



Minnesota Commission on Out-of-School Time Meeting Minutes
September 29, 2004
McNamara Alumni Center on the University of Minnesota Campus

Commissioners Present: Carol Truesdell, Don Shelby, Joanne Benson, Peter Benson, McKinley Boston, Jr, Delroy Calhoun, Emmett Carson, Andrea Platt Dwyer, Blaire Gagne, Anne Ganey, Jennifer Godinez, Bridget Gothberg, Julie Green, Les Heitke, Scott Lyons, Daniel Knutson, Sandy 'Ci Moua, Mary Ann Nelson, Greg Owen, Valerie Halverson Pace, Michael Rodriguez, Kathleen Vellenga, Christopher Wilson

Commissioners Absent: Maya Babu, Susan Hoff, Joe LaGarde, Harold Mezile, David Walsh, Neal Thao (resigned)

Staff Present: Dale Blyth, Joyce Walker, Ann Lochner, David Moen, Kitty Schneider, Sherry Boyce, Janet Beyer

1. Welcome

Co-chairs Carol Truesdell and Don Shelby welcomed everyone and reviewed the primary goal for the day: To craft draft recommendations for the final Commission report and identify next steps in completing the Commission report.

2. Commission Staff Updates

Dale Blyth shared highlights about events related to communication with individuals and groups about the work of the Commission.

- Recent meeting of Commission co-chair Don Shelby, Commission staff and University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks. President Bruininks offered to convene key business leaders to engage their interest in and support for the recommendations of the Commission.
- Progress of the Minnesota Out-of-School Time Partnership in their efforts to move Minnesota's Out-of-School agenda forward. The Partnership's contribution of additional funding extending the work of the Commission through Phase III was noted as an opportunity to share the Commission's work with key audiences and set the stage for implementation of Commission recommendations. Phase III will extend over the year following release of the final Commission report. Planned activities for Phase III include:
 - Preparation, production and release of the Commission report
 - Communications plan implementation before, during and following the release
 - Preparation of briefing papers to promote implementation of Commission recommendations
 - Continuation of Youth Voice efforts in response to recommendations
 - Collaboration with the Minnesota Out-of-School Time Partnership in planning for implementation of Commission recommendations.

3. Commission Work Group Reports

Commissioners who participated in four work groups created following the July Commission meeting were invited to share their findings concerning key recommendation themes. Topics addressed by Work Groups include:

- Stimulating Positive Choices
- Creating Community Opportunities
- Establishing State Mechanisms
- Building Public Will

Written summaries of Work Group conclusions were prepared by Commission staff and shared with Commissioners prior to the September meeting; they are available on the Commission Web Site: www.mncost.org.

Following presentations, Commissioners were asked to identify areas requiring clarification as well as critical issues for additional consideration in the final report and recommendations. There was agreement that principles driving a Minnesota strategy to enhance OST capacity should strive to ensure: **access** for all youth; **accountability** of statewide communities for youth participation and the quality of OST opportunities available to youth; meaningful **youth and adult partnerships** in shaping OST fabric of support in communities and **participation of families with public and private resources** in enhancing OST capacity across Minnesota communities.

4. Critical Directions Discussion

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to review and clarification of recommendation content areas and direction. Despite a strong interest in discussing message development around designated issues, Carol and Don encouraged postponing further consideration of message development until Frameworks provides their research results to inform this process. Highlights of critical directions for recommendations are grouped into six categories:

- 1) Statewide Leadership
- 2) Increasing Quality and Building Capacity
- 3) Closing the Opportunity Gap
- 4) Encouraging Positive Choices by Youth and Families
- 5) Stimulating Opportunities in Communities
- 6) Building Public Will

Key points in each area are detailed below.

Statewide Leadership

- Collaborative approach—a public/private partnership—engaging all of the types and networks of organizations with investments in OST.
- Non-governmental or quasi governmental, i.e., probably not in or part of state government, but having the ability to benefit from alliance.
- Either housed in a mission friendly host organization or a separate 501c3 organization.
- Community focused capacity building mission, i.e., a mechanism to empower communities.
- Possibly networked with regional as well as local connections, using existing structures if possible.
- Engaging youth with adults in leadership functions at every level.
- Enhance funding possibilities by making better use of existing resources, leveraging funding opportunities, and enhancing public-private collaboration in increasing support.

Increasing Quality and Building Capacity

- Proactively set standards for participation of youth in OST supports and opportunities within their local communities. Provide incentives for increasing youth participation.
- Set principle-driven standards for quality of opportunities available to youth with incentives for improving the number and quality of choices. Standards are not imposed--communities have role in creating.

Closing the Opportunity Gap

Explore resources for surveying youth participation in OST activities and related issues, using methodology that is:

- Systematic statewide and affordable
- Reflects current access to resources

- Indicators go beyond participation alone, addressing whether youth are thriving
- Deliberate links of OST participation with youth achievement and development
- Culturally sensitive and inclusive for all youth
- Capable of reaching disengaged and disenchanting youth and youth with critical barriers, like homelessness or frequent changes in geographic locations, to determine barriers for participation in OST activities.

Encouraging Positive Choices by Youth and Families

- Devise checklist for parents and youth to help them make good decisions among OST choices.
- Create a centralized information source—web based—to supply information about OST opportunities and choices across statewide communities
- Ask youth and parents to participate in defining OST standards for access, variety and types of choices, etc.

Stimulating Opportunities in Communities

- Invite youth to be a vital part of defining their involvement in legitimate youth voice leadership activities with adults.
- Allow for flexibility across communities in how youth voices will be engaged
- Carefully define youth roles, so they see the value of their input in end results.
- Recognize communities and programs that are doing a good job in strengthening OST capacity.
- Support communities in mapping existing OST infrastructure elements and creating collaborative community plans to enhance current efforts.
- Provide Technical Assistance and Training to communities to support and strengthen OST fabric of supports and opportunities.

Building Public Will

- Create a compelling case statement for OST illustrating the benefits of investing as well as the cost of not investing.
- Enhance understanding about OST supports and opportunities as supportive to development as well as achievement.
- Identify and build champions across disciplines and interest areas, illustrating the value added for respective interest areas.
- Build support for OST from the ground up—engaging community support to ensure a firm foundation for grass roots mobilization.

5. Adjournment

The meeting concluded with thanks to the Commission staff and Commissioners for their participation in Work Groups. Carol and Dale stated that Commission staff would be sending draft recommendations via e-mail for review by Commissioners prior to the November Commission meeting. ***The final Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday November 30, 2004 in the Johnson Great Room – lobby level of the McNamara Alumni Center – 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Please contact Ann Lochner at 612-624-8190 or lochn006@umn.edu if you are unable to attend.***