



Visioneering Wichita
Mentoring Alliance Meeting
June 4, 2009
Meeting Notes

Attendees: Terry Behrendt, Donovan Karber, Carol Rupe, Lyndon Drew, Patty Gnefkow, Russ Miller

Kansas Mentors Update

Drop-out Prevention Summit

- Final planning for the summit is under way
- It will be a 1 day seminar at WSU Oct 20th
- America's Promise providing primary funding
- The conference will use state data for dropout stats
- There will be 2 break-out sessions
 - Someone (perhaps from this group) needs to speak to the impact of mentoring on the dropout rate
- Perhaps we could have a proclamation for each of the area cities stressing the importance of mentoring and mention the conference
- After the conference
 - Regions will develop a strategic plan
 - State-wide website

Chamber Exposure

- The alliance will have a booth at the Chamber's Exposure event Sept 17 from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- We will have a football signed by Coach Snyder
 - Given away in an overall raffle (collect business cards for follow-up)
 - Promote the state conference
- Everyone bring candy for the booth

Fall Mentoring Awareness

- There will be 24 new Title I schools
- Would it be possible at enrollment time to have a preliminary permission form for parents to sign or mentoring organizations present to speak with the parents?
- Would like to have a list of volunteer coordinators for USD 259
- USD 259
 - BBBS will speak at one of the principals meetings
- Compeer
 - Asking current mentors if they could stay and mentor a 2nd child
 - Have a booth at the laid off worker center – they are promoting volunteerism to laid off workers

Grant Opportunities

- Kansas Mentors had a 2/3 funding cut so they will not be offering grants – will help facilitate federal grants
- Ella provided a “Summary of Edward M Kennedy Serve America Act”
<http://www.visioneeringwichita.com/minutes/mentoring/ServeAmericaActSummary5-09.pdf>
 - Read through the document and get back with Ella if any interest
 - They are looking for relationships that can be used to strengthen efforts

Visioneering Updates

City to City Visit

- This year visiting Chattooga, TN and Huntsville, AL
- These communities are similar in size to Wichita
- Visiting Chattooga because of downtown revitalization, river and industrial park
- Visiting Huntsville because of their industrial park

Downtown Revitalization

- Funding for a Downtown Revitalization Plan is being secured
- There are several little plans such as the arena neighborhood plan
- This plan would connect the dots
- It would encourage private sector development

Aging In Place Initiative

- Older Adult Alliance along with MetLife Foundation & n4a are hosting an aging in place seminar “Revitalizing Communities for All Generations: Visioning a Livable Wichita Area”. Go to the link below for more details.
http://www.visioneeringwichita.com/minutes/older/Wichita_SaveTheDateFINAL.pdf
- It is designed to start the community dialog
- Jump start grants will be used to keep the conversation going

GoPlayKansas

- Recreation Alliance received a grant from the Sunflower Foundation for a website which includes information about parks, amenities, etc.
- Visit the beta site www.goplaykansas.com and sign up to be notified when the website officially launches. Also:
 - Check out their blog
 - Sign up to follow on Twitter
 - Sign up to be a friend on Facebook
- Currently just Sedgwick County information is available but will eventually be state-wide

Next Meeting

Next Meeting: July 9th, 8:00 a.m., Sedgwick Room, Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce

Agenda: Fall Mentoring Push; Drop-Out Prevention Summit Update

