



Visioneering Wichita
Mentoring Alliance Meeting
April 2, 2009
Meeting Notes

Attendees: Felecia Norris, Kendall Heier, Donovan Karber, Lyndon Drew, Mandy Wilbert, Chris Wolgamott, Terry Behrendt, Glenda Kruse, Mark Eby

January minutes approved.

Kansas Mentors Update

State Mentoring Conference

- Hope to have 3 newscasters from WIBW acting as MCs for the conference
- Dennis McKinney will give the governors welcome
- Coach Snyder will be in DC but will have a recorded message; he will be there in spirit
- There will be a slide show on the face of mentoring over the lunch hour
 - Send Ella slides if you have any you would like included
- As of last week attendance around 150

Stimulus Package

- Mentoring dollars available through the justice department
- Awarded at the federal level
- Grants are due April 20th to be used to expand and enhance mentoring programs
- Ella will email the information to Diane to be forwarded to the Alliance

Volunteerism Bill

- This is through the house at the federal level
- Dollars to expand AmeriCorps
- Kansas Mentors might be able to apply – not sure about the specifics
- Ella will email Diane the bill to be forwarded to the Alliance

Drop-out Prevention Summit

- In the planning stages
- KDHE has applied for the money
- Summit will be held in Wichita Sept/Oct timeframe
- America's Promise Alliance has identified 5 promises needed to be in place for students to be productive citizens – one way to achieve this is mentoring
- Not yet decided what the summit will look like
- Maybe regional summits before & after the state summit
- Regional summits would develop action plans to reduce the dropout rate
- If money left over might have mini grants to fund the regional action plans
- There is a desire to have youth involved
- Each state is holding summits – some have already happened
- In addition there are also 50 promise cities funded to have a city summit – Kansas City is one of those cities

Wichitamentors.com Update

- Website is active
- Mark still working on it and plans to continue maintaining
- Billboard is up at 135 heading South between 1st & 2nd Street exit (billboard faces North).

Visioneering 3R Update

There have been 22 meetings for the Review, Revise & Refocus Initiative with approximately 400 participants

Primary findings:

- We have a lot of plans
 - How are we moving on those plans?
 - How are we connecting those plans?
 - Is the government listening to the citizens?
- Downtown is important
 - Mayor Brewer has started an initiative to create a vision
 - We need connectivity, walkability
 - We have some pieces in place but need to connect
- Use the river
 - People want green spaces, parks & trees
- Jobs
 - What is our future prosperity?
 - People now talk about regions not cities
 - We need to have conversations across governments
- Family stability
 - We have a lower birth rate yet higher out-of-wedlock births
 - We have a high divorce rate
 - Who is working on this?
- Local distinctiveness of culture
 - We need to create a greater awareness of cultural opportunities

Secondary pieces:

- Transportation between communities

Education Foundation Review

The Education Foundation Review meeting recommended changes to several strategies. One of them is the strategy for this alliance. It adds "and the community" to the 1st line "Expect parents to be involved...". This is about all the organizations working on mentoring as well as the business community.

Most Important Initiative for this Alliance

Possible next steps for the alliance:

- Involvement in the drop-out prevention conference
 - Continue the dialog
 - Have to look at biggest bank for buck
 - How to tie to mentoring

- Sustainability of mentoring organizations
 - Be sure sustaining the programs we have
 - Lobbying efforts
- Continue Marketing mentoring
 - Raise the awareness of the need
 - This is a good time to do planning
 - We don't have the dollars now but would be ready when we do

Visioneering Communication

During the 3R meetings we heard comments about the need for Visioneering to do a better job communicating our accomplishments. One option might be a Facebook account for mentoring.

Next Meeting

May 7th, 8:00 a.m., Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce board room.

Homework: think about the items above around next steps for the alliance. Be prepared to have a discussion about what the alliance needs to be doing.

May Agenda: (1) sustaining mentoring organizations; (2) continue local awareness; (3) wider involvement of business