

January 3, 2008
Dialog 2

TOPIC:	<i>OUT OF SCHOOL TIME</i>
KEY ISSUES:	<i>Limited positive activities for youth, after school programs for everyone, specifically middle school age, 'needy' neighborhoods/communities. There are limited positive activities for youth. Children and families need safe places to play – local parks and recreation, free accessible and winter-ready places for families to spend time together. Apathy to civic involvement</i>
ESSENTIAL CONTRIBUTING FACTORS	<i>Limited funding and space. Lack of awareness about summer learning loss. Expectation that the schools can do it. Expectation that private industry can do it. Lack of knowledge about how it contributes to crime. Demographic changes – low income working parents</i>
COMMUNITY BASED SOLUTIONS	<i>Increased business, parental and community involvement Year round school calendar Volunteer programs in the schools</i>
FUTURE VISION	<i>Legislative funding for out of school time Awareness of opportunities Intergenerational programs</i>

Out of School - After School

(1) Gathering the Facts

Available Now

- SUN provides academic and recreational after school programs
- PAL provides academics, sports, recreation and field trips
- Schools provide after-school sports
- PAL provides activities for kids even during spring break and summer
- Reynolds provides transportation for after-school activities/sports
- Alder has youth programs but some capacity issues
- Community has programs for Hispanic youth and even parents programs
- Metropolitan Family Services programs are even extended to serve kids who are home-schooled
- Reynolds school district uses SUN and after-school programs
- Some schools have translators at parent-teacher conferences

Observed in Past Five Years

- Funding issues, funding cuts, grant funds more competitive
- Major demographic changes
- Need to be more culturally competent
- Increased parent apathy
- Culture shock for everyone involved
- Gentrification
- Movement/displacement of people (Columbia Villa housing as example)
- People still headed to PDX proper for programs so difficulty building roots here, don't feel connected to community yet
- Communities very new, still changing
- Some services/social service providers maxed out and have waiting lists because don't have capacity to handle increased demand/growth (Fairview, for example, doesn't have enough police officers to implement gang task force at the moment)

What Works?

- Parental involvement
- Portland organizations have good curriculum
- Community cohesion / feeling rooted in community

Critical Considerations

- Cultural barriers / language barriers hasten communication efforts
- Limitations on current agency capacity
- Keeping programs affordable

Increased perceived parent apathy could be implication of cultural changes -- not apathy but instead language or cultural barrier is preventing communication and understanding of issues or resources or general involvement with schools and social service agencies

(2) Getting Reactions and Making Associations

Authority Structures Keeping us Apart

- Need for more large-scale change at government level - policy of requirement for afterschool sports for example
- Cultural barriers to solving problems, truancy as example of this
- Community asset-building needed, lots of volunteers and resources but need to be linked together
- Why can't all schools provide varied sports? Current lack of athletic facilities and capacity
- Cities / city councils need to get more involved
- School boards need to get more involved
- People don't want to spend money

Problem Relating to Every Child

- Lack of after-school activities and resources
- Lack of programs to address cultural problems
- Larger issues in community such as gangs and violence is dangerous to children

Who Can Act to Solve These Challenges

- Parents need to get more involved
- Cities and city councils need to get involved
- School boards need to get involved
- Local businesses need to get involved
- Parents need to get involved so that they can be educated on the challenges and risks
- Community members themselves (for example to vote for parks and rec district so more services can be provided)

(3) Values and Implications

- Early childhood education and intervention is necessary
- Value staff and volunteers that are committed and well-trained
- Partnerships
- Not skimping on quality in programs and staff
- Must unlock potential in community for volunteers and resources
- Address cultural and language barriers
- Change of attitudes towards police and security on both sides

(4) Decision Making

Criteria for Success / New Alternatives

- Parents must be involved
- Everyone in community needs to view it as a regional problem that we are all dealing with and not just a city issue or neighborhood issue
- Thinking big -- after school programs funded at the state level similar to Washington state
- Linking needs with resources (some places have money but no facilities or facilities but no money for programs so build linkages in community)
- Coordination
- Communication
- Local business buy in
- Unlocking potential for success
- Use existing models but scaled for community

What can Community Commit to? / First Steps to Take

- Resource Fair with city as facilitator (Fairview offered) where community could see what resources were available and better networking and partnerships
- Invite current successful organizations and collaborations to present to our community on what works and how to solve problems
- Set clear goals and guidelines / create strategic plan for community for 1 year, 2 years, 5 years, etc.
- Involve business owners
- Identify natural community leaders to get people involved in a more natural way
- Create a database of resources
- Central calendar where community can see events, add events
- Involve apartment managers as recruiters and see them as involved citizens ("Lifeworks Northwest" as apartment complex model) for referral services and to reach people
- Using Internet more but also don't ignore community areas such as grocery stores, apartment managers, etc. to advertise events, programs and services