



SABES Community Planning



Webster Community for Success Council Community Symposium

The Webster Community for Success Council (WCFSC) was formed as a partnership to support the Webster Public Schools Adult Basic Education Program. The ABE Assets and Needs Assessment completed in 2003 documented a limited access to education and services for area residents. The mission for the Webster Community for Success Council became "to promote networking, cooperation, coordination and collaboration between Webster residents and supporting organizations for the betterment of the community". The members of the WCFSC took this mission to heart. One activity that WCFSC planned was a

daylong Symposium that was held in April 2004. Council members collaborated to present the event, free and available to all members of the community. There were about 18 Community Partners actively involved in the planning of the Symposium.

Planning for the event took about a year. Considerable time was spent on conducting local needs assessments to determine the topics that would be offered at the Symposium. We offered ten topics chosen to address a variety of community

concerns. The topics were Education (K-12); Education and Job Skills (including ABE); Health-care; Government and Leadership; Public Safety, Transportation and Roads; Downtown Revitalization; Family Issues; Elder Issues; Youth Issues; Open Space, Conservation and the Lake. The day was organized with a morning session, lunch and afternoon session.

Some of the topics were offered in the morning, others in the afternoon. Because of the partnership's interest in Adult Basic Education, the Education/Job Skills session

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*"The Symposium was an epiphany for this community."
Dr. Simone,
Superintendent,
Webster Public
Schools*

From Anne Holbrook

Community Planning Developer, ACLS

To All DOE Community Partnerships:

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the partnership members for all the wonderful work you have been doing in communities across the state. The work that you

do is so important because each initiative whether large or small acts to strengthen the support mechanisms for ABE students in their communities. I also want to tell you how much I have enjoyed the sharing groups I have participated in this year and

want to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to attend those community planning workshops.

There are two initiatives that I want to share with you. Beginning January 1,

(cont. on page 2)



Keep up to date with the latest CP news. Join the SABES community planning e-mail list. Just send your contact information, including partnership name to sabespartnerships@yahoo.com

From Anne Holbrook (cont. from page 1)

along with other staff here at DOE, we will start to develop guidelines for Community Planning. The finished product will be published in June of 2005 just in time to start the new fiscal year. The development of this tool is very important to the future of community planning; therefore, from time to time I will be asking you to comment and/or contribute. If you have any thoughts on the matter now, please do not hesitate to share them with me as we begin this process.

The second project is the development of the ABE State Strategic Plan. Cathy Gannon and I will be reviewing all the strategic plans that have been received from across the state for the purpose of analyzing trends and highlighting consistencies across communities. We will be preparing a report for the strategic planning committee and look forward to sharing this information with all of you as well. This project will give us a real opportunity to highlight all the fine work you have been doing over the past five years. The strategic planning committee will be developing a process for surveying the field to gather data for the state strategic plan. We will be looking for your support in each community to encourage students, teachers and partnership members to participate as fully as possible so that the data we gather will represent a sound foundation for the development of the state plan and will be representative



Anne Holbrook demonstrates use of the U.S. Census Bureau website during the summer '04 Community Planning Workshop held at Garden in the Woods, Framingham.

of all the participants. More on that later.

Finally, I just returned from New York City where I attended two workshops. The first was "Non-Profit Boards and Fundraising", and the second covered "Securing Your Organization's Future: Developing a Fundraising Plan". These workshops provided me with all the materials you have been asking for and more. I am really looking forward to sharing this information with you at our spring workshop. In the meantime, here is a tip. Go to www.boardsource.org and check out the website. You might want to consider an annual membership. This organization is a valuable resource.

Tip
Go to
www.boardsource.org
and check out the website.

In closing I want to again thank you all for the great work you are doing around Community Planning and wish you and yours a happy and healthy 2005.

Anne Holbrook

You can reach Anne Holbrook via e-mail at aholbrook@doe.mass.edu or by phone at 781-338-3830.



Save the Date! ✓
All Day Community Planning Workshop
June 16, 2005
Tower Hill, Boylston



Worthy

www.c-pal.net

The Community Partnerships For Adult Learning (C-PAL) web site features more than 400 resources, including research, articles, issue analyses, how to guides and links to journals and web sites organized in the following categories: creating communities, curriculum and instruction, workforce development, professional development, technology, and program management and

evaluation. The site continues to grow, with additional resources, complete profiles of the communities and *Commitment Comes in All Shapes and Sizes* (the report summarizing the findings from all communities). The profiles and summary report are available in both PDF and Word formats.

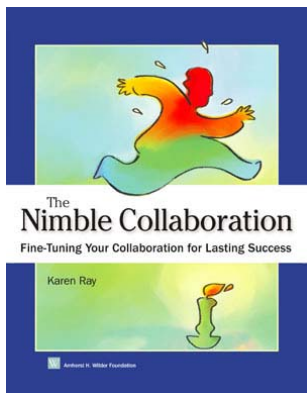


Learn more about the Juntos Partnership in Holyoke at <http://www.c-pal.net/profiles/massachusetts.html>

Visit the Discussion Forums where you can ask questions, exchange ideas, and learn more about how communities are using partnerships to improve and expand adult education and workforce development services.

Also you can now register to receive email updates on Community Partnerships for Adult Learning.

Print Worthy



[The Nimble Collaboration, Fine-Tuning Your Collaboration for Lasting Success](#) by Karen Ray and published by Amherst H. Wilder Foundation of St. Paul, Minne-

sota, is a practical guide about creating collaborations that work and accomplish outcomes. The word, *nimble*, was chosen to describe collaborations “based on **results** that are clearly defined, **relationships** that are deft, and a structure that is **resilient**, leading to productive action”.

While working as a consultant with Community Planning for Adult Education Partnerships in Dorchester, I found the book a thorough, easy to read, practical guide to fine tuning a collaboration. The book, in my opinion, is true to its title. Its insights have the potential to bring collaboration to the next level of development. The book is filled with practical help including templates of documents that have worked in other collaborations.

The Nimble Collaboration is intended for collaborations, which have some experience and are ready to become nimble. The author recognizes that collaborations move back and forth through the stages of development, and cautions collaborations not to miss the basic steps during the start up process.

I would highly recommend *The Nimble Collaboration Fine-Tuning Your Collaboration for Lasting Success* as a practical tool for adult education partnerships to assess the progress of their collaborations. It provides specific strategies to develop a structure that achieves results for the integration of adult education services. Pauline O’Leary

This book is available at the Central and West SABES Resource Centers.

Webster Symposium (cont. from page 1)

was offered both morning and afternoon.

Groups involved in the daylong event included town officials, educators, civic groups, local businesses, high school students and residents. There were 30 people who actually “worked” the Symposium and 150 community members attended. An unexpected benefit of the day was that it proved to be an opportunity for the youth of Webster to learn about their community, and participate in a community wide event.

The Symposium was a success. Dr. Simone, the Superintendent of the

Webster Public Schools, aptly summarized the success of the event when he referred to it as “an epiphany for this community”. Learning went beyond the specific topics covered. The community gained a better understanding of the debilitating effects of poverty on our families.

Through the Symposium (the day itself and information gathered in preparation) a number of Webster Public School ABE issues were identified. Transportation needs to improve for increased access to services. High school and ABE curricula should be

expanded to include work skills while building awareness of career paths and post-secondary options. There is a need for the community to work closer with local businesses.

The WCFSC ABE vision “To build a healthy community through unity” is a work in progress to support ABE students for success.

This report was prepared by Leslie Baker, the Community Planning Coordinator of the Webster ABE partnership. Leslie is happy to share additional information about this event with others. She can be contacted at LCBaker@charter.net

Community Planning Newsletter?

I have learned during the past five years of ABE Community Planning that developing a community partnership and developing and implementing a plan to address the literacy needs of the community are processes that are complex, unique to each community, and often require our drawing strategies from a “bag of tricks”. Through the sharing of experiences and resources that proved successful, we hope that this newsletter

will give you ideas of new projects for your partnership, tips on finding resources, and put you in touch with other CP coordinators who can give you all the details on how something really worked.

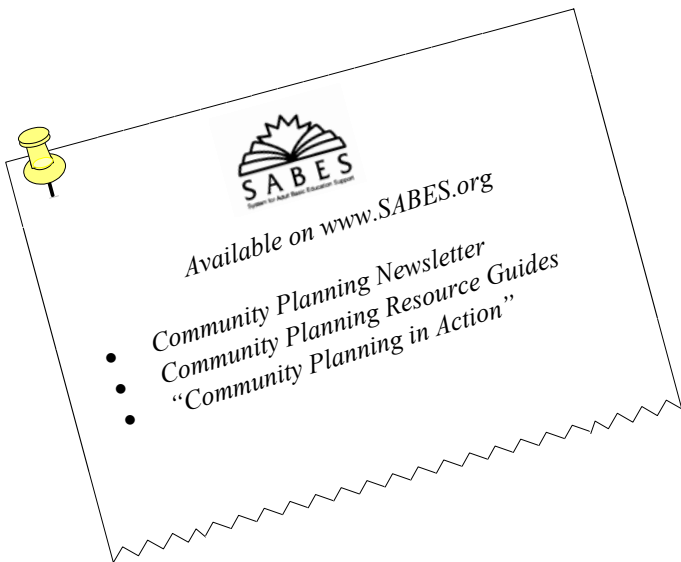
Would you like to hear how other partnerships are dealing with spotty attendance? Do you have a special tip for partnership motivation you’d like to

share? What great ideas do you have for this newsletter? Please call me at 508-854-2726 or drop me an email at cgannon@qcc.mass.edu with all your ideas and suggestions. Let’s start with.....

WE NEED A NAME FOR THIS NEWSLETTER! WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?

Look forward to hearing from you.

Cathy Gannon



Community Planning Coordinators in the SABES regions

Boston	→Steve Reuys	617-287-4071 steve.reuys@umb.edu
Central	→Cathy Gannon	508-854-2726 cgannon@qcc.mass.edu
Northeast	→Kathryn Craighead	978-738-7304 kcraighead@necc.mass.edu
Southeast	→Jia Shan Zhang	508-678-2811 x2385 jjzhang@bristol.mass.edu
West	→Charlie Herbert	413-552-2019 cherbert@hcc.mass.edu

Low-Tech Solutions



It took months for your partnership members to write (and rewrite, and rewrite again) a mission statement that defines their purpose and sets

the direction for all their work. Now that the work has begun, has the mission statement become just a paragraph buried in your strategic plan? Does it have a prominent place at all of your meetings?

Most partnerships are unable to have a framed copy of their mission statement hanging on the wall of their meeting place. Actually, often there is a mission statement displayed in the meeting place, but it is the mission of the hosting group not of the ABE Community Planning Partnership. A way to give your mission statement “portable prominence” is to use table tents instead of name tags at your meetings. On one side you put the person’s name (the traditional use of a name tent) and on the other put the mission statement.

Another way to keep the mission statement right out there before the members, so that it guides and influences all that the partnership does, is to include it on your agenda and at the beginning of your meeting minutes. The answer to the questions “What are we doing here? Where are we heading?” can best be discussed in the context of the mission statement. Keep it handy!

Do you have a low-tech solution to share? E-mail Cathy Gannon at cgannon@qcc.mass.edu

Here’s Lisa!

Dear Community Planners,

Greetings from Afghanistan! I miss the excitement and energy of working in Adult Basic Education in Massachusetts—you will always remain an inspiration to me.

Here in Afghanistan, we are working hard to re-create adult literacy education. I’m working for a public health organization that, amongst other things, supports the training of community health workers, community midwives and midwives. Our health focused adult literacy program enrolls current and future community health workers, traditional birth attendants, candidates for community midwifery trainings, and women in the com-

munity who simply want an opportunity to participate in an educational program.

In August, staff members visited one district, just to make an appointment with community leaders; four days later, at the meeting, they were presented with a list of 80 women who had signed up for the program. The challenge here is to keep pace with the demand for classes. There is quite a task ahead!

*Best Wishes
Lisa Deyo*



Lisa Deyo left her position with West SABES last year to head a health literacy project in Afghanistan. She supported many of your partnerships as a SABES Community Planning Specialist.

The material in this newsletter does not necessarily reflect the views of the MA Department of Education