

THE PARTNERSHIP FOR AFTER SCHOOL EDUCATION AND
THE STATEN ISLAND YMCA
PRESENT

THE STATEN ISLAND COLLABORATIVE NEWSLETTER

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PASE 120 Broadway, NY, NY 10271 212/571-2664, fax 212/571-2676

July 2003

THE STATEN ISLAND FORUM SUMMARY

On June 11, 2003 at the Snug Harbor Cultural Center, PASE and the S.I. YMCA facilitated an important event that attempted to address fiscal and quality issues all community based agencies face in the city today. The purpose of the Staten Island Forum was to bring together senior staff members from health and cultural institutions, and community based organizations that work with families and young people on Staten Island to discuss the current **changes, challenges, and opportunities** practitioners will face in the coming academic year 2003-2004.

During such unsettled times, it is essential for afterschool professionals to come together in order to collectively face some historic **changes** such as:

- The reformation of public schooling in NYC. How will it effect after school services?
- What demands or expectations (internally and externally) will be placed on afterschool providers for Department of Education instruction and services?

Or **challenges** such as:

- How will/can we respond to the drastic cuts in government and foundation funding?
 - What does it mean and look like to do more (or the same) with less? What are the alternatives?

And **opportunities** such as:

- In light of the national economic and domestic safety crisis, afterschool providers must now pool resources and have a better sense of what is being offered around them.
- New ideas must be voiced, and new strategies must be attempted in order to confront the issues that affect all of us.

The Forum was attended by 24 executive directors or senior program managers from various agencies around Staten Island. Betsy Dubovsky, Executive Director of SI Bank & Trust Foundation, funder of this and the previous S.I. Matter events, attended and participated as well.

PASE and the Staten Island YMCA would like to thank Betsy and the SI Bank & Trust Foundation for making these endeavors possible.

Affinity Group Meetings:

Dates and Locations

- Mental Health, July 9, 2003, 9:30 at SI Children's Museum
- Child/Youth Development, Friday, July 18 9:30 am, Location to be announced.
- Literacy and Learning, July 23RD 11 am, at Seamen's Society
- Service Learning, September 5th, 2003 from 10:00-12:00 pm. The place will be determined.
- Physical Education and Activities, September 23 at 9:30 am at PAL/Petrides

Please see the following pages for the notes of these initial meetings.

Affinity Groups Formed

PASE defines an *Affinity Group* as a group comprised of agencies that come together for the purpose of promoting a shared programmatic, discipline, or philosophical style or approach in order to raise awareness, garner funding, and possibly provide comprehensive training to the rest of the field. **PASE's** affinity and advisor groups include: *Why Girls?*, which is made up of over 30 agencies who implement and recognize the importance of gender-specific programming; the *YouthSport Alliance*, which advocates for, and trains after school providers in innovative sports and physical activity curricula; YouthConnect! Advisory Group functions to inform the direction of programming and a curriculum guide of the YC! demonstration project; a Literacy Advisory Group which aims to explore, showcase and train the field in quality and effective literacy programming; the Arts Advisory Group which serves a similar function for the Sidewalk Arts demonstration project.

With the aid of the S.I. YMCA, **PASE** is bringing this effective model for collaboration to Staten Island where agencies can benefit from shared knowledge and resources, and capitalize on funding through collaborative efforts. Both **PASE** and the S.I. YMCA will provide various supports in order to insure the sustainability of these groups. These supports include: issuing The S.I. Collaborative Newsletter, attending and disseminating results of affinity meetings from the other groups, and facilitating a fall 2003 forum where groups can possibly present themselves more formally.

The ensuing pages will describe the groups that are formed thus far, and summarize what the initial "members" deem as their purpose. Each group is strongly receptive to new membership.

For questions, comments, and confirmation of attendance to any of the Affinity meetings, please contact Clayton Evans at PASE 212/571-2664 x.313 (clayton@pasetter.com), or Melissa Lamb at the S.I. YMCA 718/227-3200.x.25.

Affinity Groups (continued)

In order to ensure optimal participation, PASE and affinity group participants have identified several committees that members could partake in: advocacy and marketing, research and funding, facilities, curriculum and training. The first two committees could easily be one committee with various goals. "Research" in particular can be very time-consuming for one agency. An affinity group committee commissioned to track trends in that particular discipline or theory has proven to be a very effective form of collaboration. This research can then inform the work of the other committees. The strength of any such group relies on the full participation of all of its members. Committees not only help to provide a format for equal participation, but also helps to create a pathway of communication as affinity groups grow.

The following are the results of five affinity groups that were able to meet in June:

Affinity Group: Child / Youth Development Practices and Issues

Initial Attendees:

Vera Tang PASE (Facilitator)
 Dawn Rannie NYCID
 Thomas O'Callaghan NYCHA
 Kamal Saleem NYCHA
 Ernesto Lozano NYCHA
 Sandra Harrell PAL/TASC
 Kathy Venezia Snug Harbor Cultural Center

Meeting Summary:

- During the break out session, time was spent on introducing each agency, types of programs provided, age group serviced, etc.
- The common reason for choosing this group is the importance of child/youth development and the need to learn more and share their knowledge in order to integrate a more effective curriculum in staff development trainings.
- The next meeting is scheduled on **Friday, 7/18, 9:30 am, location-TBA.**
- In the next meeting, the group plans to develop a purpose, and brainstorm long term and short term goals. In addition, committee responsibilities need to be designated and assigned.

Need to follow up and confirm next meeting location via email or phone call.

Affinity Group: Physical Education & Activities

Initial Attendees:

Clayton Evans PASE (Facilitator)
 Kitty Mudd PAL/Petrides/TASC
 Kathleen Pessantes NYCHA
 Beth Britton SI Mental Health-Project Liberty
 Steve Kessler JCC/TASC
 Frank Minotti CYO

Meeting Summary:

- Members expressed their reasons for being in the group as

not only having an expertise, but also a need to look at the resources available such as some coaching the coaches model, and recruitment of coaches.

- Members also expressed the need and importance of sports and physical activity as being integral in the development of youth.
- The purpose of this affinity group is to exchange resources. Additionally, get more young people involved in constructive endeavors through sports and physical activity, increase parental involvement, and develop youth leadership.
- Various resource were made available:
 - PAL has a coaching the coaches curriculum and training series.
 - CYO and Petrides have donated space for the next meeting. Petrides will be the next meeting site.
 - Project Liberty offers crisis counseling.
- The next meeting will be **September 23 at 9:30 am at Petrides (715 Ocean Terrace)** where the group will explore recruitment strategies and look at committee delegation.

Affinity Group : Mental Health

Initial Attendees:

Ellen O'Connell PASE (Facilitator)
 Clarisse Domingo Eden II
 Nathalie Weeks SI Mental Health
 Addy Manipella SI Children's Museum

Meeting Summary:

- Who's Not Here? We always speak to audiences of peers. We want to talk with others so that we can:
 - Normalize our issues; remove the stigma attached to them; educate others about these issues
 - Provide socialization for the children we work with through opportunities to interact & engage with "typically developing" children; how to behave in public
 - Mix our resources with mainstream resources
- How could we do that?
 - Share models that have worked such as how SI Children's Museum works with special needs populations
 - Do small pilot projects, cull that information into something which can be revisited, marketed, & share with others. Perhaps do it as research project. Get an institution to take on some of the research projects. Do it with little fanfare; this is about results.
- What else can we do as a peer group?
 - Dialogue about similar issues
 - Licensing issues
 - Do something about insurance rules & buses/ Pool resources
 - Address the emotional components & family dynamics.
- **Next Steps**
 - Exchange contact information
 - Get contact list from this event

-Bring at least one other person to table at next meeting.

- **Next meeting: July 9, 2003, 9:30 at SI Children's Museum @ Snug Harbor**

Affinity Group: Service Learning/Community Service

Initial Attendees:

Melissa Lamb S.I. YMCA (Facilitator)
 Karen Felton UAU Program Director
 Lisa Brooks Project Liberty SIMHS
 Jennifer Saladis NYCID

Meeting Summary:

- Youth leaders programs can help young people developmentally as well as build character.
- Participants believe that leadership is within yourself and that is what they wish to relay to young people and gain ideas to help them grow as professionals.
- UAU would like to build on leadership.
- All participants in the group would like to get feedback and ideas from each other to support the work they are doing in the field.
- Participants would like to put value and validation to the field of youth development because they believe that youth sometimes do not receive the recognition they deserve for their service in the community.
- All participants wish to empower youth through their services as well as share resources with other agencies.
- Participants wish to share experiences they have had working with youth and understand what works when working with youth.
- Participants would like to bring youth to a meeting so that youth have a voice and an opportunity to share what they feel works in the community.
- Participants would like to have open discussions and see models of service learning.
- Participants would like to have more resources so they can do their jobs better. Questions that came up pertaining to this was 1. Who can provide the help we need? and 2. Who needs training and resources so we could share the rich assets we have on Staten Island.
- Participants would also like training on service learning and youth development.
- **GOALS:**
 - Identify additional agencies who need help and that can assist with meeting the needs of Leadership and Service Learning.
 - Define how we will utilize service learning in the community.
 - Create a forum that allows for active listening of the youth's voice.
 - Assist in establishing a Youth Council for the Affinity Group to better understand the needs of the community that agencies service.
- The next meeting for this group will be on **September 5th, 2003 from 10:00-12:00 pm**. The place will be determined.

Affinity Group: Literacy and Learning

Initial Attendees:

Voula Legoulis S.I. YMCA/TASC (Facilitator)
 Joanne Kavanagh Council on the Arts and Humanities SI
 Tara Kimball Seaman's Society for Children
 Denise Campbell PAL
 Betsy Dubovsky SI Bank & Trust Foundation

Meeting Summary:

Why include literacy and learning in programs?

- Academic Assistance
- Program to help families and students
- Get children to read at grade level
- Help in promoting literacy
- Economic Issues
- Parents being role models in reading
- Making connections for students
- Use of community resources
 - Barnes & Noble and Borders
 - First Book
 - Heart of America Foundation (CAPITAL ONE)
 - Books donated
 - Employees Read
 - Community Awareness
- Staff Training
 - Share what things are going on
- Reasons why parents are unable to help
 - illiteracy
 - no one to turn to
- Foster Care Programs
 - Students fall behind because of change

GOALS

- Transmit love of reading to young people
- Increase the availability of books
- Find resources for more books
- Identify Staff who can make reading fun
- Raise awareness and importance of reading anywhere anytime
- Books on tape
 - "Sit back and relax" at least once a month
- Family literacy
 - Parent involvement
 - Linking Parents
- Incentives – Book Clubs
 - How many minutes have you read?
 - instead of number of books
- To do an Island-wide Literacy Day

Next Meeting July 23RD 11 am Seamen's Society @ Snug Harbor

If your agency is interested in joining any of these affinity groups or forming one around a different topic (such as Gender-specific Programming, Arts Programming, Immigrant Populations, or Teen Pregnancy Prevention) please contact Clayton Evans at 212/571-2664, or clayton@pasesetter.com.