

Youth Development Committee

February 4, 2009

Youth Services Bureau

107 Center Street, Manchester, CT

6:30-8:30pm

Co-facilitators: Barbara O'Brien Crockwell (obcrock@cox.net)
Keshia Ashe (keshia.ashe@gmail.com)

Committee members present: Beth, Patt, Pierre, Matt, Krystal, Sarah, Molly, Melissa, Rob, Gerry

Vision Statement:

Manchester, where all youth participate in guided experiences to develop character, life skills, and positive connections through the community.

note: 2/18/09 meeting has been replaced with 2/10/09 meeting with Rich Goll at Northwest Park Recreation Building #1 (448 Tolland Tpke Use the Activity Room Entrance far left)

Gathering data

- Reviewed Manchester Public Schools Enrollment Breakdown from Chris Silver. This data showed the total, withdrawn, and new students within Bennet, Illing MS, and Manchester HS
 - Data does not include 4th and 5th graders
 - Data only represents public schools- does not provide out of district, home schooled student information
 - Patti volunteered to get more detailed reports for us from the Board of Ed.
 - Discussed a town comparison tool ERG <http://vfv.dmhas.state.ct.us/sig/datasources.htm#erg>
- Discussed administering surveys to directly gather information of interest from young people
 - Via face to face, internet surveys
 - Potential barriers: approval from school board
- Alternative: review 40 developmental assets results to gather more info

Assessing the current youth engagement landscape

- Main focus:
 - Accessibility
 - Location, location, location! Try meeting at different places
 - Transportation- buses?
 - Awareness
 - Community paper, Channel 15, free community texts!
 - Internet (examples- bostoncares.org, volunteermatch.org, meetup.com; platform: ning.com)
 - We must identify all neighborhood groups
 - Oakland Heights, Squires Village, Buckland Hills, Spruce, Rachel Rd, [add more please]
 - What can the community do to increase awareness and volunteering?
 - Free/reduced cost of childcare

- Computer in home (restricted use) in exchange for community services
- Feeeeeed people who volunteer- partner with local businesses (offer tax breaks, promise of young people working in business for internships), start potlucks
- What is in place already??
 - Are they good, are people aware of them, are their opportunities for all to participate, do young people form connections with their peers and adults in these programs, why are always the same people participating.....what do these programs actually do??
- Let's find out::
 - Barbara- Arts Commission, Center for Service Learning, Christmas in April, Recreation Leadership Training Program, Manchester Recreation Department
 - Keshia- Little Theatre of Manchester, Manchester Historical Society
 - Molly- Instructors of the Handicap, MHS Student Activities
 - Matt- Hockanum Linear Trail Committee, Hop River Linear State Park Trail, Manchester Conservation Committee
 - Rob- Police Athletic League, Youth Government Academy, Amnesty International, Manchester Senior Center, Manchester Area of Conference of Churches
 - Beth- Bennet Academy, Manchester Soccer Club, YWCA, CAST, MARC and MARCH
 - Pierre- Manchester Midget Football, Boy Scouts of America, Manchester Youth Service Bureau
 - Melissa- Manchester Little League, Community Service Council
 - Sarah- MHS Student Activities, Volunteer Coaching Rec Dept, Girl Scouts of America
 - Gerry- Lutz Children's Museum
 - Krystal- Libraries

Questionnaire Guideline:

What are the opportunities for youth service?

What is the ratio of adults to young people?

What demographics shape the availability of opportunities?

(ie: neighborhood residence, age group)

What the expected outcomes for the young people who are engaged?

How are you involved? (administrative, active hands on, etc)

Are there any costs of participation? If not, what other barriers might prevent any Manchester youth from engaging in your organization?

Who does your organization target for service? Are young people directly served? How can young people serve within your organization?

Where does your budget come from?

What (number) limit is there to participation?

What resources are needed for participation? (TV, mp3 players, computers, access to internet)

What requirements must be filled? (background check, minimum age, etc)