

MDI Tomorrow – Subcommittee on Youth

Notes from the Meeting, Wednesday, May 15

Attending: Susan Buell, Jenny Gott, Ann Luther, Marty Lyons, Doug Michael

Next Meeting: To be determined

Planning for Large Group Meeting

Two significant issues arose in discussion, leading the group to postpone the Large Group Meeting indefinitely, while we do a little more research. The two issues are as follows:

- How to involve enough youth and empower them in the meeting:
 - The contemplated format for the Large Group Meeting is an “adult” format, two hours long, on a school night, with breakout sessions, etc. In this format, it may be difficult to attract and hold the attention of enough youth to give them a strong voice.
 - Other groups have found success in gathering youth input by going where youth activities are taking place and capturing their attention in smaller chunks of time.
- How to connect the Large Group Meeting to specific programs:
 - Many of the attendees, and indeed many of our own working group, will feel impatient with more meetings and/or analysis that don't lead to specific programs.
 - It is important for our first large-group meeting to be successful in sustaining momentum. To do this, we need to connect the work of the evening to a clearly stated vision of what will happen next and how specific projects will be launched.
 - We do not yet have that vision ourselves.

Communities for Children

- We are intrigued with the Communities for Children program, using the Asset Building model developed by the Search Institute.
- An “asset mapping” element of this program might involve a survey among MDI students in selected grades of their developmental assets.
 - We would certainly need the support of school administration and the school boards for this.
- We are uncertain of the added value of more data, when we already seem to have broad consensus among adults and kids as to what are the issues.

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- We could perhaps envision a process of more detailed data gathering, leading to intergenerational study circles, working in depth on specific deficit areas.
- However, we lack a clear vision of the process for transforming data and information into a community mandate and concrete programs.

Next Steps

- Invite Susan Savell, Statewide Coordinator of Communities for Children, to meet with us about the program. [Doug will invite her for June 6. Doug will also write up a short paragraph for us to use in issuing other invitations, as noted below.]
- Invite Susan to bring along a community member from one of the ten or so communities in Maine who are engaged with the program.
- Hold the meeting at the MDI High School Library, 5:30 Thursday evening, June 6. [Jenny will release the auditorium, and reserve the Library.]
- In addition to ourselves and any other MDI Tomorrow volunteers who are interested in attending, issue specific invitations to the following or their representative:
 - Five school principals [Jenny]
 - Howard Colter and Craig Kesselheim [Jenny]
 - Barbarina Heyerdahl [Doug]
 - Vance O'Donnell [Marty]
 - Ed Snyder [Ann]
 - Ron Beard [Doug]
 - Michelle Gertler [Jenny]
 - Ann Marie Hart, Theresa Whittenberg, Michelle Gertler and Marty Lyons will each invite 2 or 3 youth to attend.