



Financial Education Committee
June 18, 2008

The meeting began with introductions. The following committee members were in attendance: Marian Deutschman, Stephanie Smith, Mark Manuele, Mary Philibin, Della Miller, Kate Beck, Diane Bessel, Laurie Schaller, Brad Dossinger, Cathy Braniecki, Karyn Hausknecht, Justin Moscati, and Kate Bukowski.

CASH Updates

AmeriCorps VISTA: The Committee was formally introduced to the newest member of CASH, Americorps Vista member, Justin Moscati, who will be serving CASH as the new Community Engagement Coordinator. Justin gave a brief introduction and described the activities he will be working on.

SNAP Request for Proposals: Diane reported that CASH had recently secured a grant from the Erie County Department of Social Services Safety Net Achievement Program (SNAP) to provide financial education and linkages to other CASH programs for families that have exceeded their 60-month time limit for receipt of federal cash assistance. CASH is interested in extending this opportunity to its membership and is seeking submissions for up to \$40,000 in project funding. Diane urged Committee members to reference the handout presented at this month's meeting for more information.

Other Updates: Committee Members were advised that CASH Coaches training is set to begin and that if any were interested in becoming more involved directly with the program to please let her, Justin or Nicole know.

Diane provided information on an opportunity to become certified in financial education by HSBC Bank. She also shared information packets. The following committee members expressed an interest in attending HSBC training on financial education:

- Marian Deutschman
- Laurie Schaller
- Don Howard
- Larrissa Thompson
- Stephanie Smith
- Someone from Belmont Shelter
- Della Miller
- Diane Bessel

A training session will be scheduled in the next couple weeks.

Data Collection:

Justin presented the proposed changes to the financial education survey submitted by Committee Members as well as those changes that had already recently been made to the survey. The Committee was then asked to make suggestions of ways to improve the survey. Suggestions include but are not limited to the following in no specific order:

- Switching of the target audience section and the topics covered section of the survey
- Separating of specific sections of the topics covered section and creating new sections
- Adding several questions including; restrictions on engagement in trainings, collaboration with other organizations, how funding is received, granting of certification and challenges faced in financial education.

Committee members asked about the overall goal of the survey. It was determined that the survey would attempt to demonstrate financial education needs in the area, identify who is providing services, and allow for connections to be made in an attempt to fill lacking areas of financial education. The goal was summarized as “Identify, Showcase, and Connect.”

Justin will be responsible for making the suggested changes to the survey and will prepare a web-based form using Survey Monkey. This survey will be made available during the next committee meeting for final review. In the interim, committee members are asked to provide contact information (including name, address, phone number, email where possible) for groups providing financial education in the local community. Members are asked to submit this information no later than July 1st in preparation of the sampling frame.