



**Visioneering Wichita
Mentoring Alliance Meeting
September 21, 2006
Meeting Notes**

Attendees: Kandi Miller, Luella Sanders, Terry Behrendt, Andy Solter, Lavonta Williams, Twila Warren, Angela Lampe, Willis Heck, Jan Davis, John Morton, Angela Kessler, Steve Paul, Lottie Miller, Kendall Heier

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

Purposes of the Mentoring Alliance Meeting

- Update about other Visioneering Wichita Alliances
- Discuss Mentoring communication plan
- Review work group activities
- Data Collection workgroup update
- Call-out of great accomplishments within individual organizations
- Develop next steps

Visioneering Updates

The Governor's Mentoring Initiative will have its first meeting on Wednesday, October 4, 2006. Bill Hanna and Kimberly Edmunds are two Wichitans selected to be on this committee. Bill will be able to give more information to the Alliance after the meeting.

The Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce is hosting its annual business mixer, "Expoventure", TODAY at Century II Exhibition Hall. At the encouragement of Norma Bricker, the Mentoring Alliance has a booth that is being staffed by Big Brothers, Big Sisters and Communities In Schools throughout the day. Other mentoring organizations are welcome to bring materials or work the booth to raise awareness of their programs.

Suzie shared a presentation on the accomplishments of each of the Visioneering Alliances that was recently presented to the Board of the Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce.

Additionally, Suzie updated the group on the recent city-to-city trip to Richmond, VA. The trip was not to see what Richmond has accomplished, but how it was done. The successes in Richmond were a result of a strong partnership with the city's private sector with less reliance on city and county dollars.

The group of nearly 60 community leaders had an opportunity to debrief at the end of the trip. As a result, they agreed on the following priorities for Visioneering Wichita:

- Downtown and Riverfront Development

- A fully trained workforce
- Advanced materials research and manufacturing park
- World-class education from pre-Kindergarten to beyond college
- Internal and external marketing campaign – Branding

Mentoring Communication Plan

This agenda item was deferred until the next meeting.

Report from Work Groups

Neighborhoods: Only one person attended. No report.

Churches: No report.

Businesses: Notes from the most recent meeting were distributed. There was only one attendee. The “Expoventure” opportunity was announced and an email sent to Alliance members, requesting volunteers to work the booth.

Schools: Notes from the most recent meeting were distributed. It was discussed that the Action Step related to identifying schools with the highest need and then partnering with local businesses is an overlap with the Business Workgroup and therefore was added to that group’s Action Plan.

SHN staff acknowledged that attendance at workgroups has been down significantly and shared the Leadership Team recommendation that the Alliance meeting agendas include time for work groups to meet and then report to the group their accomplishments. This would reduce the number of meetings that Alliance members are requested to attend. The group agreed that this would be beneficial to the group and it was suggested that the meeting be extended by one half hour to accommodate.

The Leadership Team also recommended that the Alliance begin an every other month schedule. Alliance members reported the feeling that the early excitement generated by the group is fading and that a reduction in meetings may only make this worse. Therefore, the group agreed to meet again in October. The first hour will be for all four work groups to meet – therefore, group members will need to choose ONE group to work with that best aligns with their time and talents. The second hour will be for the groups to report out and other regular Alliance business. The Racial Diversity, Opportunity, and Harmony Alliance would like an opportunity to address this Alliance. The group agreed they can have 10 minutes on the agenda in November.

Data Collection Progress

Terry Behrendt reported that the State of Kansas had 100 school districts that did not meet the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) standards this year. This is up from only 30 last year. It was explained that though a school may do better overall, if one subgroup does not meet the standards – the whole school is reported to have not met AYP.

Due to these issues, the Data Collection Committee recommends reporting the numbers of mentors and youth that are served rather than AYP results. The numbers of those who provide service and are being served are more reflective of the Alliance goal. The group agreed that this would be the best way to report Alliance success.

Other Issues/Opportunities

- The Alliance raised concern that Visioneering still seems to be seen as a “Wichita only” initiative by other county governments and citizens. It was recommended that perhaps the Steering Committee look at this and come up with ways to encourage more regional participation.
- The next State Board of Education meeting is in Arkansas City. Since this is the closest the BOE will likely come to our region, it was suggested that Visioneering request to be on the agenda to provide Board members with an update on the region’s progress.

Next Steps

Below is the future timeline for the Mentoring Alliance:

- October 5, 2006 @ 8:00 a.m. - Leadership Team meeting at the Chamber of Commerce.
- October 12, 2006 @ 8:30 a.m. - Alliance meeting at the SHN (358 N. Main).