



Create Community Opportunities

Recommendations that would identify and create mechanisms in every city, town, and village to both

- a. canvas young people and parents about their interest and dreams in order to shape the kinds and types of programs needed AND
- b. plan, develop, resource, implement, and evaluate a coordinated fabric of out of school opportunities responsive to youth voice, accepting of diversity, and that promote learning & development

Critical Direction for recommendation:

1. Develop a report/Overview of the Out-of-School time issue and Statement of why we must take Action.

Capture and organize what we have learned in the Commission about the needs of youth, and about the landscape of out-of-school-time programs.

State how we line things up in terms of activities needed for youth, and budget needed.

One alluring prospect is giving the state a grade in the status of out-of-school time opportunities for youth.

What will I look different if we succeed?

Notes from discussions:

?There will be visibility of the issue and need for action.

?This could provide policy request or agenda to bring to the governor or Legislature.

What Types of Strategies would best fit the Recommendation, Including Funding and Accountability?

Notes:

?This paper/report could present the vision as a state and how we could enhance the efforts in communities for real kids. It could set the direction for the rest of our recommendations and the direction for communities.

?This paper/report needs to be in a readable language; public-friendly.

?This paper/report could be used to help build public will.

Note: One work group member had seen a case statement from Boston that could be a model.

Youth Recommendations:

5. Develop statewide OST public awareness campaigns targeted at youth and the general public. Allocate funds to support marketing and public awareness efforts by OST programs in Minnesota.

Critical Direction for recommendation:

2. Establish a Statewide Entity.

There is need for a statewide entity because of the invisibility of this issue. This entity could be mandated by the governor's office and funded by the legislature, and charged with identifying ways to strengthen out-of-school time opportunities for youth.

Two tasks or directions for efforts kept arising in the work group discussions. The statewide entity needs to influence policy and establish public will; plus the statewide entity needs to be a resource to communities, with a community tool box.

What will I look different if we succeed?

From the first discussions on this topic:

?This recommendation would assure a coordinated method of getting youth development issues to policy makers.

?This recommendation will assure that youth development work gets recognition for its importance and move it out of the political realm.

?This recommendation will mean that someone or some body will be an advocate for youth development-every day.

?While there is need for a state platform for youth development, there will be acknowledgement (and funding) for the community work.

?There will be strong voices elevating the ost needs. Many and powerful voices including police and youth will build this from the bottom up.

?This will move youth development work from reactionary to strategic.

What Types of Strategies would best fit the Recommendation, Including Funding and Accountability?

Notes:

?This statewide entity can provide communication across communities for pollination of great ideas.

?At the state or regional level, the tool box has 1) planning incentives for communities 2) tools for gathering interests of parents and citizens, a way to map existing opportunities, and different ways for including youth 3)a template for the community plan and tools for planning action after the needs are determined 4) technical support and coaching for implementing the "coordinated fabric of opportunities" .

?There was energy around the state office being a hub to stimulate the development of local projects: trainings and skills development, youth voice mechanisms (advisory boards and more), addressing transportation issues in communities, communication, and lasting structures.

?Greg talked about a model with the United Way. Carol talked about the start-up of the Volunteer office. America's Promise was discussed.

Youth Recommendations:

2. Create an independent statewide entity to support Minnesota OST programming. Include both youth and adult members...

3. Link the statewide OST entity with regional or county "OST sub-groups" that have youth and adult representation...

7. Within every county in the state establish a resource center that collects and stores information on OST funding opportunities and provides free education about how to apply for funding.

Critical Direction for recommendation:

3. Develop Partnerships at Local Levels to Develop and Sustain Plans for Out-of-School Time Opportunities.

Address the issue of out-of-school time at the community/local level, with immediate funding available through the statewide entity.

The community level is where activities happen and partnerships will look unique to each community.

What will I look different if we succeed?

Notes:

?There could be possible statewide goals (for example, to increase the % of girls in ABC) but at the same time, there would have to be local control.

?You can have an overview of what is going on and provide incentives to work towards goals, but you don't want to take away local decision-making and uniqueness.

?Schools and community-based organizations will be partners. Broadly, there will be coordination across agencies.

?There will be accountability of communities to their youth regarding OST.

?The plans at community levels will motivate action, because OST will be seen as part of the whole system (affecting school budgets, for example).

?Stakeholders will be involved and fully invested in the plan and implementation.

What Types of Strategies would best fit the Recommendation, Including Funding and Accountability?

Notes:

?At the community level; a partnership of United Way (convening), Initiative Fund

(strengthen giving), and 4-H (knowledge) could be a resource to this planning process of the partnership.

?There would be criteria for what a community has to provide to get the planning money; 5 people, length of commitment, partnership with the school, etc., etc., etc.

?The work of the Search Institute needs to be tied in because it provides people with a framework/starting point/common language. Perhaps here is where a report card could be developed, looking at thriving communities.

?The process must have planning incentives (funding).

?There must be a wide range of choice, plan of engagement, great flexibility in where this process is housed and the body that implements it in communities.

Communities have different levels of opportunities and different partnerships (Family Service Collaborative, YLVC, America's Promise, HCHY, or community group, already working. We need to engage the current partners and models in this effort.

?Three month process of assessment and planning would make it doable.

?Coaching will be available with tools for assessing and gathering information in the community, tools to have authentic youth voice part of this effort, models for plans, and help with program development to address needs.

?Note from the first meeting on this topic: There must be recognition that communities are defined differently; by neighborhood, because of geography, county, region, ...twin cities and greater Minnesota have different issues...

Youth Recommendations:

1. Community organizations, schools, and governing/administrative bodies work together and partner...

3. Link the statewide OST entity with regional or county "OST sub-groups"...

10. Enlist schools to play an integral role...

Critical Direction for recommendation:

4. Assure that Youth Voice is an Essential Element of Intentional Out-of-School Time Efforts in Communities.

Youth involvement in the planning, implementation, and an ongoing feedback loop is critical.

What will I look different if we succeed?

From the first discussions on this topic:

- Young people will have a voice in the programs that impact them and a sense that their community is listening and values them.

- ?There will be an increase in opportunities for middle-school youth.

What Types of Strategies would best fit the Recommendation, Including Funding and Accountability?

Youth Recommendations:

3. Link the statewide OST entity with regional or county “OST sub-groups” that have youth and adult representation from community-based youth organizations, schools, business partnerships, and parents. These subgroups give perspective and make decisions about local OST programming, in addition to informing the statewide efforts.

10. Enlist schools to play an integral role in OST access issues, both in offering programs and marketing other opportunities, including surveying students on their interests and providing information about programs that correlate with their interests.

Notes:

- ?There needs to be a toolbox with different mechanisms for getting youth involved.

- ?In any community, there is some group that is engaging kids. We must begin by respecting the current things out there.

- ?“Beacons” was brought up as an example.

- ?Audience response technology (Ask Wilder)

Critical Direction for recommendation:

5. Coordinate a Fabric of Opportunities through a sustained Community Partnership.

Sustaining the community efforts over time to assure that there are opportunities for youth in their in out-of-school time.

What will I look different if we succeed?

Notes:

?This will raise the bar on quality and availability.

What Types of Strategies would best fit the Recommendation, Including Funding and Accountability?

Notes:

?Encouraging communities to develop a plan, if they already have a plan, what could be the role of this group?

?Encouraging the community group to stay together, if they are already coordinating and working on implementing the plan...what are incentives to keep momentum?

?How can the state entity help them take their system to the next level of effectiveness?

?Communities must have a conscious focus on hearing the needs of youth, what are (many) ways that they can continue to have youth at the table?

?This could be a three or five year plan. It probably won't be institutionalized at the state level. What training/models can be provided of how the work can be institutionalized at the local level?

?How can the partnerships/coordination increase quality and availability of opportunities for youth?

Youth Recommendations:

1. Community organizations, schools, and governing/administrative bodies work together and partner to act as resources to provide quality OST programs for youth.

6. Create a website dedicated to supporting OST efforts throughout the state, and include access to marketing information for youth related to programs in their communities.

9. Make more space available for youth programs.

10. Enlist schools to play an integral role in OST access issues, both in offering programs and marketing other opportunities, including surveying students on their interests and providing information about programs that correlate to their interests.