

MINUTES FROM SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE
HEARTLAND FAMILY SERVICE
4-13-07

Jill Nuismer, Millard North; Laurie Cooley, Papillion Schools; Regina Tullos Williams, Boys and Girls Club, Joanna Lindberg, Heartland Family Service, Ann Luther, Consultant

First order of business was the need to find representation from other schools members. Members agreed to contact individuals from these schools to come to the next School Engagement Subcommittee and bring two to three successful strategies from their district that support school attendance:

OPS and Westside (Ann)
Elkhorn Schools, Dave Radicia, (Joanna)
Bellevue and Gretna (Laurie)
Millard (Jill)

Regina made the point that there are misconceptions about why children miss school. She volunteered to organize two focus groups of parents to address the question, how can schools help support regular attendance. The message of the focus group is we want you and your children to maintain regular school attendance. Some of the suggestions for focus group questions included:

1. What unmet needs do you have in maintaining regular school attendance.
2. What helps you maintain school attendance for your children?
3. What are the strengths of your school that support regular attendance?

A copy of the Des Moines, Iowa Public Schools focus group 2007 report was made for the group as a resource for other questions. Regina is arranging the focus groups one at the South Omaha Boys Club, one at the North Omaha Boys Club.

May 9 5:30

May 10 5:30

Once we gather 2-3 school engagement strategies we will report this information to the Steering Committee due on June 12, 11:30 at Project Harmony.

Committee Resources:

Truancy Toolkit, <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/>

National Center for School Engagement, <http://www.truancyprevention.org>

National Center for Dropout Prevention <http://www.dropoutprevention.org/>

Metropolitan Child Abuse Council, www.mcac.omaha.org

Next School Engagement Subcommittee Meeting: May 9, 2007, 8:30 – 9:30

ESU#3, 6949 S. 110th, 597-4800

AGENDA

1. Update on Focus Group dates and locations
2. Review questions for Focus Group
3. Report from each committee on 2-3 strategies to encourage school attendance in each of the metro school districts.
4. Evaluate membership of committee to see if more members needed.