



**Visioneering Wichita
Mentoring Alliance Meeting
November 9, 2006
Meeting Notes**

Attendees: Andy Solter, Angela Kessler, Chris Wolgamott, Cornelia Stevens, Donovan Karber, Jan Davis, Jeff Wenzel, John Morton, Kendall Heier, Lavonta Williams, Lottie Miller, Marsha Lusk, Norma Bricker, Shirley Faucette, Terry Behrendt, Twila Warren

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

Purposes of the Mentoring Alliance Meeting

- Communication Task Force Update
- Workgroup updates
- *New* - Featured Organization: Communities in Schools Wichita
- Data Collection update
- Requests from Leadership Team

Communication Task Force Update

Participants received a copy of the Business Recruitment Plan that has been developed by the Task Force and Suzie provided updates on progress that has been made. The Wichita Independent Business Association, Wichita Area Builders Association, The Chamber and the Convention & Visitors Bureau have agreed to include a newsletter article and send an email to constituents.

The task force has also now produced a document called "Mentoring Quick Facts" that is generic and can be used for a variety of audiences. Terry Behrendt would be willing to send it out on the school side. The partnerships and common marketing that is occurring is proving to be beneficial to everyone on the Alliance.

Norma Bricker reported that she spoke this week to Leadership Wichita and had matches speak to the group as well. They had very positive feedback from Leadership Wichita participants.

Suzie Ahlstrand thinks that it would be good to go to Rotary Clubs now that we have the materials to share. Optimists and Lions Clubs should be included as well. She would like to see Bill Snyder come to the Downtown Optimists Club. It was recommended that a PowerPoint be developed that can be tailored to each audience as appropriate. The Self-Help Network would be willing to put this together from the "Quick Facts" document and requested that agencies submit "Stories of Impact" to SHN staff.

Norma indicated that this is a prime time for recruitment in preparation for 2nd semester and recommended that presentations should be done jointly with representatives from different agencies.

Dr. John Morton reported that Suzie presented to ESSDACK superintendents council. This Visioneering model was new information for a lot of them but was well received. There were 50-60 people there. Norma reported that we need to continue to work with upper level administration in order to assist with barriers that may be encountered in individual schools.

There was an article in the Business Today section of the Wichita Eagle highlighting the benefit to Employers whose employees volunteer in the community. The marketing team will continue to seek opportunities to highlight the benefits of mentoring in this medium.

Workgroup updates

Each workgroup provided updates on the work they did based on the following questions that were presented last month by Vera Bothner on behalf of the Communication Task Force:

- What should we keep in mind when trying to identify the target group?
- How do we reach them? How are their decisions made?
- What are their "stories"?

Handouts were provided with the minutes from each work group's notes from October.

Featured Organization

Beginning this month with Communities In Schools Wichita, the Mentoring Alliance will feature at least one of it's participating agencies to educate the Alliance on their programs and services. Agencies/Organizations can contact Diane Longfellow if they wish to sign up to present at future Alliance meetings.

Communities in Schools (CIS) has been in the Wichita area for 15 years and this program now serves four school districts in the Wichita area. Though there are other CIS programs across the state, they operate very differently than the Wichita model. The program operates slightly differently within each of the participating schools, based on the needs of the schools and the students who attend. Following five basic principals, CIS connects students and their families with existing services in the communities that will ultimately make the student more successful. For more information on the Communities in Schools program in Wichita, contact Angela Kessler at 973-7918 or visit www.ciswichita.org.

Data Collection Update

Suzie reported that the response to the request for data is better than last year and information from surrounding school districts is already coming in though it is not due until December 1.

Diane Longfellow reported that some of the schools that are responding report that they don't currently have mentors working in their schools, but they have a need.

She is wondering how best to connect Mentoring organizations and asked for the group's recommendation on how to follow up. Norma recommended Diane give them contact information for several organizations and that would allow the school administration to choose what organization would work best. Also recommended they connect school districts with each other as models. Dr. Morton offered to talk to the Leon school district about the challenges they are facing.

Other Updates

- Governor's Mentoring Initiative – This group has only met once. They primarily discussed the grants that were recently awarded. Bill Hanna sits on this committee and will keep us updated as needed.
- Chamber Business After Hours Mixer– Representatives from at least three Mentoring Organizations attended this mixer with positive results. Each were pleased with the exposure that this brought the Alliance. Suzie reported that this is an event that happens monthly so Alliance members could attend regularly. Diane or Suzie will act as the contact for future opportunities to attend. Youth Horizons was featured in the paper as a participant and reported that they gained prospects from the experience. Suzie will regularly include the mixer schedule as part of the Alliance agenda.

Leadership Team Requests

- Jeff Wenzel reported on behalf of the Leadership Team that they had discussed future funding opportunities and strategies for the Mentoring Alliance. The Leadership Team would like to see the Alliance begin to apply for grant funding that would be collaborative in nature and elevate the Alliance as a whole. Suzie reminded everyone that the goal is not to compete with individual organizations for funding, but to seek opportunities that could benefit the entire group. Suggestions from the Leadership Team include seeking funding for a joint marketing campaign or assistance with the cost of providing volunteer background checks. The team would welcome any other suggestions and these should be sent to Diane.
- Jan Davis announced that the Leadership Team continues to look for new members. Lottie Miller has agreed to join the Leadership Team and Jan would encourage any others who are interested to contact Diane at The Chamber.

Next Meetings

- NO ALLIANCE MEETING IN DECEMBER – Happy Holidays!
- Leadership Team meeting: December 14, 8:30-9:30 at The Chamber
- Mentoring Strategic Alliance meeting: January 11, 2007, 8:30-10:30 at the Self-Help Network, 358 N. Main in Wichita