

The following are the minutes from the last WPN Teleconference Meeting held on the 9th of December.

Able to participate: Ron Biendseil, Sue Allen, Ken Ramminger, Roger Williams, Shel Gross, Bette Wahl, Sue Opheim, Chris Wardlow.

WISCONSIN PREVENTION NETWORK DECEMBER 9, 2002, MINUTES

I. UPDATES

A. WPN Concept Paper Work Group

1. Roger Williams is developing a "Best Practices in Prevention" document that will be used to educate policy makers, civic leaders, and the general public about effective prevention strategies, and the guiding principles behind them. This document will consist of separate sections that touch on prevention in the following areas: mental health, suicide, delinquency, school dropout, pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, and substance abuse. Roger explained that the papers are intended to be brief and concise.
2. Roger has already completed a draft for best practices in mental health which is being reviewed by Shel Gross and Eloiza Altoro-Acevedo of MHA Milwaukee County. Roger has recruited the help of Kathy Wolf in helping draft the substance abuse document; Susan Opheim for suicide; Chris Wardlow for pregnancy and dropout; and Jim Moeser for delinquency.
3. Sue Allen made the following recommendation: a.) That the papers on the individual topics be able to stand alone in addition to being part of a larger document on prevention; b.) That perhaps a summary of sorts be added that connects all the "best practice" papers by highlighting the threads of positive youth development and community organizing as key elements in enhancing the protective factors that nurture the general resilience in youth, families and communities.
4. Roger is hoping to receive all the drafts from his collaborators upon his return to work on January 20th.

B. WPN Education, Training & Networking Work Group

1. Chris Wardlow and Bette Wahl managed a WPN booth at the Alliance for Wisconsin Youth Conference in October. Information available at the booth included a WPN brochure which included the definition of prevention, membership applications, and copies of an informational piece on risk and protective factors.
2. Chris will also be representing WPN with a booth at the Adolescents & Families Conference in Cable Wisconsin from April 23, 24, & 25.
 - a.) Chris is also on the list of substitute presenters if one has to cancel. This will be an opportunity to speak on the need for networking statewide to insure the financial and human resources for wellness and prevention in the future. Chris will also use this opportunity to network on behalf of WPN and to gain feedback on how the organization can best meet the needs of prevention practitioners across the state.
 - b.) WPN, as approved by its board, will also sponsor two registration scholarships of \$125 each to demonstrate WPN's commitment to its mission.

C. RFTS/WI Cares "Building Brighter Futures" update:

1. Under Jack Westman's leadership, Ron Biendseil, Ken Ramminger, Amy Bakken, Sue Werley, Mary Anne Snyder, Rammon Wagner, Susan Sikora, Sharon Kusmirek, continue to work to build consensus on a bill to establish a Family Policy Board to be chaired by either the governor or

lieutenant governor. a.) The purpose of the board is to promote the coordination, collaboration and streamlining of services to families. According to Jack's research, there are currently 20 agencies with some degree of jurisdiction over services that impact families. This fragmentation causes programs and services to be aimed at specific individuals within the family unit and not the family as a whole. The family policy board concept is modeled after similar advisory/governing reforms successfully implemented in 13 other states.

b.) The Bill is being drafted and sponsored by Representative Steve Kestell.

c.) Ken Ramminger reported that the timing for such a bill might be ideal due to the fact that the Wisconsin County Human Service Association is also calling for a complete overhaul of how human services are administered and funded at the state and county levels.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of formally integrating "Asset Building" into WPN's name and mission.

1. Sue Allen advocated for integrating 'asset-building' into WPN's name and mission.

a.) She pointed out that the theories of 'asset-building' and positive youth development are influencing more and more of prevention and are key strategies in a growing number of the federal government's model programs and funding initiatives.

b.) Both were key components of the State Incentive Grant program.

c.) Sue feels WPN is in a prime position to become the statewide voice not only for prevention, but for prevention based on these two, interwoven paradigms.

2. Discussion:

a.) Concern was expressed over whether or not such a move by WPN might send a message that the organization is narrowing its focus and jumping on a particular bandwagon (i.e., Search Institute).

b.) Others stated that broadening the name and mission to reflect a more strength-based perspective without necessarily using the phrase 'asset building' is worth exploring. This might be a way to reflect the other strength-based approaches being adopted in other areas of prevention.

c.) All agreed to continue this dialogue at the February meeting.

III. ONGOING BUSINESS

A. Financial Report

1. Sue Allen reported that WPN's checking account and CD = \$16,546 which includes \$350 in membership dues.

B. WPN contracting with someone, or an agency, to manage membership, membership recruitment, and possibly fund raising.

1. Sue Allen indicated that what is most needed to help facilitate the growth of WPN as a voice for prevention again was someone who could work specifically in the area of membership recruitment and management.

2. Given WPN's current financial state, Sue felt that WPN could afford to spend \$5,000 on such a service for one year. She suggested we look at the possibility of contracting with one of our member organizations who might have the capacity to allow a staff person to work on this a set number of hours per month.

3. Discussion:

a.) Roger Williams indicated that Kathy Wolf and the Wisconsin Clearinghouse may be able to provide WPN with 2 hours of clerical support per month. This might be very helpful in supporting some of the other organizational needs may face in the future when it needs to do informational mailings to WPN members.

b.) Chris Wardlow reported that the Wisconsin Certification Board has expressed an interest in exploring the possibility of WCB providing WPN with contracted services. Chris Wardlow will coordinate a meeting with Jeff, Kathy, and Sue Allen to discuss these possibilities.

IV. MEMBER UPDATES

A. Shel Gross reported that MHA Milwaukee County has issued an RFP for another round of mini-grants to fund projects that focus on prevention/early intervention in mental health. The mini-grants will be for \$5,000 and MHA hopes to award six of them.

B. Sue Opheim reported that HOPES (Helping Others Prevent & Educate about Suicide) of Wisconsin is working on hosting a prevention workshop in Kimberly at Liberty Hall March 7th & 8th. HOPES is trying to line-up Dr. Ron Diamond to speak on better assessments by professionals. More details will be forthcoming.

B. Roger Williams notified members of Governor-elect Doyle's listening sessions to be held throughout the state.

V. FEBRUARY AGENDA ITEMS

- Work Group Updates
- RFTS Update
- Update on Contracting Out Membership Recruitment & Management
- Further Discussion on Name & Mission
- Networking