

PEACE PROMOTION MOMENTUM TEAM
COMMUNITY CONGRESS
Notes from June 5, 2010

Co-Chair Dana Brown and Co-Facilitator Paul Watson shared the following overview of our Peace Promotion Momentum Team during the Small Group Meeting facet of Community Congress held at Hoover High School in the Auditorium.

Ground Rules

Ground Rules were clarified by Molly during the Opening Session of Community Congress for the entire event as a whole.

Peace Promotion Overview

Dana shared the overview from inception of Peace Promotion. Letting the attendees know they can access 100% of the information on Mid-City CAN's website @ www.midcitycan.org Skipping past the initial page, the home page of Mid-City CAN has a link to BHC (Building Healthy Communities) on the lower left hand corner.

- Question "What does PEACE look like to you?" was our beginning dialog in preparation for the Open House in September, 2009. Engaging conversation followed and a template of a whole child/whole adult in the center surrounded by three circles designating Home, School, and Community was the answer. (socio-ecological model) Reflecting the interconnectivity, our team began their direction of collaboration and how to move forward collectively. Discussion of root causes of violence was part of the beginning process of our momentum team.
- Visioning Process
 - "What do we want our community to look like in five years?" was the next step. Our Co-Facilitators guided our process through the overview, prioritizing, identifying systems, strategic direction, resources available or needed, and capacity building.
- Data Report
 - Resident-driven/resident-accountability was the driving force of our team. The 67 page Data Report was the foundation to do so with continual reference to the report. Sharing a couple of the glaring statistics from the Data Report, Dana reiterated to the attendees the imperativeness of building our future goals based upon the voice of the community.
 - With youth development and resident driven the two major focuses of the BHC Initiative, it was noted that 30% of the data came directly from youth.
- Choosing Outcome 5
 - Our team delved into each of the five outcomes allocated to Peace Promotion. Prioritizing each Outcome, through consensus, we choose Outcome 5 **"Children and their families are safe from violence in their homes & neighborhoods."** Eliminating fear in our neighborhoods was our highest priority.
- Targeted Systems Change/Strategies
 - Reflecting on the areas noted below, please find our process of targeting the systems which need to change and the strategies to accomplish our goal.
 - What areas do we want to change?
 - What is blocking us from realizing our vision? What are the root causes?
 - What kind of changes need to happen and strategies to implement them?
 - What resources do we have or need to create our vision?
 - Ultimately, our targeted changes reflect a Safe Community and Youth Development & Empowerment.

- What is blocking us from realizing our Vision? Discussions ensued on solutions for changing the social climate, barriers, or obstacles preventing us from reaching our goals. They are as follows:
 - Disconnected Relations
 - Negativity, Despair & Fear
 - Dysfunctional Power Systems
 - Limited Coordinated Systems for Youth
 - Biased Media
 - Ineffective Management of Violence
 - Clash of the Ages
 - Economic Inequities

- Capacity Building & Implementation
 - Going into this phase, we asked ourselves at our last meeting, “What is the perception of resident-driven? Have we accomplished our intention?” Our implementation phase will begin in September.

Dana shared Margaret Mead’s exceptional quote, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, dedicated citizens can change our world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Paul noted it is challenging to dig into the root causes of violence. The issue of violence has to focus on the conditions of the community in discerning those root causes. It is about taking control and ownership of our community. We need to ask ourselves the question, “What do we intent to do? It is all about what we intend to do for ourselves.”

Attendees Q & A

- What are the next steps?
 - Our model/plan is fluid and organic. The Logic Model Plan is being submitted to TCE (The California Endowment) by June 30th with the Implementation Stage to begin in September. Presently, we will continue with Capacity Building. Mid-City CAN will be orchestrating opportunities for youth, House Meeting Leaders, and Momentum Team Co-Chairs to meet to dialog collectively on moving forward. The Momentum Teams will be the Action Hubs of implementation. Remaining resident-driven is key as we coordinate with service/resource providers. Building upon existing collaborative partnerships, we will create new collaborative partnerships during the summer months. A mentoring program for youth was reiterated as imperative.

- Clarify the Letter of Intent (Initial Acceptance Date is July 6, 2010)
 - TCE will continue to fund the HUB for sustainability in addition to funding collaborative programs with an intention of multi-level strategies with different approaches. Accessing the Letter of Intent online, the funding will be based upon strategies which cut across all teams, create comprehensive collaborative with no set percentages, and have the biggest impact with the most expedient outcomes. The overview on funding will be based on state-wide policy level shifts as well. The article “Why Place Matters” on the website has imperative information to glean expertise. Reiterating how City Heights is the only community in San Diego County, we have a brilliant opportunity to impact social change as a replicable model for our local communities county-wide.
 - Continue to check the BHC website for updates and release of RFP (Request for Proposals). The funding materials and submission process will be posted online.

Attendees Q & A (cont'd)

- Will there be a state-wide event for all 14 communities?
 - Steve Eldred shared there will most certainly be an event state-wide to share Best Practices. Possibly there will be a youth conference/opportunity also. Presently, the month of January (Martin Luther King weekend) is targeted for a Southern California/Northern California conference. June is targeted for a state-wide conference.

Comments from PPMT members

- Judd shared that as a youth in City Heights, upon joining PPMT, he was hesitant about talking and unfamiliar with the language. Feeling the inclusivity of our team, he shared the youth appreciate the environment of everyone being equally important and the voice of every youth present valued, honored and respected. Having the adults validate the youth encouraged them to speak up even more.
- Linda highlighted the respect among members, no matter what their age, education, or background. Sharing also the brilliant opportunity of creating a safe community through Restorative Practice / Justice. Successfully practiced in other communities, the recidivism rate is greatly reduced while the cohesive community is greatly enhanced.
- Susanna shared her appreciation of Linda and the children singing the “Hello” song in 21 languages.
- Jeannel shared her appreciation of Dana and Paul creating a safe environment for all attendees in which our “flat system” of the voice of a youth sitting next to an individual with a Doctorate degree and each equally important as the other.
- Valentina shared her thoughts on needing more employment opportunities, especially for youth. Encouraging youth to stay engaged and attend all team meetings is imperative. Reiterating our need for a Community Center, Valentina also suggested we consider more murals of art throughout our community.
- Sean shared how inspiring it is to see our community stand together, shoulder to shoulder, as one. Noting it’s the first time he has seen the community coming together and creating this cohesive connection.
- Mike offered his thoughts on how honored he is to be part of such an exciting, evolving collective.
- Pastor Sara expressed how Peace Promotion is a living example of what we are striving to accomplish. Sara is excited to see how our capacity building spreads beyond City Heights to our surrounding communities. Seeing the power of love, respect, and support of PPMT was heartwarming and inspirational.
- CAL CONNECT is the state-wide website connecting all 14 communities involved with TCE’s BHC process.

Closing Comment

Dana shared how our collective opportunity is history in the making. This has not ever happened. Resident-driven, resident-accountability is a tremendously exciting endeavor. What a brilliant opportunity for City Heights to ultimately be the model of Best Practices and Solutions-Oriented activism. Peace Promotion reflects true community cohesiveness. Tremendously honored to be part of this journey, Dana thanked all attendees for their role, their voice, and their passionate, pure intentions of effecting long lasting social change in City Heights.

