

**January 3, 2008**  
**Dialog 2**

TOPIC: ***OUT OF SCHOOL TIME***

KEY ISSUES: *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*

ESSENTIAL CONTRIBUTING FACTORS *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*

COMMUNITY BASED SOLUTIONS *Increased business, parental and community involvement*  
*Year round school calendar*  
*Volunteer programs in the schools*

FUTURE VISION *Legislative funding for out of school time*  
*Awareness of opportunities*  
*Intergenerational programs*

## Out of School - After School

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### (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