

Broome County Integrated Planning
Planning Retreat

February 1, 2006

Broome County United Way

Final Report 3/23/06
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INTRODUCTION:

The Broome County Integrated Planning Team held a planning retreat on February 1, 2006. In attendance: Claudia Edwards, Art Johnson, Donna Hill, Beth Saxton, Karen Foley, Kathy Bunnell, John Spencer, Dave Nemecek, Katie Cusano, Kim McKinney, Peggy Wozniak, Joe Busch, and Don Bowersox. Karel Kurst-Swanger, ICP consultant, facilitated the retreat.

The purpose of the planning retreat was to reflect upon ICP accomplishments from the past year, prioritize issues for ICP/school collaboration, and to draft a workplan for the coming year. This report documents the outcomes of the retreat.

SUMMARY OF ICP ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

ICP documented the following accomplishments during the past year:

1. ICP provided a planning structure for decision making, problem solving, resource sharing and consensus building: This has created a forum in which cultural change could occur.

- ICP has continued to develop a positive relationship with the schools. Peggy Wozniak and Joe Busch have been a welcome addition to the team and ICP acknowledged that lines of communication have been formalized; therefore, coordination and collaboration on different initiatives were achieved. Many discussions have been held this past year to gain a better understanding of the issues facing schools and human service providers and their unique occupational cultures. The team was very successful in building the necessary chains of communication regarding the following initiatives: CCSI, the McKinney-Vento Act, new PINS legislation and plan, and the preschool program. In addition, ICP was instrumental in connecting DSS funding to support the Building Brighter Futures for Broome initiative of the Early Childhood Coalition.
- The team has successfully transitioned through administrative changes within county government. The County remains committed to Integrated County Planning. Colleen Wagner, Executive Assistant to the County Executive; Don Bowersox, Deputy Commissioner for Services; Beth Saxton, Director of the Youth Bureau; and Sue DeBenedetto, Director of Broome Employment Center are welcome additions to Broome County government and to ICP. The shared funding model for ICP continued this year and appears to be key to keeping ICP moving forward.
- ICP continues to be a venue to respond to rapid changes at the federal, state and local

level, providing a stabilizing factor to weather reforms and change. ICP team members noted that the connections and lines of communication sustained through ICP have been instrumental in implementing new programs and connecting personnel for future initiatives.

- ICP continues to provide a forum for support and inspiration on a wide range of topics and issues. The ICP “mindset” has been carried back to decision making within individual team members’ home agencies. The diverse membership of ICP has engaged members to think about problems from many different perspectives and has enhanced individual and collective decision making. The team recognized that “thinking outside the box” has continued to be an important feature of ICP.
- The continued relationship with the Community Foundation and the United Way continues to be a positive force in collaboration and coordination of all initiatives.
- ICP team members acknowledged that the continued involvement of Kim McKinney, Director of Information Technology, was an asset to all of ICP’s endeavors.
- The ICP web portal was instrumental in assisting in the letter of support process and to facilitate ICP communication among members and the broader human service community. Since its inception, a total of 90 requests for letters of support by community agencies and programs have been processed by the team. Sixteen were processed in 2005.
- ICP has provided a forum for continued dialogue about aging issues and a link to the Aging Futures Project. Issues needing addressing in this year include: transportation, housing, grandparents raising grandchildren, and depression.

II. Improved Resource Allocation:

- ICP continues to support outcome management principles. “Building Brighter Futures for Broome” is also engaged in a logic model for the management of outcomes. The team believed that the entire community has been steered in an outcomes based direction.
- The letter of support process has continued to be successful. Many agencies have submitted requests through the online process, even when a support letter is not required. The letter of support process continues to be a successful method to provide key administrators with the critical feedback they need for decision making.
- ICP was instrumental in developing a funding partnership between the Early Childhood Coalition and DSS.

III. Other accomplishments:

- An ICP logo and letterhead were developed. Talking points were developed and uploaded to the ICP portal. ICP is currently in the process of developing posters to be housed in our meeting room to serve as a constant reminder of our guiding principles.
- An annual report documenting ICP activities and accomplishments was written and submitted to the Broome County Legislature. The team has committed to creating such a report on an annual basis.

2006 WORKPLAN

I. ICP/SCHOOL COLLABORATION:

The team set out to discuss issues of joint concern to the schools and human service providers. Encouraged by the success of the past year, the team engaged in a lively discussion about the issues facing local schools and youth. After much discussion, the ICP team prioritized the most relevant issues facing the human service community in need of collaboration/coordination with the schools. These are as follows:

I. IMPROVE SCHOOL RETENTION RATES

Anger and emotional disturbance in the classroom (explore the expansion of family support centers)
Gang prevention

II. TEEN SUICIDE PREVENTION

Establish evidence-based strategies for prevention)

III. EARLY CHILDHOOD COALITION

Continue to keep the work of the Early Childhood Coalition in view

Having identified these issues as priorities, ICP will begin a dialogue on each issue at upcoming ICP meetings to clarify what should be accomplished this year.

II. COMMUNITY DATA

The team continued to struggle with the desire to develop a dashboard of social indicators that could ultimately translate into a community report card. ICP members are

interested in having community data available at their fingertips that can aid in decision making about funding, grants initiatives, and the need to develop new collaborations, etc. The team acknowledged that this has been an old ICP issue that has yet to be resolved, but is obviously of interest because it continues to surface as a concern. ICP desires a more formal process for the review of data and setting priorities for critical needs based on such data.

The team recognized that one reason we have been unable to succeed in this venture is because of the lack of staff to dedicate to such a project. In the past, a social indicators database was developed by ICP with over 80 social indicators; however, due to a lack of staff, it has not been updated, nor has it been translated into a community report card.

The team discussed two distinct possibilities: one, there may be a need to seek external funding to develop such a dashboard of community data or two, we may already have all the information we need, just need a dedicated person for a short period of time to pull it all together and put it in a new format that is easier to access. In an effort to move this effort forward, Karel Kurst-Swanger will examine several needs assessments recently published by county agencies, as well as two reports issued by other Counties. She will report back, at a future meeting, her recommendations for how best to proceed.

III. ICP INVOLVEMENT IN JOINT YOUTH BUREAU/DSS PLAN

Don Bowersox and Beth Saxton will keep the ICP team abreast of the work they are completing toward the joint Youth Bureau/DSS plan. They will ask for input from ICP members as they proceed with the development of their plan.

IV. LINGERING AGENDA ITEMS FROM 2005:

- Develop new ICP brochure.
- Continue to move forward with technology. Research how other governments and/or nonprofit organizations are using technology to advance their missions and improve the efficiency of their operations.
- Collaborate with the KYDS Coalition on the school mapping project. This project will identify the various program links between schools and human service agencies.
- Display our written workplan and guiding principles in the meeting room.
- Develop a report card for all DSS and MH contracts.

