

**May 28, 2003 Full Partnership Meeting
Minutes**

Partnership participants in attendance

Adam Alonso, M.O.S.T; Debbie Bretag, ICVP; Paula Corrigan-Halpern, ICVP; Doretta Ellis, Springfield Urban League; Ann Potter Francis, FCIK; Carole Franke, I-KAN ROE; Doris Garrett, IDHS, Community and Youth Programs; Linda Grace, Sesser-Valier School District; Steven Guerra, IDHS Office of Prevention; Colleen Jones, Metropolitan Family Services; Gwendolyn Kenner-Johnson, IDHS Bureau of Child Care and Development; Kathy Kloppenburg, The Carole Robertson Center for Learning; Paul Kren, ISBE; Carol McElvain, NCREL; Jennifer Becker Mouhcine, ICVP; Marsha Nelson, 4 Counties for Kids; Renae Ogletree, CDHS; Curtis Peace, ISACCN; Cindy Roope, Adams County Health Department; Julie Shepard, Adams County Health Department; Amy Tippey, 21stCCLC; Cindy Wall, IDHS; Joellyn Whitehead, INCCRRA.

We were pleased that Mr. Steven Guerra, Associate Director of the Illinois Department of Human Services, Office of Prevention, participated in the meeting. Mr. Guerra began his position in May and will represent the Department on the Partnership. Ms. Doris Garrett, Bureau Chief, IDHS, Community and Youth Programs will continue to work with the Partnership. We are also pleased that Ms. Gwendolyn Kenner-Johnson, Associate Secretary of IDHS, Bureau of Child Care and Development, attended the meeting. Cindy Wall in Springfield also represented the Bureau of Child Care and Development.

Dennis Williams, the Division Administrator for New Learning Opportunities for the Illinois State Board of Education is representing the Superintendent's office on the Partnership. Mr. Williams was out of the country and unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Paul Kren and Ms. Carol McCue from Systems of Support will continue to work with the Partnership.

Current Issues

Staff Announcements

Jennifer Becker Mouhcine was introduced at the meeting. Jennifer will begin as the Illinois Center for Violence Prevention's full-time project director for the Illinois After-school Partnership on Tuesday, June 3. We look forward to her leadership as the Partnership implements the recommendations of the Illinois After-school Initiative Task Force. Jennifer can be reached by email at jbeckermouhcine@icvp.org and by phone at (312) 986-9200 ext. 21.

Paula Corrigan-Halpern will continue to work on the Partnership as a part-time consultant. She can be reached at pcorrigan-halpern@icvp.org or (773) 869-9184.

State Updates

The \$500,000 suggested cut to the TeenREACH program was restored in the final budget passed by the Illinois General Assembly on May 31. At \$19.9 million, the program is funded at the same level as FY03.

House Bill 294, which adjusts the income eligibility every year for the Child Care Assistance Program to 50 percent of the current state median income, also passed the General Assembly. Under HB294, the income eligibility for a family of three with two children in care will be raised this year to \$27,933 from \$21,819. No family will pay more for the co-pay than they do now and some families may pay less in co-pays. The bill will be sent to the Governor for his signature. If signed into law, the provisions will be effective September 1, 2003.

The Illinois House and Senate resolutions authorizing the Illinois After-school Partnership to implement the recommendations of the Initiative's Final Report unanimously passed both chambers. The resolutions highlight the Partnership's responsibility to engage people throughout the state in its work, to understand the out-of-school-time needs of working parents and their families and, as a result, connect the private sector to its efforts to build and sustain high-quality programs. The Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Human Services continue to serve as co-chairs of the Partnership. The Partnership is required to report its progress in reaching the recommendations each year to the General Assembly and the Governor.

Debbie Bretag and Paula Corrigan-Halpern met with Ms. Luanner Peters, the Deputy Chief of Staff for Social Services for Governor Blagojevich, to discuss the Partnership. Ms. Peters was very supportive of the goals of the Partnership and is considering the request to assign a staff person from the Governor's office to participate in the Partnership. Ms. Peters' office worked with Partnership staff to submit a proposal to the National Governors Association (NGA) to hold a summit on extra learning opportunities. The summit proposed by Illinois would highlight opportunities for businesses and corporations to support local and statewide out-of-school-time efforts. The NGA will announce the winners of the grant proposals in June. (More detailed information follows on page 5.) Ms. Peters is interested in the Partnership's efforts to develop a public-private partnership supporting a statewide system of out-of-school-time activities.

Federal Update

The National Afterschool Alliance brought advocates and program providers from across the country to urge Members of Congress to restore the \$400 million cut to the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program proposed by the Administration. The Illinois group, which included Debbie Bretag, Paula Corrigan-Halpern, Amanda Eichelkraut, Citizen Action Illinois and Juan Pablo Herrera, Brentano Community Learning Center, met with staff of five members of the Illinois delegation. Staff were

informed of the 21stCCLCs in their districts and asked to encourage their members to advocate for restored funding with the Appropriations Chairs.

Illinois After-school Partnership Strategic Planning

The main purpose of the meeting was to finalize the strategic plan outlining the work of the Partnership over the next three years. The logic models, prepared by staff and refined by the Partnership's Leadership Team, describe the actions needed to successfully implement the Initiative Task Force recommendations.

The members present discussed the four components of the Partnership and how each component helps achieve the goal of quality out-of-school-time activities for all interested school-age children and youth. The participants also defined a list of products that should be created and prioritized the work for the next six months.

Below is the discussion of the four components of the Partnership:

1) The statewide network (formerly called the Task Force) and the Work Groups (Policy, Capacity Building, Outcomes)

Goal: Continuing the work of the interdisciplinary group to implement the recommendations

The original Task Force appointed to make recommendations to improve the out-of-school-time system in Illinois has now expanded to become a **statewide network** of all interested individuals who would like to influence how the recommendations are achieved. The statewide network is open to all.

Network members are encouraged to join one of the three **Work Groups**. The current Work Groups are Policy, Outcomes and Capacity Building. Each of the Work Group has co-chairs responsible, with staff, for assisting the group with its work. The co-chairs are: **Policy:** Gaylord Gieseke, Voices for Illinois Children and Carol McElvain, North Central Regional Educational Laboratory; **Outcomes:** to be determined; **Capacity Building:** Amy Tippey, 21st Century Community Learning Centers and Tazewell County Health Department and Curtis Peace, Illinois School-age Child Care Network. Work Group meetings are scheduled for June.

The recommendations of the Work Groups will be presented at the bi-monthly statewide network meetings. At the network meetings, members have the opportunity to shape the work of the each of the components of the project and weigh in on the recommendations and actions of the Work Groups.

The Partnership is governed by the Leadership Team. The Leadership Team works with staff to determine the strategic direction of the Partnership and oversees the work of each of the components of the Project. The Leadership Team members are:

from **IDHS** – Connie Brooks,

Steven Guerra, Associate Director, Office of Prevention
Doris Garrett, Bureau Chief, Community and Youth Programs

from **ISBE** – Dennis Williams, Division Administrator, New Learning Opportunities
Paul Kren, Consultant
Carol McCue, Consultant

from the **Regional Office of Education** --Dan Anderson, Assistant Regional
Superintendent, Region 2

from the **Center for Prevention Research and Development** -- Angela Adan
Farnham; Kay Mulhall; Peter Mulhall

from the **Illinois Center for Violence Prevention** -- Debbie Bretag,
(ICVP staff members Jennifer Becker Mouhcine and Paula Corrigan-Halpern staff the
Partnership and the Leadership Team)

from **Voices for Illinois Children** – Gaylord Gieseke

from the **Martin Luther King Community Services** – Tracy Johnson

from the **Illinois School-age Child Care Network** – Curtis Peace

from the **Chicago Department of Human Services** – Renae Ogletree

from the **North Central Regional Educational Laboratory** – Carol McElvain

It is important to the Partnership that communities and local service providers influence its work as it creates products such as a list of outcome measures for all programs, a financing plan to support improved and expanded programs and an evaluation system for programs and agencies. We understand that many program providers will not be able to regularly attend Work Group or statewide network meetings. As a result, the Partnership is developing mechanisms for programs to shape and respond to the ideas of the Work Groups. This includes presenting ideas at the regional TeenREACH meetings, 21stCCLC meetings and meetings of networks including the Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, the Illinois School-age Child Care Network and the YMCA and YWCA. If you would like to hear the ideas generated to date, please contact Paula Corrigan-Halpern.

Intra- and inter-agency department Work Groups

The Initiative Task Force issued five groupings of policy recommendations. One of the groupings was **interagency collaboration**. The Task Force agreed that state agencies and institutions must collaborate to reduce duplication, maximize funding opportunities and less the burden on programs to meet contradictory program requirements. The Partnership Leadership Team has recommended that IDHS and ISBE create intra-

agency Work Groups of managers across divisions and programs serving school-age children and youth to frankly discuss the steps needed to reduce duplication and increase coordination.

Once the IDHS and ISBE intra-agency work groups were established, an inter-agency Work Group of state departments connected to youth development and out-of-school-time programming, including the Department of Children and Family Services and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity would be created to discuss the connections across agencies.

The Governor's Office has expressed interest in the idea as has IDHS. Staff will work with the co-chairs to develop the intra-agency groups.

2) Business Partnership

Goal: Building Relationships with the Private Sector

The Partnership is committed to developing relationships with corporations and businesses of all sizes to engage their support of local and statewide out-of-school-time efforts. The goal of the Extra Learning Opportunities Summit proposed by the Governor's Office in response to the NGA grant proposal is to develop regional after-school collaborative networks where business, with local social service providers and community institutions can devise strategies to develop support and expand out-of-school-time programs. Business also will be encouraged to join existing networks. The summit is also an opportunity to reach business associations, such as the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce and the Illinois Manufacturer's Association and encourage their members to survey employees on their need for out-of-school-time activities for their children. The goal is for the membership organizations to advocate for expanded out-of-school-time programming for their members.

Participants at the meeting suggested types of businesses and corporate networks to contact. These ideas include the banking industry, utility companies, insurance companies, the health care industry and workforce boards.

Staff will convene a meeting of interested Partnership members to create a mission statement and goals for the public-private partnership and to continue to identify potential business partners and develop strategies to reach our goal. If you are interested in attending this meeting, please contact Paula Corrigan-Halpern at 773-869-9184 or pcorrigan-halpern@icvp.org or Jennifer Becker Mouhcine at 312-986-9200 ext. 21 or jbeckermouhcine@icvp.org.

3) Parent and Youth Advisory Council

Goal: Engaging Parents and Youth

The views and experiences of parents and youth are essential to integrate into the Partnership's work. ICVP staff has suggested developing a Parent and Youth Advisory Council to involve consumers and their families in building and strengthening the out-of-school-time system. The members present urged the Partnership to be clear in the outcomes that it expects from parent and youth participation. Members stressed that the participation needs to be structured so that participants can give authentic advice that reflects their experiences and needs.

Other members stated that the Partnership should evaluate if it needs to create a freestanding parent and youth council or if it can connect with existing councils and boards to periodically hear from parents and youth. Some publicly funded grants, such as TeenREACH and the funding provided by the Youth Services division of the Chicago Department of Human Services, require programs to develop parent and youth councils. Other communities have well-established youth boards, such as the Tazewell County Youth Board.

The members present agreed that the first step is to determine the extent and nature of the involvement sought from parents and youth and to identify the avenues that currently exist to communicate with consumers of out-of-school-time programs and with youth and families who do not currently participate in programs. Whatever the mechanism created to reach parents and youth, members stated that the Partnership must actively solicit the ideas of parents and youth not currently connected with a formal social service network or out-of-school-time program. Ideas of where to reach parents and youth included schools, park districts, employers, libraries and places of worship.

Members also suggested that staff speak with the Illinois PTA, explore the Illinois Department of Public Health's initiative to solicit youth ideas for tobacco prevention and speak with the Illinois Department on Aging's program working with grandparents caring for grandchildren.

Staff will convene a meeting of interested Partnership members to further discuss the goals for parent and youth involvement and to create an action plan for achieving the goals. If you are interested in attending this meeting, please contact Paula Corrigan-Halpern at 773-869-9184 or pcorrigan-halpern@icvp.org or Jennifer Becker Mouhcine at 312-986-9200 ext. 21 or jbeckermouhcine@icvp.org.

4) Illinois After-school Alliance

Goal: Building Public Support and Advocating for Change

The Illinois After-school Alliance is the fourth component of the After-school Partnership. The Alliance is a network of program providers, advocates and others active in promoting policies and decisions that improve the quality and availability of out-of-school-time programming in Illinois. The Alliance has been active for more than two years and created and championed the 2001 resolutions creating the After-school

Initiative Task Force and the recent resolutions formalizing the Partnership. The Alliance plays an important role in executing the goals of the Partnership. By strengthening the coalition of advocates – including parents, youth and business leaders – able to persuasively describe the benefits of out-of-school-time, the Alliance will build general public support for additional program funding and policies that allow programs to offer quality services to all interested children and youth. The Alliance will also work with policy makers and elected officials in enacting the recommendations of the Partnership and its Work Groups.

The After-school Alliance is meeting on June 18, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Illinois Center for Violence Prevention, 220 S. State St., Suite 1215. All are welcome to attend. The agenda includes summer activities to familiarize General Assembly members with out-of-school-time programs and other possible activities.

After-school Partnership Strategic Plan

Partnership staff created a strategic plan defining the key actions and products needed to implement each of the five sets of Task Force recommendations. These recommendations were in the areas of **State-level Interagency Collaboration, Capacity Building, Community Collaboration, Evaluation and Funding**. In April, the Leadership Team met to refine the logic models, prioritize the activities of the Partnership and suggest the Work Groups needed to implement the priority recommendations.

The Leadership Team then suggested goals for the **Policy, Capacity Building and Outcomes Work Groups**. Each of these Work Groups met in April and agreed on their goals and determined the steps from the logic models that are related to their work.

At the Partnership meeting, members reviewed the key actions and products suggested for each of the Work Groups. Members also suggested actions that should be taken within the next six months. Their ideas are included in the attached handout.

The Partnership's next statewide network meeting will be in August. Information on a date and location will be emailed to Partnership members.

Minutes taken by Paula Corrigan-Halpern and reported June 2, 2003