



Visionering Wichita Mentoring Alliance Meeting November 12, 2009 Meeting Notes

Attendees: Ella Todd, Jessica Noble, Lyndon Drew, Donovan Karber, Karla Smokovowski, Mark Eby, Patty Gnefkow, Russell Miller, Teresa Hatfield, Jimi Nickel, Rodney Bartlett, Judith Wencel, Terry Behrendt, Felecia Norris, Suzie Ahlstrand, Diane Longfellow

September Minutes

The July minutes were approved to be posted on the Visionering website. A note will be added about the Drop In Summit ad running on Channel 7 on Sept 20 & 25.

Kansas Mentors Focus Group

Ella Todd gave a brief background on Kansas Mentors. They are partnering with WSU Center for Community Support & Research to develop a strategic plan. As part of that process they are conducting focus groups. Two questions were discussed.

As a mentoring organization what are your challenges?

- Finding enough mentors
- Recruiting mentors to work with youth
- Number of mentors is down 10 – 15% across mentoring organizations
- Sustainability of matches
- Recruitment of men
- Older adults would rather work with their peers rather than youth
- Parental support
- There is some resentment having to do multiple background checks
- Funding
- Cost of background checks is going up
- Trouble finding youth in certain age ranges – getting more women mentors in certain area – don't have the girls for them to mentor
- Getting more mentors from churches to mentor outside of their church
- Which agencies are well informed about the state allowing time off to mentor
- Communicate more about the children we are serving so don't duplicate
- More information about what goes on during/after school in regard to mentoring – more information about where the need is
- Multicultural for bi-racial children

What efforts on a state-wide level would help address these challenges?

- Stronger state-wide recruiting effort
- Visibility – getting information out there
- Better communication
- Tap into churches that do mentoring within their churches
- Duplication of services
- Focus on business & city government for recruitment
- Tying communities together
- A voice everyone knows/respects at state level
- Help people get access to computers
- Represent all mentoring efforts so everyone is working on a united front

- Work together to serve community – form alliances
- Don't forget grandparents

Coaches Challenge Update

Coaches Challenge: Kansas 3700, Nebraska under 1000.

SUCCESS in the Middle

Judith Wencel presented information on her middle school program *SUCCESS in the Middle*. The focus is on middle school youth. It is a data driven, relationship model. They now have data on individual children that shows that mentoring is making a difference. Early adolescence is a turning point. There is a shift to relating school to a future job; reading to learn rather than learning to read.

Her presentation is on the Visioneering website:

<http://www.visioneeringwichita.com/minutes/mentoring/SUCCESS%20in%20the%20Middle%20Overview.pdf>

Her website is www.successinthemiddle.wetpaint.com .

Drop In Summit Review

Jessica Noble reported there were 325 in attendance, 74 of those were youth. They have received good feedback on the summit. In January they are scheduling regional follow-up meetings to develop action steps to address the challenges identified during the summit.

Visioneering Updates

Goody Clancy is the consultant group chosen to develop our downtown master plan. One strength of the team is their economic analysis component. They are starting community input with a "Walk-Shop" on Dec 4th & 5th. Attendees will take pictures of downtown – things they like, don't like, want to see changed. And start the conversation of what we want our downtown to be. For more information contact Diane.

Upcoming Meetings

Alliance Schedule for 2010:

All meeting will be held in the board room at the Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce, 350 W Douglas from 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Dates are: Jan 14, Mar 4, May 13, July 8, Sept 9, and Nov 4

January Agenda: Donovan Karber & Patty Gnefkow will present information on the Kansas Civic Leadership Lab.