

Power of We Consortium Meeting Minutes - February 19, 2010

Present: Jon Coleman, Emily Thompson, Mary ZumBrunnen, Robin Miner-Swartz, Bill Acheson, Peggy Vaughn-Payne, Andrea Seyka, Olga Hernandez-Patino, Deidre Denton, Lynne Martinez, Kristi Nelson, Joan Nelson, Vincent Delgado, Ken Sperber, Cindy Anderson, Nancy Oliver, Darla Dowker-Jackson, Brad Patterson, Lonnie Johnson, Terry Link, Joy Gleason, Ramona Spencer, Pat Welling, Ghada Georgis, Hi Fitzgerald, Randy Bell, Michelle Nicholson, Angela Austin, Peggy Roberts, Erika Brown-Binion, Randy Rauch, Louise Wing, Marvin Cato, Valerie Smith, Marian Bryant, Stephanie Peters, Lance Werner, John Melcher, Teresa Kmetz, Todd Mireles, Rainer Delgado, David Khilki, Doak Bloss

I. Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements:

Co-Chair Jon Coleman opened the meeting:

Joan Nelson encouraged folks to refer to the (pink) Eastside Neighbor newsletter which lists many upcoming activities.

Lansing Latino Health Alliance program was announced, brochure distributed.

Randy Rausch introduced the new DHS co-director assigned to cash assistance: Louise Wing.

Ramona Spencer announced the gardening workshop tomorrow at the Harry Hill Conference Center.

Terry Link and Randy Bell announced the March 25, 2010 garden program: "Growing Our Food System Nourishing Our People"

Pat Welling, announced her program at the Cristo Rey Community Center

II. Learning About Our community -- Presentation and Dialogue

Birth to Work Framework

Randy Bell opened the presentation by stating that in July 2007 the Birth to Work project began from a small planning grant focusing on how MSU can increase its level of engagement with the community – improving university and community communication to develop and sustain the health of the community. Later the planning group realized change was needed relevant to program-based intervention, and the Birth to Work language evolved. In March 2008 the "Birth to Work Initiative" became the title, and later evolved into the "Birth to Work Framework." All community systems have a key role here, in this coalition/system **to improve developmental outcomes for children, youth, and young adults.**

MSU's Hiram E. Fitzgerald, Ph.D. was introduced, and presented his power point, "**Birth to Work: Discovering Self and Others and Organizing Mental Representations of Experience.**"

Randy Bell reviewed/summarized Hi's presentation and introduced two key people in our community who are engaged in this work: Ken Sperber and Michelle Nicholson from the Birth to Five Great Start Collaborative. Michelle shared some of the many organizations that work together in this endeavor. Angela Austin, Coordinator of the Community Coalition for Youth, spoke of how to help the youth population by reducing risk factors, helping youth to graduate

from high school, and then begin thinking about how to develop a job, and how to be successful in a job,

On-line Portal: MSU's Outreach and Engagement staff Ghada Georgis was introduced. She presented this web portal concept which will seek to create a bridge between MSU and the community, and to provide a link utilizing the six goals of the Power of We Consortium. The web portal is to be interactive and updatable by any of the 12 coalition organizations, add announcements, etc. Once it is up and running in the next couple of months, we will be encouraged to build upon it. Decisions about which organizations/staff will enter the updates have not yet been made. There will be search capabilities for organizations or specific people within an organization. They will have "live guides" to help visitors navigate throughout the portal. The portal is planned to connect MSU faculty with local organizations, and the community. LCC is also actively involved in this. Joan Nelson notes there should be more Lansing School District grads going into MSU and this program could provide a bridge in that capacity. Also noted was a model "*Harlem's Own Children*" as it relates to the Birth to Work framework.

The meeting broke into small discussion groups, followed by idea sharing. Some of the ideas presented were:

As it relates to the first five years of a child's life, it would be helpful to have more information on the other transition points and a request was made for a follow-up session to focus on middle school and young adult groups.

Participants requested a copy of the Birth To Work PowerPoint to share with their own organizations.

There was a request for reference material, books, articles, bibliography, tool kit, to learn more and promote this concept.

The global economy was noted, and suggested that money should not be the primary goal that drives our culture. The book, "*The Spirit Level*" was referred to as a good tool to support this idea.

Support and agreement for civic involvement beyond job/money, i.e. quality of life may not always be measured by money from employment.

Suggestion to include a bigger picture, including physical assets (parks, green space, transportation) in how we look at and address these issues for our youth.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting: March 19, in HSB Conf. Rm. A