



**Visioneering Wichita
Mentoring Alliance Meeting
January 11, 2007
Meeting Notes**

Attendees: Terry Behrendt, Lyndon Drew, Lottie Miller, Norma Bricker, Angela Kessler, Jan Davis, Angela Lampe, Donovan Karber, Andy Solter, Lori Hopp, Lonnie Barnes, Twila Warren, Shirley Faucette, Polly Basore, Susan Oliver Estes, Lilia Aguilar, Marsha Lusk

Leadership Team: Terry Behrendt, Norma Bricker, Debi Corrigan, Jan Davis, Bill Hanna, Annette Singletary, Cornelia Stevens, Jeff Usher, Jeff Wenzel, Lottie Miller

Purposes of the Mentoring Alliance Meeting

- Celebrate Alliance accomplishments since 2005
- Data Collection update
- Establish 2007 meeting dates and times
- Work group discussion re: Café Connections
- Featured Organization: Youth Horizons
- Other celebrations and announcements

Alliance Accomplishments

2005

- Developed an agreed upon definition of mentoring: "To facilitate the development of healthy, successful children through the establishment of one-to-one relationships with caring individuals."
- Established guiding principles for working together
- Implemented a marketing/branding plan developed by Bothner & Bradley, including a PSA to air during National Mentoring Month.
- Developed a process/system for tracking mentoring data.
- Collected information from mentoring organizations to set a baseline to measure the benchmark.
- Developed an online resource for people to access more information about mentoring and how to become a mentor.
- Identified strategic action areas to pursue in 2006.

2006

- Focused Strategic Actions on four core areas:
 - Business – We will engage 100 new businesses in mentor-focused partnerships before 2007.
 - A mentoring marketing packet was developed to use in presentations to local businesses with the goal of increasing the number of mentors
 - A video to aid mentor recruitment is currently in development.
 - Churches – We will increase the number of church partnerships by 10 churches in 2007.

- A contact letter and survey is in development to determine the level of assistance needed to build the capacity of local church mentoring programs
- Schools – We will engage all public and private districts in the Wichita MSA in establishing formal mentoring partnerships.
 - This group is currently evaluating strategies to engage districts in the outlying areas of Wichita.
- Neighborhoods – Engage a minimum of 100 neighborhood and civic organizations in an effort to increase the capacity of mentoring focused organizations by December 31, 2007. The neighborhood associations/civic organizations will be supportive to the mentoring organizations.
- Alliance members staffed a booth at Expoventure, sponsored by The Chamber, as well as a Chamber After-Hours mixer to increase awareness of the need for increased mentors.
- The Communications Task Force developed a document called “Mentoring Quick Facts” to be used as a general recruitment tool for a variety of audiences.
- Alliance meetings have restructured to combine opportunities for full group discussion, work group activities, and highlighting of individual organizations to increase communication and awareness of community programs and resources.

Data Collection Update

Terry Behrendt updated the group on the data collection process and distributed handouts. The Wichita MSA has had an increase in the percentage of kids graduating from high school despite an increase in graduation requirements. The actual mentoring data is still be finalized – Youth Friends is currently being audited and will report their numbers upon its completion. USD 259 will report their data once the information is received from Youth Friends in order to avoid duplicative numbers. At first glance, it would appear that mentoring numbers are down but once all the data is received, the numbers should be steady or up slightly.

There are some new mentoring programs that have the potential to impact the data as well. The Alliance was asked for guidance on whether they should be counted. One is a new Americorps program. The other involves High Schools who are now implementing “peer mentoring”.

- Alliance members decided that it is appropriate to count the new Americorps program that has 24 adults working with 800 kids. It is a one-to-one relationship and they are screened as these mentors are working in the school. It was suggested that they be included but the numbers be segregated so that it doesn't skew the current data. It was also suggested that the Alliance should be monitoring other numbers – i.e. Boy Scouts – so that the Alliance can see true numbers of adult mentors.
- Terry reported that “peer mentoring” is becoming the future of mentoring – those who mentor as a high school student may be more likely to continue to do so as an adult. There may be a future need to consider counting this as well. The Alliance has not traditionally counted these types of mentors because they are not screened. (This is the same with mentors working through the Boy Scouts). The High School program is still experimental – there is no training or

selection process at this time. It's open to whoever wants to do it. Alliance members discussed that we should not change our definition of what to count but that it's important to monitor what's happening and possibly report separately as a caveat. It was suggested that this should be a discussion for the School Workgroup. This type of mentoring is occurring within the culture of the individual schools but not the culture of the community.

Once all of the data is reported and analyzed, there will be an Alliance report available in February.

Alliance meeting dates and times for 2007

The Alliance agreed to maintain the current format of Alliance meetings which allow for full group discussion, work group activities (if needed) and presentations from Featured Agencies

The Alliance agreed that they would begin to meet every other month for the first 6 months of 2007 and to allow opportunities for the Café Connections activities to begin. At that time the Alliance will assess how the visits are going then reevaluate the meeting schedule for the remainder of the year. Alliance members emphasized that activities should be results oriented – we should continually assess what's working, what's not – and establish goals for the number of presentations to be done. The Leadership team will develop these.

Café Connections Discussion

In the October Alliance meeting, Vera Bothner shared templates for an email and a newspaper/newsletter article that can be used to talk with businesses about mentoring. SHN staff presented these templates and asked that **information from the other focus areas be emailed to Diane Longfellow by January 19.** The templates offer information about the impact that mentoring has on business performance, but for churches and neighborhoods the comments will likely be more subjective. It is unlikely there is specific data to share. These comments may include: decreases in neighborhood crime rates and the possibility for formal opportunities for churches to dialogue with their congregation membership and neighborhood residents.

Alliance members were then asked to participate in small group discussions at their tables to determine what organizations should be targeted for Café Connection presentations and call out their ideas to the larger group. This list included:

Civic/Neighborhood Groups

- Kiwanis, Lions, Optimist/Soroptimist, Civitan and Rotary Clubs
- Wichita Independent Neighborhoods (WIN)
- Individual Neighborhood Associations
- Junior League
- NAACP

Professional Societies

- AMBUCS (American Business Clubs)
- Wichita Independent Business Association (WIBA)

- Society for Human Resource Managers (SHRM)
- Young Lawyers Association
- Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Asian Association
- Wichita Area Builders Association (WABA)
- Professional Accountant organization
- Professional Engineering Societies
- American Bar Association (ABA)
- Medical Society
- Wichita Men's Attorney Association
- The Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce activities

Faith Based

- Individual Church congregations
- Pastor meetings – both denominational and inter-denominational

Others

- Fraternity/Sorority meetings
- YMCA/YWCA memberships
- Local colleges – WSU, Butler CC, Southwestern, Friends, and Newman
- East/West Shepherd Center Luncheons (Coordinated by Central Plains Area Agencies on Aging)
- Senior Centers
- Urban League

Alliance members were asked to be conscientious when scheduling presentations to emphasize male participation in mentoring opportunities as this is a need in the community.

Alliance members were asked to volunteer for an initial work group to organize the Café Connections presentations. The following people agreed to participate: Andy Solter, Norma Bricker, Jan Davis, Angela Kessler, Donovan Karber, and Lonnie Barnes. It was suggested that Willis Heck and Bill Hanna also be asked to participate. Diane will send an email to request additional participants and will notify the group of the first meeting date.

Featured Organization

Donovan Karber of Youth Horizons presented a video, shared written information and presented on behalf of Youth Horizons.

Youth Horizons provides Community Based Mentoring for children age 5-14 years of age and Residential Group Home services for boys, age 8 – 17 years. The residential facility is currently closed as they are transitioning to a new location. The organization recently had land and a home donated that are located in the Valley Center School District that will currently house the program, but plan to have a total of four houses that serve 8 boys each. Youth that are served in the residential program are referred by SRS or are privately admitted.

Youth Horizons has provided community based mentoring for 15 years. They currently partner with individual churches to accomplish this and have 140 matches through 48 churches. The mentoring program is Christian based but they train the mentors in a variety of areas so they have a balanced relationship with their protégé. The program accepts referrals of youth up to age 14, however, many relationships continue into high school and college. As a result, Youth Horizons plans to increase their focus on youth transitioning into adulthood to provide them with much needed support. For more information on Youth Horizons, contact Jeff Wenzel or Donovan Karber.

Other Celebrations/Announcements

- Suzie announced the 1st annual Kansas Governor's Conference on Mentoring scheduled for Tuesday, February 13. Registration is \$25 and due by January 31. Alliance members that are interested may contact Diane Longfellow who will coordinate a group trip to the Conference in Topeka.
- The Chamber is in the 2nd phase of application for a Knight Foundation grant that focuses on using the World Wide Web in a community way. This project would start with the Visioneering Comprehensive Recreation plan but has implications for other Visioneering Alliances in the future. They are currently requesting \$1.7 million in funding.
- January is Thank a Mentor Month. Suzie reported that Visioneering will use the same Public Service Announcement and other information that was used last year. Diane will be sending an email to all of our School contacts to encourage them to download the "Thank You" note for youth to use. The Chamber is currently trying to identify a teacher to write an editorial to highlight what mentoring has done for them similar to what was done last year by a youth.
- BBBS has made over 400 matches since school has started. (42% growth for Bigs in Schools)
- Angela Kessler from Communities in Schools had a call before the holidays from a former client from 10 years ago who wanted to give a financial donation back to the organization in recognition of the help and support that she received from CIS as a single mom whose kids have now successfully graduated from High School.

Next Meetings

- Leadership Team meeting: February 8, 8:30-9:30 at The Chamber
- Mentoring Strategic Alliance meeting: March 8, 8:30-10:30 at the Self-Help Network, 358 N. Main in Wichita