

Hot Topics for OST Directors and Administrators
February 16, 2011
9:30am-11:30am
Meeting Minutes

A. Introduction

B. Announcements

- Richard Johnson – CYD/United Way. Go to CITI site for current training schedule: www.uwsepa.org/training. Spring Training Calendar will come out in mid-March. Red Cross training: if you are interested in collaborating on training sessions, contact: citi@uwsepa.org.
- Mike Sheridan: Open house this Saturday, 2/19 at Eastern University's main campus, from 10-3. Contact Mike for more information: msherida@eastern.edu.
- Claire Passantino – Upcoming sessions of Let's Read Math, although not local, if would like to observe activities, (such as BSH Conference; Girl Scout workshops; Montco Librarians; Trenton Get Set) contact Claire at: 215-493-0458, www.letsreadmath.com.
- Amber Toole: OIC of America's Teen Pregnancy Prevention program, looking to partner with OST programs over the summer to provide free programming: atoole@oicofamerica.org, 215-391-4274.
- Deepa Vasudevan: OnlyUP – New bimonthly journal about young adults in the nonprofit sector: www.OnlyUP.org, contact Deepa if you would like to be a guest writer (like Maria Walker and Marty Friedman) at deepa@OnlyUP.org.
- John Price: OSTRC's Resource Directories available now at: www.sp2.upenn.edu/ostrc/directories, will be updated this month. Online OST PD Calendar for those interested in promoting/finding local OST trainings: www.PhillyOSTPD.org.

C. Panelists

1. Edward Garcia

garciaed@congreso.net

Edward Garcia joined Congreso in 2006 and became Vice President of Children and Youth Services Division in 2009, overseeing out of school time programs and alternative education. With more than a dozen years of experience in the non-profit sector with a focus on youth development, Garcia holds a Bachelors of Arts from Florida International University and is currently enrolled in the Fox School of Business Executive MBA Program at Temple University.

There are so many hot topics; would like to focus on a few things.

a. Advocacy in a bad economy. Need to be strategic about advocacy, including collecting and presenting student data.

b. Data collection. Should not collect data based solely on (current) funders' needs or priorities. Definitely collect addresses so you can count and map clients; will need this information to show impact to stakeholders, or highlight policy-maker obligation to constituents.

c. Know your strategic human resources. If you need to lay people off, do not necessarily make decisions based on seniority – consider contribution and value to organization as well. Identify these people before you make cuts. Communicate honestly with constituents when facing budget cuts.

2. Cheryl Weiss

CWeiss@dcsphila.org

Cheryl Weiss is the Executive Director of Diversified Community Services, a multi-purpose community organization situated in the Point Breeze section of South Philadelphia. Weiss has held numerous executive & administrative positions in various nonprofits.

a. Recent meeting with PHMC-funded programs. Act 148 currently funds Philly PHMC-administered programs, and this funding source is precarious. Essential point in making the case to politicians and funders is that it's not just about the kids, but also about number of tax-payers employed in programs.

b. Conflicting goals/money. City-funded programs now focusing on project-based learning; however, some kids think of it as extension of school, and will select basketball programs instead. OST programs expected to do so many things in a few hours; also difficult to do a lot on a limited budget.

c. Harlem's Children's Zone. Not sustainable or replicable.

3. Marty Friedman

MFriedman@educationworks.org

Dr. Martin Friedman is the founder and Executive Director of the National School and Community Corps (NSCC), an AmeriCorps program; and EducationWorks, a nonprofit organization he established to house the NSCC and develop new programs. Earlier, he served with the New Jersey Department of Higher Education as Director of the Offices of Teacher Education, College-School Collaboration, Inter-Agency Programs, and Executive Director of the Office of Community Service and Special Programs. Dr. Friedman has a B. A. from Antioch College (Ohio) and a Ph.D. from Cornell University.

a. Advocate for spreading OST to in-school. Addresses the whole student and, among other things, can help create full-time positions out of part-time positions.

b. Recruiting. Make sure you are interviewing for and hiring the right people. It is key that the recruit "gets it" before they're hired.

c. AmeriCorps: Spoke about AmeriCorps at previous PNM, which resulted in partnerships with 13 other organizations. AmeriCorps staff are a great resource, and create cost-effective opportunities in OST!

D. Group Discussion

Question: How do you protect privacy when doing data collection?

Edward: Need formal permission, waiver to collect information. Even if not sharing information? No, do not need waiver if not sharing data.

Comment: Do not want to get into battle about which (early child care or social services) is more valuable – instead need to focus on (and make case that) all save money in the long run.

Comment: Thanks to Cheryl for her comments – inspiring.

E. Small Group Discussions

1. Edward

- About data collection, and how and why to do it
- Relationships with schools, parents, etc
- Make sure you communicate about the important things, at the right times

2. Cheryl

- Sometimes administrators do not have a clue: what they request, how much they want,
- Career paths - sometimes people will ultimately have to “veer off” (money, benefits)

3. Marty

- More conversation about AmeriCorps (terms of service have changed)
- Discussed BOOST conference on west coast