

Bellows Falls Promise Community
October 5, 2016

Introductions (+ Fall Breakfast Food and announcements)

Emilie (CDD), Paige (Parks Place), Denise (Parks Place), Christine (Parks Place), David (Main St Arts), Deb (GFC), Sam (Rockingham Library), Jill (Springfield Area PCC), Laura (GFC).

Role Selection:

Sam – Minutes

David – Jargon Buster

Deb – Facilitator

Agenda Review

- Community Café Updates
- Forum Debrief
- Collective Impact Roles

Community Café Updates:

- None in October because of forum.
- We will take the café to where the families are, like the childcare centers. Once a date and location is picked Deb will let Sam know so a flyer can be created.
- Discussed changes in format as discussed during the forum to move towards a genuine discussion based on feedback. Moving away from the formulaic approach. Question about how much info was to be shared about the cafés at the forum. Expectations for sharing weren't clear. Deb pointed out that just a small bit of time was allotted for talking at people. Laura pointed out that she and others expected to hear more about the usefulness and richness of the discussion and "harvest" of the community café. Criticism about not going to the people is valid and something we need to respond to. Question about goals for the cafes going forward. Suggestion to ask that at the community cafes to learn about their wants and needs.
- How do we as a group show involvement and support and how do we create an environment where people can share their thoughts and opinions without influence and judgement? We need to be intentional and people need to see themselves reflected. Need a strategy to balance providers / community. We did have one really successful café with a huge turnout. Why?

Forum Review

- Reflections
 - Deb: Rushelle was fantastic! We planned the meeting, but it was really data-centric and not necessarily comfortable for the parents who would've preferred more conversation.
 - Emilie: There was real momentum building everyone stepped up and owned the process.
 - David: It went where it needed to go, not necessarily where it was planned. There was clarity around the process that was new and powerful.
 - Laura: Happy with outcome. Appreciated David's flexibility in leading the forum and making sure voices were heard. Came away feeling the frustration that was expressed but took it in knowing it needs to be addressed to move forward.
 - Denise: Great energy, too many service providers, not enough parents. We need to consider the balance for these meetings.
 - Christine: Interested to observe the group-effort to complete tasks so people could use their individual strengths.
 - Laura: A lesson around process – got the data at the last minute and didn't know how much or even what to share.
- What was the goal of the forum? To move forward from the cafes and get ideas to come forward about what to do with the money to better the lives of children and families in the community and what's working well in the

community. Ended up discussing and brainstorming about how to get the right people in the room. Designed as reality check: here's what we've been doing or thinking, does this jive with what the community knows so we can move forward.

- Planning the forum: Frustration that it was not family-friendly. Frustration about changes made that stopped families like not serving dinner. Discussed barriers to family engagement at the cafes and forum. We need budget to plan events.
- Advertising: What else could we do? More personal invites. More word of mouth.
- Survey – one of the forum results was to generate a survey.
- Posters and post-its: Christine handed them off to Keith.
- Timeline: Discussed perception of timeline. Overall timeline and forum planning don't match. Emilie pointed out that the forum planning kept shifting right up until the end and that contributed to the confusion of the forum's goal. The money needs to be expended by all of the Promise Communities by Dec 2017 unless we get a no-cost extension which we are most likely going to get, which gives us until Dec 2018. Ideally we would start drafting our plan immediately.
- Suggestion to have an outreach team. Deb and Sam agreed to be Outreach Team. Laura suggested to get someone from Youth Services on the team.

Survey

- Took a look at Keith's survey. Discussed how to get surveys filled out by parents. With home visits, parent/teacher conferences, childcare providers.
- Purpose of survey to get input from a wider group about the Promise Community. A mix of survey hand-outs and conversations.
- Reminder: it was not Keith's idea to do the survey it was from a parent at the forum.
- Need more parent review of the survey rather than the committee. Ellen and Rushelle will review it. Ellen suggested Chris Kibbe take a look at it.
- Suggestion that people who are facilitating the survey need to meet and get on the same page so everyone has an understanding of what the questions are. Outreach committee will take this on.
- Survey goal is to collect input, not generate statistics – a way to have a conversation.

Backbone Support Exploration

Looked at hand-out

Deb: Wow, it's a lot – wonderful, comprehensive, and a lot. Would add in Data Management to make sure that it's appropriately reported to the intended audience.

Question: How do you continue to build capacity? Ideally whatever we decide to do would align with people's goals both professionally and organizationally to their mission.

Christine: When I read this I think back to Ready By 21 when we were focused because had someone who facilitated. And then things got bumpy. People were stretched, tapped, overwhelmed, and not able to commit the time/energy to maintain the capacity needed.

Laura: It may take extra support and compensation to build and we need training/coaching and extra time to figure out our approach to collective impact.

Emilie: Can we start to draft this work plan that included outreach, CI administrative, programs and services.

Deb: CI Model, my concern is that everyone has an outreach person, are we creating a new person or do we hire someone. Discussion that positions exist, but people in outreach are already heavily booked.

Question about goal – before we put pen to paper, should we discuss goal.

Discussion that we should focus on our outreach and set a deadline for input to inform the work plan – not to stop input outright but to give us a point to say we will stop planning.

Discussion about input from cafés and whether or not there is facilitator bias in the results.

Follow Up/ Next Steps

- Outreach committee will be coming up with questions/asks and delegate to others to deliver and ask to their networks for input.
- Surveys are going out, we'll have a second survey developed from the answers that we will use as a conversation guide.

Next Meeting: November 9, 4pm

Outreach meeting: Oct 11, 4pm at the Library

Agenda Planning, Oct 11, 2pm at Parks Place