Power of We & Birth to Work

Building Sustainable Partnership Infrastructures

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Kentucky Engagement Conference
Lexington, KY
November 18-19, 2008
Power of We Consortium

• A “network of networks” that brokers relationships, information, and resources to tackle the community issues that are beyond the capacity of any single organization to address

• See www.PowerofWe.org for a detailed description of the Power of We Consortium, its membership, and its goals and activities
Membership

• **Founding Entities** (15), e.g. MSU, Capital Area United Way, City of Lansing, Ingham County Health Department, Lansing School District, Department of Human Services, CMH, etc.

• **Faith-Based Partners** (~10)

• **Community-Based Partners** (~25)

• **Community Representatives** (~8)

• >100 **Affiliates**
Goals

• Advance **intellectual and social development**
• Build a dynamic, diverse, and vibrant **economy**
• Promote **physical and mental health**
• Keep homes and communities **safe by strengthening families and neighborhoods**
• **Steward natural resources**
• **Strengthen the sense of community** cohesion by actively engaging residents in the change process
Power of We Consortium Structure

The Power of We Consortium and its 12 Coalitions

Improved Capacity → Strengthened Social Services → Enhanced Community Well Being
(measured by 33 indicators)

Founding Entities
- Community Economic Development Network
- Community Coalition for Youth
- Ingham Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition
- Strong Families / Safe Children

Community-Based Partners
- Greater Lansing Homeless Resolution Network
- Long-term Care Collaborative
- Immigrant and Refugee Resource Collaborative
- Land Use and Health Resource Team
- Infant Mortality Initiative
- Birth to Five Subcommittee

Faith-Based Partners
- Asset Independence Coalition

Impact

Ingham County Health Department and Capital Area United Way (staff support)

Data Committee (information)
Investors Steering Committee (resources)
Leadership & Practice Committee (capacity)
Five Community Practices
Developed through participatory research and with the support of the Kellogg Foundation

• Engaging and mobilizing community members
• Facilitating dialogue and creating connections
• Identifying and supporting civic leadership
• Using all of the assets of the community for change
• Sharing and using data and information to support and monitor progress
Key Accomplishments

• Provided access to healthcare for over 50% of the formerly uninsured in Ingham County

• Built and sustained a neighborhood-based system of community centers and community development initiatives that support grassroots change

• Engaged and mobilized residents in support of early childhood and youth development, reducing poverty, preventing substance abuse, and ending homelessness

• Assisted many faith-based and community organizations to build their own capacity
Community Data Committee

- **Charge:** To develop and monitor indicators of well-being, to produce periodic reports to the community, and to promote data democratization

- **Underwritten by:** Capital Area United Way and Ingham County Health Department with support from the Kellogg Foundation
There are a Number of Indicators for Each of the 6 Areas
One of 4 Symbols is Used to Show the Status of Each Indicator

= Moving in the Right Direction

= Moving in the Wrong Direction

= No Change

= Too Early to Know the Trend
Investors Steering Committee

- **Charge**: To coordinate and leverage local investments in community practices and strategic improvement initiatives for the purpose of achieving positive changes in the 33 indicators of community well-being

- **Membership**: MSU, City of Lansing, Ingham County, United Way, local foundations, and health and human service agencies
Examples of Coordinated and Leveraged Investment - Community Infrastructure

- **Neighborhood Revitalization**: Investing in neighborhood centers and their action plans for neighborhood revitalization

- **Nonprofit Sector**: Supporting faith-based and community organizations in building their own capacities through training, technical assistance, and grants

- **VISTA Members**: Organizing multi-year financing arrangements with the Corporation for National and Community Service in support of a pool of VISTA members that are placed throughout the community
Examples of Coordinated and Leveraged Investment - Community Infrastructure

- **Health Coverage for the Uninsured**: Outreach by community health workers financed through multiple sources of funding and carried out through braided contracts with community-based organizations.

- **Early Childhood Development**: Development of a community system of care and supports for parents with young children.

- **Youth Development**: A philanthropic venture led by the Community Foundation to mobilize, coordinate, and leverage public and private resources towards improved outcomes for at-risk youth.
Leadership and Practice Committee

- **Charge:** To capitalize on the power of connections to use community assets to address community and faith-based organizations’ challenges

- **Membership:** MSU extension, United Way, City of Lansing, various community and faith-based organizations, etc.
Examples of Supports Provided to Nonprofit Organizations

- Networking events and opportunities
- Technical assistance, training and grants in organization capacity building
- Monthly e-bulletin of capacity building resources
- VISTA members; AmeriCorps is pending
- Resource speakers and connections

Leadership development opportunities
Sources of Grant Funding – Past and Current

- Kellogg Foundation (“Community Voices” – 9 years via Ingham County Health Dept.)
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (via the Ingham County Health Dept.)
- DHHS – “Compassion Capital Fund”
- Corporation for National and Community Services
The University
Michigan State University Mission

- strives to **discover** practical uses for **theoretical knowledge** and to speed the **diffusion of information** to residents of the state, the nation, and the world…

- is committed to emphasizing the **applications of information**; and contributing to the understanding and the solution of significant societal problems…
MSU Approach to Community Engagement

- **Becoming embedded in communities**
  Working in long-standing partnerships

- **Stressing asset-based solutions**
  Focusing on asset-based solutions

- **Building community capacity**
  Building capacity within families, businesses, and communities

- **Creating collaborative networks**
  Building networks among communities and organizations that lead to sustainable [regional] collaborations
Birth-to-Work Initiative

Power of We Consortium
and Michigan State University
Systemic Perspective on Birth-to-Work Developmental Pathway

Power of We structure and community framework, MSU engagement structure, iterative dialogue processes, and cross-discipline understandings
Transitional State, Relationship Impacts

Assessing Proximal and Distal Causal Forces

**Proximal Influences**
- Partner Selections
- Workplace
- Society

**Proximal Influences**
- Peers
- School
- Community

**Proximal Influences**
- Parents
- Family (Kin)
- Neighborhood

**Distal Influences**

**Prenatal**

**Early Childhood Stage (0-5)**

**Early Adolescence Stage (10-14)**

**Late Adolescence Stage (18-25)**

**Risk** → **Resilience**
Transforming Dynamics of Community Collaboration

Community collaborations including the University-in-Community partnership

that transform

Working together strategies and practices

that shape

Organizing propositions
From iterative dialogue
emerges

Evidence-based practices
From cross-discipline understandings
emerges

that shape
An Approach to University-Community Engagement

Community Neighborhood Association Leader
[has aspirations and ideas]
- Abandoned school building
- Underprivileged neighborhood
- Underperforming children
- Pressure for community to use building for substance abuse program
- Community declines substance abuse program
- Private company Spartan Internet bought building

MSU Researchers
[performing research – issues related to the use of IT]
- Disparities in Internet access and use
- Media training centers
- Educational computer games
- Computer science/software development and technologies

MSU Dept. of Computer Science and Engineering

Interdisciplinary Team of Researchers
assembles

ENGAGEMENT OCCURS
Result: ITEC

Information Technology Empowerment Center

Partners
[From community, business, education, and government]
Interdisciplinary Team of Researchers

**Major objectives**
- Innovative research
- Enhancing users' skills in technology and technology disciplines
- Develop applications for community business partners

**Team decides how to organize**
Involves community, MSU units, Spartan Internet, Prima Civitas
- Choices:
  - Set up as a university research laboratory?
  - Set up as an independent nonprofit corporation?

**Decide what to do? What programs?**
Emphasize afterschool programs that promote science, technology, engineering and math skills in children
- Delivery system to use? Educational computer games (Alice)

**Develops business plan to become self-sustaining**
- Involve government, workforce development agencies, community foundations, Lansing School District, Capital Area IT Council, etc.
Carried out by the interdisciplinary team of faculty researchers

Basic Research  Applied Research

Technology Transfer

- Spin-off to private company
- Develops marketable product
- Delivers to school for implementation

Community Benefits

- Skilled workforce
- Stimulate innovation
- Afterschool activities

University Benefits

- Contracts and grants
- Better relationship with partners
- Community valuing MSU
- Fulfills land-grant mission

innovation  new products

new ideas  new processes
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