



Partnership Highlights- January 2005

Overview of 2004 Progress in Task Force Recommendation Areas

- **Capacity Building**—The Capacity Building Work Group decided upon resources to support professional development for the field, including data from our workforce survey, information on various career pathways and certifications, training and higher educational opportunities and other career building information, which will be compiled for the field. An inventory of training opportunities has been drafted, the website designed by the work group is ready for roll out, and recommendations for statewide peer mentoring system components were developed.
- **Evaluation**—The Outcomes Work Group compiled a comprehensive list of outcomes used and evidenced by afterschool programs, which will help inform the menu of common outcomes the Partnership is working to develop. An evaluation capacity questionnaire was used to gather information from several providers as to the evaluation and reporting requirements they currently face, and their capacity to respond to or participate in program evaluations. The Full Partnership held a discussion on the various aspects of quality, and the Leadership Team and Outcomes Work group have held initial planning discussions on the best ways to determine common outcomes and evaluation systems, and the Inter-agency teams will continue those conversations in greater detail.
- **Funding**—The Policy Work Group worked over the past year to determine the best way to assess costs of quality afterschool programs, and develop a method to determine the resources needed to support afterschool programs for all children and youth who need them. The group began to research potential sources of new revenue for afterschool. The outline for the statewide finance plan is developed and initial site cost studies are underway. The Partnership has worked with businesses throughout the year to craft effective ways to increase business involvement and investment in afterschool throughout the state. The Governor’s Business Summit on Afterschool was one venue where businesses were able to learn about the reasons and ways to get engaged in afterschool, and the Partnership is working with the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to advance these conversations at the regional and local levels.
- **State Agency Collaboration**—The Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Human Services have worked with Partnership staff to compile a draft public funding inventory that outlines various program requirements, goals, resources, evaluation and reporting expectations, etc. that will help in a cross program analysis of possible areas of effective coordination at the state level.
- **Community Collaboration**—A statewide directory of major afterschool program sites was compiled and is close to release, which will help programs identify possible partners in their area. Planning discussions were also held to explore parent and youth involvement strategies and to identify resources needed for their engagement in various arenas in afterschool. In addition, the Capacity Building Work group included information networking opportunities in their recommendations to foster venues for communities to share and collaborate with each other.

2005 GOALS

Overall Partnership Goal:

To provide high-quality out-of-school-time programs to all interested children and youth. The three major components of this goal include ensuring quality, increasing sustainability, and coordinating state resources.

Key Anticipated Goals in Task Force Recommendation Areas

Capacity Building

- Website Launched
- Professional Development Guide Developed
- Workforce Data Reported
- Training Providers Convened To Identify And Address Training Gaps
- Information On Training Opportunities Shared Statewide
- Resources Secured For Peer Networking And Mentoring System Pilot To Increase Program Quality

Funding

- Finance Plan Drafted, Including Recommended Funding Levels To Meet Full Demand, Funding Strategies And Benchmarks, And Quality Cost Studies
- Regional Business Involvement/Investment In After-school Enhanced
- Useful Guides And Capacity Building Resources Made Available To Help With Funding And Sustainability
- Strategies To Increase Resources For After-school Researched /Implemented

Evaluation

- State Agencies Work to Determine Common Outcomes Menu Across Programs
- State Agencies Coordinate Evaluation Systems
- Resources and Tools Made Available to Programs to Support Evaluation Activities
- State-wide Quality Assessment Framework Explored and/or Recommended

Community Collaboration

- Promote Successful Community Collaboration Practices
- Secure Resources To Support Parent And Youth Involvement
- Mechanisms To Effectively Involve Parents And Youth Developed
- Additional Methods Developed To Work With Community Networks To Champion After-School.

State Agency Collaboration

- On-Going Joint Agency Teams Identify And Pilot Ways To Increase Coordination In Various Areas (outcomes/evaluation, reporting/data collection, RFP processes, capacity building resources, etc.)