

21st Century Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, September 22nd; 8:30 am to 10:00 am
Willmar, MN 56201

Present: Bruce Kiehn, Eden Valley/Watkins School Principal
Ed Downey, PACT 4 Evaluator
Kip Lynk, BOLD School Principal
Lance Bagstad, RCW School Superintendent
Larry Schueler, ECHO Charter School Administrator
Rick Clark, BL/H School Superintendent
Sally Belgum-Blad, PACT 4 Grant Coordinator
Sherri Broderius, ACGC School Superintendent

1. Introductions and Site Updates

BOLD's summer programming was non-eventful until mid-July, when a new coordinator was hired. They now have the right person on board: Joan Solem, a former teacher who was let go from her teaching position because of budget cuts. She has jumped right in with full support by the administration. The summer program ended up with close to 30 kids in the elementary. The high school started programming with a Twins history week and 13 kids attended; had a Titanic week and 16 kids attended – all on less than two week's notice. New programming took off yesterday at the high school and three kids attended; more are expected once football and volleyball are done. The elementary program kicks off today and expects between 20-25 kids. Sally and Ed had a meeting with the new superintendent, giving him a history of the grant, a picture of what 21st Century programming "looks like" in ACGC's and Cedar Mountain's districts, and discussed what the minimum requirements were for the probationary contract. Sally stated that BOLD has met and exceeded our hopes regarding their probationary contract.

RCW has a new coordinator as well: Carrie Freiborg. Summer programming included a trip to Wolf Ridge - the kids had a good experience there. Programming is starting up this week. It will be unique this year having one campus for all grades. They will try to do more with peer mentoring, using the one-campus atmosphere to get more high school engagement, and hopefully bring new opportunities.

BL/H is hosting the first Family Night tonight, and is expecting between 150-175 kids. An additional bus has been added. Through private donations, programming is being offered to the second grade, with a possibility of offering it to first grade. BL/H has had an after school helper class consistently since 2003, using AYP money and LCTS money. Transportation costs for the after school helper class used to be paid out of district funds, but can now be billed to 21st Century, and that helps budgets. The goal is to transport 250 kids on four buses.

EV/W has a fantastic coordinator and ran a variety of programming in the summer. A group was taken to Eagle Bluff (similar to Wolf Ridge). An open lot on the southeast corner of the secondary school building was made into a butterfly garden by 21st CCLC participants, with assistance and guidance of EV/W's high school science teacher. It has gazebos and tables, people walk through and much pride is taken in the project. A new elementary program is starting up this fall and there is a large number of staff interested in assisting.

ACGC has a new coordinator too: Monica Zieske. Summer programming included day trips with science and social studies activities woven in. The new project is to get high school kids in Math Marvels, and hope to draw in lots of kids. Every Wednesday an after school group meets, with an average of 28 kids attending. New ideas that teachers have come up with is to have book clubs for the fifth and sixth grade groups.

2. Coordinator Report – End of Year 2

As of August 1st, we're officially in Year 3 of the grant. Beginning Year 3, we'll have all eight districts hosting both an elementary and high school site. At the end of Year 1, we had recruited 532 students, and at the end of Year 2 670 were recruited (meaning a child had come at least one time). For regular/retained attendees: at the end of Year 1 we had 133, and at Year 2 end we had 194 (retained means that they attended 30 or more times). This is the number that the federal government looks at. The goal for Year 2 was 281, so we were short, and will be worked on in Year 3. Participation strategies include: recruitment - personal invitations in the form of direct contact with students and their parents/guardians, increased investment from administration, provide information on the schools' websites, in school newspapers and in community newspapers, word of mouth promotion among program participants and their peers, and "bring a friend" message at the secondary levels. At PACT 4 we are going to try to do a better job for Year 3 of sending out reminders repeatedly. We know the numbers are out there but we need to get it in by the deadline so we can report the information to the State. Retention strategies include: ongoing communication with school-day faculty and staff, intentional contact with those absent participants and their parents/guardians, continued use of incentives for 15, 30, and 45-day attendance, and Quality Matters implementation. Success stories include: significant improvement noticed in the behavior of a few youth who were often negative and uncooperative with staff and

students, a belief that the safe, familiar routine of after school programming has helped ease the transition for youth between the elementary and high school grades, greater connections to school-day staff, and getting help and support from local advisory groups as members help plan programming. (These success stories are a favorite part of the report that is sent to the state grant manager.) Goals for Year 3 are to meet retention targets, to recruit more volunteers, to continue to uphold the goals of the grant, and to anticipate Years 4 & 5 funding.

New for Year 3 and offered through the Youth Works Institute is a research-based program about intentional quality enhancement in after school programming. Quality programming has a positive social and academic impact on outcomes; poor quality programming has negative consequences. Simply a safe place is not what kids need. Because we have carryover funds to spend, we have the opportunity to take advantage of this implementation. The next phase of the Quality Matters project is the Discovery Phase. Each of the programs has been assigned a coach and will receive a YPQA assessment (four hours) and sixteen hours of coaching/planning support. A district can choose to use those hours to most benefit the overall action goals. The only district not participating is Canby because they didn't send anyone to attend the training.

3. Year Two Budget Review

The budget report that was submitted to the State was reviewed. Our carryover balance is \$182,310.28. Quality matters will cost about \$20,000 so we still will have about \$160,000 remaining. Our biggest line item of carryover funds is salaries, so if there is a way districts can add a day to programming, or additional time to their day, or a structured way to connect with kids in the morning, we can use the carryover salary funds for those types of things. For year three we're allocated \$689,387, in addition to the \$160,000 of carryover money.

4. Request for Extra Funds Applications

- a) ECHO Middle School/High School - \$9087 for moving the middle and high school programs to a separate date in order to better serve and appeal more to older students.
- b) Eden Valley/Watkins - \$8689.40 for a four-day weekend long adventure at Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center in Lanesboro, Minnesota (previously approved via email-out of year 2 funds).

EV/W - \$2200 for fifteen GPS units to use throughout the school year and summer at both sites.

EV/W - \$8803.68 for two-hour trainings/meetings once a month for all paras and teachers who are youth workers of 21st CCLC programs.

EV/W - \$658.50 for the *After School Kit – Stories for Grades 3-5* for the new elementary site program beginning September 21st.

The **consensus for ECHO's request was for approval**. There was discussion about the GPS units requested. Dr. Clark from BL/H voiced a concern that in one case equipment (Smart Boards) was denied and in this case we're looking for approval for equipment. Dr. Downey stated that the one difference between the two cases is that there was intentions of using Smart Boards during the school day, and we cannot use 21st CCLC funds to provide equipment for the district general population during the school day, so that is why the State denied the Smart Board request. We can certainly spell out that the stipulation with equipment purchases such as GPS units is that they cannot use them during the day with general student classes. Our state grant director says that if a district has access to equipment (Smart Boards, GPS) then they shouldn't be requesting it. We can also let all the sites know of these types of purchases, so we can share between districts. We do have money available in instructional supplies so it should be used. After the discussion, the **consensus was to approve all of the requests from EV/W**.

5. Other

The grant requires that staff complete one full day of training each summer, and two half-day trainings during the school year. The Youth work Institute is offering a half-day training "Successful Strategies for Youth Workers serving Latino Youth" on November 20th. This will be considered one of the half-day 21st CCLC trainings, so if you have 21st Century staff that could go, the grant will pay for substitutes for those that send staff.

6. Next Meeting Date

January 12th, 2010 at 8:30 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Shawna Steffen, PACT 4