

Income/Education

Facilitators: Cory Bowman, Associate director for Netter Center for Community Partnerships; Lola Harper, Director, West Philadelphia Sustainable Communities Initiatives.

There were 6 participants in this break out group.

Participants include:

Cory Bowman: (Associate director for Netter Center for Community Partnerships), Lola Harper (Director, West Philadelphia Sustainable Communities Initiatives), Mia King (Education Partnerships Coordinator at the Enterprise Center CDC), Michelle S. Davis (Deputy Regional Health Administrator of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services), Josh Jackson (AmeriCorps Volunteer for the National Student Partnerships) and Ian Bennett (Assistant Professor at University of Pennsylvania's School of Medicine).

Issues Discussed Included:

- How do we help kids (high school aged) to be mobilizing agent for change in their community?
 - Long term solutions are needed
 - University can be helpful in providing academic advice
 - Need to foster community support
 - Internships identified as a need by local high school principals and teachers
 - Example: Sayre High School being opened at night and center for various programs
 - Additional example: West Philadelphia High School's Urban Studies Academy's student's project and presentation on making use of the empty lot for community's benefit and working with various resources and people such as Penn's architecture professor.
- Impact of university students on their communities
 - Example of how National Student Partnership helps local residents to find employment and various other services.
- Employment opportunities for local residents
 - How to create a pipeline to connect employers to potential local resident employees
 - Will require comprehensive partnerships
 - Issues with assessment and referrals and details of logistics need to be worked out
 - How to bring in local businesses
 - Need an umbrella group for this that's not just Penn
 - Sustainable Communities Initiatives can really be the bridging factor in bringing everyone to the table to work together on this
 - Federal regulations and hiring guidelines concerning local residents employment was also brought up
- Literacy
 - Statistics of adults not having their GEDs were brought up
 - Center for Literacy's services for getting GEDs were mentioned
 - Penn's Education Opportunity Center's partnership with National Student Partnership was also mentioned
 - There's a world of GED providers out there that should be connected

- Reading skills of high school students being not good enough, need to begin earlier, potential with elementary school
- Professor Labov's work at Penn for literacy is mentioned
- Train high school students as literacy tutors?
- Could also potentially be school retention project
- Connections
 - How to build the bridge between these available resources that are around West Philadelphia
 - Schools as a place where people need to go to and an ideal center was mentioned
 - CPHI can play a role in connecting services that are available

Recommendations for Important Next Steps:

- Have more focused themed discussed under the current broad category of income/education
 - Suggestion:
 - West Philadelphia school readiness programs
 - Include health and education impact
 - Current disconnection and lack of common goal between pre-school and physicians
 - Working with adult employment training and referral
- CPHI can facilitate more conferences like this retreat
 - Establish working community groups
 - Facilitate discussion on particular subjects
 - Even just sending out conference call numbers to connect people together is an important step that the CPHI can provide to more collaboration and solution