

## Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth & Families

Retreat Notes January 28, 2015

**Attendance:** John Andelin, Kara Blankner, Michael Brown, Bill Browning, Dave Carlson, Kevin Clements, Katherine Diaz, Kim Durand, Sheila Fleischhacker, Barbara Gomez, Rebecca Goodhart, Siobhan Grayson, Alicia Guajardo, Judy Hadden, Rachel Harlan, Kanika Hav, Linda Henderson, Cintia Johnson, Sally LaBonte, Katie Maleckar, Mary Ann Moran, Anne O'Brien, Devanshi Patel, Christine Schaubach, Sam Stebbins, Michael Swisher, Caroline Verrecchia, Robert Vilchez, Anne Vor der Bruegge, Brenda Wilks



*[NOTE: I tried to capture the main themes that were discussed during the report out periods, but most of the discussions were in small groups. If you were unable to attend, but would like to talk about any of these items, please contact Kim.]*

### Vision/Mission

VISION: An Arlington where all young people and families are valued, supported and empowered.

MISSION: To improve the health, wellbeing, and safety of children, youth, and families in Arlington through *RESEARCHING* young people's needs, *ADVOCATING* for improved policies and program to meet those needs, and *ENGAGING* the community as part of the solution.

Thinking of our vision and mission, we were asked to consider:

- What do they mean to you?
- Would you be able to use your own words to say either of these?
- When asked, what is APCYF, do you have an answer?

A few takeaways from the report out:

- The italicized words are key: Research, Advocate, Engage
- Want to make sure we engage the whole community (but what does engage mean?)
- The three step process never ends, it is a continuum
- We want everyone to FEEL valued and supported

We talked a bit about the Cultural Shifts and how they really ARE the vision! They are long term and we continually need to remind ourselves and refresh them.

We also talked about our uniqueness and that often, when describing APCYF, we start with who we are and then move to what we do. We are *intentionally* a group of community, school and county members that *work together*. We should emphasize and celebrate that.

## Cultural Shifts

Mary Ann gave a board view of what the Cultural Shifts are as an introduction. John McKnight, a longtime community organizer, and Peter Benson, founder of the Search Institute have named three qualities of a competent community:

- Focus on gifts
- Nurture associational/relational life
- Offer hospitality and welcoming strangers

We each have our deficits, but more importantly we each have our gifts/assets to bring to the table. They're things like, caring, integrity, sense of purpose, adult role models, family support, caring schools and caring neighborhoods. In our small groups, we considered the following:

- How do we encourage each other to recognize and use our own gifts to create an even more Asset -building community?
- How do we ensure that we first recognize and acknowledge the gifts/Assets of the children, teens and adults around us, not their deficits?

A few takeaways from the report out:

- We need to aim higher than “alive and not in jail”
- Use the chart of the 40 Developmental Assets to show parents the strengths of the kids
- Get everyone doing this and REINFORCE IT – should be within the county and schools, but also the businesses, clubs, churches, etc. The whole community! A multi-level initiative
- Work on supporting parents and the good things they’re doing
- EMPATHY – if we empathize with the parents and families, we’ll be more aware and in a better position to frame things in a more positive light
- How can we measure these things?
- Continual process, collective impact model
- Micro level – it all starts with ME
- Super Spreaders – who are they? Let’s get the message out there.
- What can we share with adults to get them started – training?

- Get kids to recognize their gifts – they can tell you what’s wrong with them, let’s turn that around
- Support events/efforts that are working towards this (Library “Lovers”, TeamKids, Care for a Change)

**Roles & Responsibilities**

Appointed/Designated members were asked to review and sign the Roles & Responsibilities document (attached). This renewal will occur each year at the retreat. NOTE: The attached Roles and Responsibilities Agreement Form has been revised. If you didn’t have a chance to sign/return to Kim, please do so prior to the next meeting.

**Report Card and the CEP –**

Members received their copies of the Report Card. Anne described the year long process in producing this document (see attached) and the elements of each page. Kim thanked Anne, who authored the document, along with Sam and John, who led a committee that looked very closely at each and every indicator, ensuring a document that would be beneficial to our stakeholders.

We then discussed the next steps in the process, since the Report Card is only the beginning of the Community Engagement Process.

Kim shared this draft timeline of next steps:

There will be time set-aside on each of the upcoming APCYF agendas to discuss the CEP and the next steps. If the timeline needs to be adjusted, we have that flexibility.

In February, we will begin to plan for a community conversations/engagement regarding priorities. Based on our meetings in October and November, we have identified our priority areas as: **Bullying, Childhood Obesity, Mental Health, and Positive Family Communications.**

TONIGHT	Get a small working group together to start working on the CEP immediately. This is a 5-6 month commitment to meetings as needed. Some work could be done on-line via e-mail or gotomeetings.
Feb	Set a meeting date for a Community Meeting in March Work on agenda, invite list and planning for the Community meeting Discuss next steps at February 28 <sup>th</sup> APCYF meeting
Mar	Hold a community meeting/conversation (first or second week of March?) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discuss priorities, break into groups to discuss further</li> <li>- Have facilitators and note takers for each group</li> </ul> Discuss next steps at March 25 <sup>th</sup> APCYF meeting
Apr	Review the information collected Collect additional information through interviews and/or focus groups

	Report back to APCYF at April 22 <sup>nd</sup> meeting
May	Hold another community meeting of do something to report-back to the attendees of the March meeting Discuss next steps at May 27 <sup>th</sup> meeting
Jun	Report to the School and County Boards?

Many APCYF members stepped up to participate on the CEP planning team: John, Barbara, Linda, Mary Ann, Devanshi and Judy. Kara Blankner, Katie Maleckar and Caroline Verrecchia will also participate. First meeting will be on **Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:45**, Sequoia, Room A.

**THANK YOU!!**

**Upcoming Meetings & Events:**

Feb 5 – Feb 25 Connect with Kids Display, Central Library – check it out!

Feb 6 – 9:00am Second Chance, Sequoia Room B

Feb 9 – 9:00am Assets Committee, Sequoia Room A

Feb 10 – 8:15am READY Planning Meeting, Sequoia Room A

**Feb 11 – 7:00pm Connect with Kids 10<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Celebration!**

**See invitation below**

Feb 12 – 8:00am Project Peace Leadership Meeting, CHP Room 311

Feb 12 – 3:45pm Community Engagement Process, Sequoia Room A

Feb 13 – 11:30am OST/Assets Brown Bag at UUAC

**Feb 14 – Happy Valentine’s Day** 

Feb 17 – 6:30pm Teen Network Board Meeting, Central Library

Feb 19 – 8:00am Board Development, Sequoia Room A

Feb 21 – ACF Community Scholarship Application Reading, Wakefield

Feb 23 – 5:00pm Early Childhood Meeting, Sequoia Room C

Feb 25 – 6:00pm Regular APCYF Meeting

**Feb 28 – TWO EVENTS:**

**Your Child’s Development** 9:00 – 12:00 at Walter Reed Community Center [CLICK](#)

**Whole Child Conference** 8:30 – 12:15 at W-L High School [CLICK](#)



**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

CHAIR: Devanshi Patel [dpatel@patelwilliams.com](mailto:dpatel@patelwilliams.com)

VICE-CHAIR: Dave Carlson [carlsonbsa@verizon.net](mailto:carlsonbsa@verizon.net)

**Staff Contacts:**

For Teen Network Board or items related to working with teens:

Siobhan Grayson, 703-228-1506 | [sgrays@arlingtonva.us](mailto:sgrays@arlingtonva.us)

For Assets information and presentations:

Michael Swisher, 703-228-1671 | [mswish@arlingtonva.us](mailto:mswish@arlingtonva.us)

For arlingtonteens.com, apcyf.org or social media/communications:

Sally LaBonte, 703-228-1669 | [slabonte@arlingtonva.us](mailto:slabonte@arlingtonva.us)

For overall APCYF information:

Kim Durand, 703-228-1667 | [kdurand@arlingtonva.us](mailto:kdurand@arlingtonva.us)