

ILLINOIS AFTER-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

Capacity Building Workgroup Meeting Minutes--June 9, 2005

Members in Attendance: Co-Chair Amy Tippey, *21st Century Community Schools*: Carol Franke, *I-KAN Teen Reach*: Debbie Nelson, *Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA)*: Kris Sallee, *Cass County Health Department/Teen Reach*: Cindy Roope, *Adams County Health Department*: Jackie Thurnau, *Action for Children*: Jodi Doane, *Uhlich Children's Advantage Network*: Dave Robisch, *Illinois Department of Human Services*: Laura Menard, *Chestnut Health Systems*: Victor on behalf of Wallace Brandies, *NICASA*:

Staff in Attendance: Jennifer Becker Mouhcine, Hester Richardson

Co-Chair News: Curtis Peace has left his position at ISSACCN, and is now working for Knowledge Learning Corporation in Chicago. He plans to stay active in the work group, although he was unable to participate today. We will be determining who will serve in the co-chair role in the near future.

Survey Implementation-We have received about 240 surveys back today. We've mapped out the results geographically to ensure representation across the state and we still need some surveys from several counties to complete our data. The group discussed the fact that many of the counties may not have programs at all due to their small population size, etc., and if we do a bit more strategic targeting, we should be close to having an accurate representation. We are planning for June 30, 2005 for the end date for all surveys. We will start compiling the data in July.

Professional Development Resources—Group Reports

1) General information on the field of after-school and after-school in Illinois. Laura drafted a thorough introductory piece for this section. Some of the references cited in this work include the Department of Labor and the National Institute for Out-of-school time. The group gave very positive feedback and this section is near complete apart from some final editing, and possible additions from our data collections.

2) Training Needs and Trends. Group members have been very busy but have reviewed a lot of information related to their area that still needs to be compiled. They have reviewed resources such as the Promising Practices in Afterschool list serve, information on Achieve Boston, and been in touch with Jennifer Kane at the University of Pennsylvania regarding their work on training and professional development. They are looking at competencies as a way to outline areas of training needs. The work out of Pennsylvania has good information on how training can work to support and increase quality professional development and what needs to be in place to make training effective when taken back to the workplace. *This topic of making professional development activities effective may be an area to add to the handbook that provides specific guidance to managers and staff.*

The report on the Teen REACH benchmarks will be coming out soon as well, which will help inform the training needs section from TR staff assessments. The group is also looking at training trends in terms of technology and identified the Blackboard network-learning environment as a possible tool for the group to be aware of and consider.

3) Resources on how to assess training needs. There are many assessment tools out there, but the group is still in the process of gathering and reviewing them. The group compiled a list of resources they are searching through to find tools and information on assessing training needs and are also working with the

CCR&R, ISACCN and MOST to identify surveys and other resources used to identify training needs in the areas of professional development and program improvement. The group was reminded that the Teen REACH benchmarks, one of the originally recommended sources, be included in this section. It was also suggested that the competencies out there such as MOST and Achieve Boston could be reviewed next to the benchmarks to see where the areas overlap.

The group discussed combining groups 2 and 3 since the training needs information will likely overlap with the assessment of those needs. They decided to join forces and work together in a “Training Needs” subgroup and perhaps connect the competencies work here as well.

4) Info on Credentialing, Certification, Requirements, etc. The group has not had a chance to meet since our last workgroup meeting. They have compiled a starter chart with lots of this information, and Marci forwarded another degree program she found out about. The chart needs to be reviewed and refined.

5) Recommendations/Examples for Professional Development Plans—No Report

6) Career Pathways. Derrick has begun to pull some information in this area but wasn't able to participate in the meeting.

The group discussed that groups 4, 5, and 6 should work together to combine their information and the sections are closely related and can build off each other's information. This will also reduce group members being spread so thin across subgroups. Jennifer will contact the group leaders and arrange a planning meeting.

S.A. Credentialing Update

The group was informed that some initial planning conversations are being held among the ISACCN, MOST and the Partnership about steps in exploring a school age credential and possibilities of connecting this work to the existing Gateways to Opportunity system out of INCRRA for early childhood professionals. Initial talks are underway with Gateways representatives, and we will continue to update the workgroup and identify ways to connect efforts.

Training Meeting Update

Jennifer provided an update on the statewide trainers planning meeting with Cindy R. and Renee DeBerry of ISACCN. Initial ideas are to have an all day meeting of training providers. The morning would involve information exchange and introductions so trainers will be aware of each other's efforts and we can map out existing resources, both training opportunities and curriculum that are already offered in the state. We will present data collected on training needs, and chart out where the current resources meet and don't meet the statewide needs, both in terms of content and geography. We would then work with the trainers to begin to plan how to fill those gaps and identify ways to create a system of information exchange, statewide planning, coordination and expansion of training opportunities. We are targeting August or September for this meeting, and will be communicating with the group for additional input.

Next Meeting: Friday, August 18, 2005 from 10-12

