free to any organization. There will be a collective booth for the Mentoring alliance. Call Diane Longfellow at the Chamber for more information.

Next Meetings

- Leadership Team meeting: October 4, 2007 @ Chamber 8:30-9:30am
- Mentoring Strategic Alliance meeting: October 11, 2007 8:30-10:30am at the Self-Help Network, 358 N. Main in Wichita