

Study Circles Project

Organizational Planning Session Brainstorm

September 9, 2010

CONCERNS

What is happening with children and youth in out of school time that concerns us?

- Lack of supervision
- It is easy to get into trouble
- Health issues/obesity
- Too much idle time
- Too much TV and video games
- Not enough exposure to cultural opportunities/world outside immediate surroundings
- Not learning goal setting/not setting goals
- Exposure to unhealthy and/or illegal activities
- Exposure to death and violence
- Sexual activity
- Lack of opportunities to engage in positive activities, hobbies, etc.
- Lack of coordination of activities/available opportunities
- Not doing homework or using tutoring programs
- Not being given responsibility when appropriate
- Little to no job training or youth employment opportunities
- No dialogue – not willing to talk with parents/other caring adults
- Lack of parental involvement in their development at times (parents not having experience or knowledge needed to set expectations, discipline, provide guidance, etc.)
- Parents being reluctant to seek help (programs/services that aren't user-friendly for parents)
- Lack of consistency in programs – high mortality rate for different programs

HOPES

What are our hopes for children and youth in out of school time?

What are our hopes for the Study Circles process?

- Leadership opportunities
- Opportunities to learn life skills
- Spending quality time with family
- Learning how to build healthy relationships with all sorts of different people/learning positive social behavior in a variety of settings
- Enjoying healthy activities/hobbies
- Safe environments (and neighborhoods safe enough for outdoor activity)
- Developing sense of pride in and responsibility for the community
- Develop interests/hobbies they can take pride in
- Develop a sense of ownership, accomplishment, and accountability
- Develop to be contributing members of society
- Develop a variety of different interest areas (access/exposure to new and different things)
- Lots of opportunities for success
- Developing high levels of self-esteem
- More trust built in families and in community overall
- A community made up of people of all ages who look after each other
- Youth involved in Study Circles and in community

BARRIERS

What are the barriers we face in our community?

- Money
- Trust
- Time
- Consistency/persistence
- Language
- Transportation
- Willingness to share ideas/concerns?
- Bureaucracy
- Gaps between programs/services
- Donut hole for some students in terms of qualifying for funding for college
- Apathy
- Community engagement
- Turf wars
- Lack of involvement (so far) in targeted area
- Doubt due to lack of results from other efforts
- History of high mortality rate for programs
- Administration/implementation issues
- Willingness to change?

STRENGTHS

What are our community's strengths?

- Belief that things can change
- Study Circles process and proximity
- Working together
- Large institutions/organizations located and vested in this area and interested in change
- Foundation to build on and some resources other communities may not have
- Past experiences/different perspectives
- Diversity of our Study Circles network so far

BASED ON ALL OF THIS, WHAT ARE OUR OVERALL GOALS FOR THIS PROJECT AS ORGANIZERS?

1. To give the community a *leading voice on the issue of out of school time*.**
2. To build relationships.
3. To take action to improve opportunities for children and youth when they are not in school.
4. To measure outcomes and celebrate success.

** Words in italics were suggested after the meeting ended and are included here just for everyone's consideration. During the meeting we had just agreed this statement would read "To give the community a voice."