

**Public-Private Partnership
Capacity Building Grant
Year I Progress Report
January 1, 2008 – June 30, 2008**

Windsor, Thriving Children – Thriving Community, TC2, Brief Narrative Response

- Did your community experience any unanticipated successes since receiving the grant? If so, briefly describe.

Since Windsor has received the Capacity Building Grant, community members involved in the Thriving Children – Thriving Community, TC2, project have experienced a number of unanticipated successes.

In an effort to reach groups of parents who convene during the school year, one member conducted a small focus group in advance of any formal data gathering effort with young parents in a continuing education program. At first, it appeared that this might be out of sequence and not be a step forward, but in actuality it has had a number of positive benefits including: bringing parents involved who are not typically present 'to the table', gathering new surprising information about needs in town, and opening up channels to others who have also not typically been involved. Another unanticipated success was the way that a couple of the organizations involved came together at a separate local event, The Windsor Shad Derby. This experience not only raised community awareness about the organizations and TC2, but it also created bonds between the individuals in the organizations who felt good about their visibility and their capacity to work together.

We have also had a couple surprising successes involving membership. We are a little surprised and very pleased that we have sustained a local business person in our Leadership Work Group, LWG. While we initially have been disappointed that there has been a limited school and town personnel availability, this has had the unanticipated effect of pushing us to spread out the leadership of our group – thus building our own capacity.

Overall, in spite of project frustrations, we are succeeding at plodding along to find the best answer for Windsor. We are dealing with frustrations as they arise and taking the time we need to make progress.

- What, if any, systemic barriers (state or local) have you encountered in the planning process? If the barriers were addressed, briefly describe how.

Barriers can be anticipated, yet this anticipation doesn't ease the challenge. We have faced some barriers which we consider to be systemic. They are listed below with a brief statement as to how they have been addressed.

- It is an important goal that the TC2 project team, LWG and Committees, be as diverse as our community, but it has been a struggle to make this happen. We are addressing this by continuing to recruit individuals from the community with all types of diversity in mind such as: geographic, ethnic, socio-economic, gender, age, family structure etcetera.
- The faith community in town has been exceedingly hard to engage. Several contacts have been made, but we haven't been successful yet.
- The limits on time of school and town employees including competing tasks for both time and space is an ongoing barrier. This has not been addressed in any formal manner.

- People are busy, so there is a continued lack of volunteer time. We consider our membership to be fluid in that new members are always welcome, and orientations are being offered prior to each LWG meeting. In addition we have alternated our LWG meetings between day and evening to accommodate more schedules. Childcare is being offered at all meetings, and dinner for evening meetings. Note, that committees have not yet formed, but we expect similar flexibility for these meetings as well.
 - While a wonderful goal, the nature of our task has been a bit of a systemic barrier in that we are trying to synchronize our local community with an external map. The outside push we feel can be a stumbling block because we are having trouble fitting into the answer that we feel others are bringing to us.
 - Although 18 months initially seemed like an open canvas, our time is dwindling fast. Therefore, our shrinking timetable is a bit of a systemic barrier in that it creates an ever present and increasing tension between product and process. This tension results in stress, frustration and maybe even pessimistic attitudes on the part of some members.
 - Another systemic barrier is that it has been a challenging effort to figure out roles, responsibilities and processes. We continue to grapple with these pieces even as we are trying to move forward with the content of the project.
- What, if any, information from state agencies would enhance your community planning process?

Windsor is not far enough along in the process to have clarity about this question because we are not at the point where we are looking for data yet. Even so, our team is keenly aware, based on prior experience and beginning efforts, that we could use help getting accurate, up-to-date data that is specific to Windsor and not regional, state or national data. In addition, many important types of data have significant confidentiality issues around them making the data - even if it is available - impossible to access. Some data points that came up as examples include: data about foster families and children; DCF data; the number of children on Husky; the number of families with/without health insurance; the number of 12 year olds with STD's; etc.

It would be very helpful to us if we could have assistance getting data. This assistance could be as simple as being pointed toward the correct source or trickier in greasing wheels so that confidential data can be accessed in a safe manner.

Since Windsor has only dabbled in discussing data, we will likely have more needs and ideas as time progresses. We hope that we can have continued dialogue about this question.

ACTIVITY/TIMELINE UPDATE

INSTRUCTIONS: In the first two columns (application activity and application timeline), please insert the information that was submitted in **Section IV of your original proposal**. For those communities that have been recommended to receive a health partnership addendum, please list the activities you plan to do and the timeline. Please add or delete rows as necessary.

NOTE: ACTIVITIES FOR OUR HEALTH PARTNERSHIP GRANT WILL FOLLOW THE SAME TIMETABLE, AS THAT GRANT IS INTEGRATED INTO THE OVERALL PROJECT

Application Activity	Application Timeline	Completed (check off)	Revised Timeline	Reason for Activity or Timeline Modification
Complete Leadership Work Group membership	Dec. 2007		Ongoing	The Leadership Work Group is at a sufficient number to launch the work and includes many of the identified members, but there is a continuing effort to bring additional people into the group.
Hire staff	Feb. 2007	X		
Hire consultant for health grant		X		
Recruit committees (including medical/wellness) and review panels	Feb. 2007		July-Aug. 2008	The planning group found that it took more time than envisioned to hire staff and consultant, publicize the project and recruit leadership Work Group members.
Prepare initial vision statement	Feb. 2007		June 2008	The method of preparing the vision statement has changed, and it will now be done at our Kickoff dinner on June 3.
Kick-off event	March 2008		June 3, 2008	Additional time needed to plan and recruit.
Needs Assessment component	Mar.- Aug. 2008		Jul - Dec 2008	Reflects the changed timeline of the entire project.
Review panel meeting	May 2008		?	This aspect of the project may change and alternative ways of obtaining community feedback may be used – still uncertain.
Fall planning forum and ECC forum	October 2008		Dec. 2008 or Jan. 2009	Reflects the changed timeline of the project.
Strategies component	April 2009			
Final plan; MOUs; culminating event	June 2009			
Plan completed				

