



**Visioneering Wichita
Mentoring Alliance Meeting
May 10, 2007
Meeting Notes**

Attendees: Chris Wolgamott, Norma Bricker, Angela Kessler, Susan Estes, Lyndon Drew, Kendall Heier, Andy Solter, Bill Hanna, Lavonta Williams, Lottie Miller, Diane Caton, Dawn DeArmond, Barbara Chamberlin, Nichole Williams, Cornelia Stevens, Felecia Norris

Leadership Team: Terry Behrendt, Norma Bricker, Jan Davis, Bill Hanna, Annette Singletary, Cornelia Stevens, Lottie Miller, Angela Kessler, Annette Singletary, Donovan Karber, Felicia Norris, Jeff Usher

Norma Bricker welcomed the group and led the Self-Introductions.

Community Identity Survey Results

Presenters: Ryan Entz and Cat Poland, The Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce

Quantitative results are all that are ready at this time. Qualitative results will come soon. General information was available to Alliance members in handout form.

More than 80% of those who took the survey are positive about Wichita but don't think that their neighbors have the same perception. Native Wichitans and transplants had similar views on Wichita. There was also less disparity between age groups than expected. For those that took the survey, a high percentage felt that people outside of the area have a more negative view. The group was reminded that this was a *perception* survey. It would require an additional survey to determine what residents outside of the area truly think of the Wichita Region.

Featured Organization

Big Brothers Big Sisters – Nichole Williams

The BBBS mission is to match "at-risk" youth, age 5-17, with caring adults to form a long term relationship. In 2006, BBBS provided services for 2300 youth in Sedgwick County. BBBS has two programs: Community Based and School Based. The Community Based program is about spending time and not spending money. Volunteers are asked to see their "little" once a week for up to two hours. The School Based program matches are asked to visit their "little" 30-45 minutes once per week. Tutoring can be a part of the time spent, but it is not required. Matches can just spend time having positive one on one interaction. Currently in 76 schools

in Sedgwick County and also have a partnership with Communities in Schools. Both programs offer continuing support through case management for the matches. In the Community Based program, they also contact the parent once monthly. The agency offers some additional opportunities to spend time with a "little". These include Mi Amigos, Pass it On, and Malisa's Hope. Finally, there is Mentoring Children of Promise for children whose parents are incarcerated. Adults must be screened, interviewed, and receive a home visit in order to be matched. Participants in the School Based program have the option to transition to the Community Based program with the permission of the child's parents.

Alliance members shared their personal stories as "Bigs". The current waiting list is about 2/3 boys. One reason is that single moms call more often to refer their boys. Another is that there are more female volunteers and so girls cycle off of the wait list quicker. Matches are by interest, not "first come, first serve" and therefore some kids wait on the list longer than others. BBBS particularly needs matches for older children.

Mentor Recruitment Team Updates

Angela Kessler updated the Alliance on recruitment efforts. The name has changed from "Café Connections". Have not yet met the goal for the number of presentations per month but are on their way. Have done a presentation for the Chamber 2010 group (HR directors) and have presented to the Downtown Kiwanis Club. The team has two more scheduled – the Newton Rotary Club and the Vision 2020 Club in El Dorado. Presentations are made as they come in. Chris Wolgamott will be joining the team and will be doing a presentation.

Alliance members were asked to review a handout that lists possible places to present and possible contact people from the Alliance to set them up. Alliance members are asked to make these contacts and pass the information on to Diane Longfellow at The Chamber. The team will then assemble members to do the presentation.

A couple of the members of the team are going to El Dorado next week to talk about how the Alliance put this process together rather than the actual presentation.

It was suggested that the Alliance find a way to communicate with the Nonprofit Chamber of Commerce to get the word out.

Visioneering Updates

- Annual meeting - May 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the WSU Metroplex
- News Conference on May 14 to announce the Minority Business Initiative

Other Celebrations/Announcements

- Norma Bricker from BBBS is retiring at the end of the school year

- LaVonta Williams is retiring from USD 259 after 35 years of service
- Jan Davis is the new Executive Director of Boys and Girls Club of South Central Kansas
- There is a program (SKIP) being developed that will allow offenders children to visit in the prisons and parents are responsible for them during the time they are visiting.

Successes

- Junior League has had much success through the YEK program and getting books into the gap schools
- BWCU is looking at starting E-Mentoring.
- Kansas Career Pipeline is in a pilot phase across the state and has received state funding. It will include e-mentoring.
- WPD is participating in both e-mentoring and community mentoring. Officers are in the schools weekly and doing big projects with youth. Are also looking as some ways to address truancy.
- MHASCK continues to expand its Compeer program. Looking at new schools next year. Cornelia will be on the Statewide Council of Mentors to represent Compeer along with Dawn from BBBS.
- BBBS has grown by 9% statewide. They have 32 offices serving 60 counties across the state. Last year community based was down 2%, and this year is up 3%. Conversions may be contributing to this. Locally we are experiencing a high number of conversions and the impact this is likely to have is very high. Kansas BBBS is working to expand in the Western part of the state but it has been difficult to find staff.

Next Meetings

- Leadership Team meeting: August 2, 8:30-9:30 at The Chamber
- Mentoring Strategic Alliance meeting: August 9, 8:30-10:30 at the Self-Help Network, 358 N. Main in Wichita