

**Community Coalition for Children  
Professional Luncheon Workshop Report  
April 26, 2006 Kathleen O'Beirne**

Participants from partner organizations were asked to list their initiatives that have occurred as a result of last October's presentations by Dr. Pedro Noguera. Colorful cards were provided with labels requesting the name of the school/agency and the representative's name.

A modified Implications Wheel™ was used to capture the specifics from each partner and to highlight the common themes. A photo from the Intergenerational Workshop at Connecticut College last October was the centerpiece around which the responses were placed. Our gratitude to L&M Hospital for hosting this event.

**Common Themes:**

- connections
- community connections
- mentoring
- diversity (both local and global)
- collaboration (often with faculty peers)
- intergenerational connections/activities
- relationships (usually intergenerational)
- community service
- academic rigor

These common themes resonate with Dr. Noguera's key points – that students thrive when there are four partners invested in their success: educators, community leaders/organizations, parents, and students themselves.

Below you will find the specific initiatives reported out – not only does the range astound us, but the commitment to make a difference is inspiring. The representatives fleshed out their activities more fully than space permits here, but contact information is provided to enable further communication and collaboration.

**Natalie Billing (Community Leader – former Groton Board of Education & Town Council): (860-536-2558)**

- became involved with CCC as a result of the Pedro Noguera program – interested in spreading the word and supporting the mission.
- shared her notes from Dr. Noguera's presentations with her son, who is a teacher in a California school.

**Clark Lane Middle School, Waterford: Mike Lovetere (860-443-2837)**

- focused collaboration originally on under-aged drinking, but found that the community collaboration that occurred had wider ramifications: youth network was comprised of groups such as Boy Scouts of America, schools, churches, youth football and soccer, volunteer firefighters, etc.
- developed an administrative team that fosters responsibility and accountability – getting involved.
- expanded intramurals so that more students can participate.

**Community Coalition for Children: Cathy Bokoff (860-886-9147)**

- solidified organizational structure to ensure continuity of CCC (e.g., by-laws, officers)
- broadened communication/connection through Teen Summits, Professional Workshop and today's follow-up workshop, future programs, and our website.
- are committed to substantive change by keeping ideas in the forefront through meetings, summits, and workshops.
- are drawing on ideas heard for future programs.

**Community Coalition for Children: Kathleen O’Beirne (860-536-7179)**

- are preparing “The Purple Book,” a guide to establishing a grassroots organization like the CCC with copies of our by-laws, “tickle list” for presentations, etc. to enable other regions to make as easy a start-up as possible.
- expect to have this as part of our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration this October.

**Cutler Middle School – Groton: Pam Faley (860-572-5830)**

- students suggest a Saturday school for students who need more support.
- students suggest longer lunch periods and healthy food.
- students suggest in-school suspension (believing that little is accomplished with out-of-school suspensions and much is to be gained with structured homework, etc.).
- students suggest more after-school activities that are not athletic-focused (they see as an opportunity to grow their skills and have social time).
- students suggest more choices for learning.
- students suggest inviting students from other schools to dances – they have enjoyed the multi-school interaction at the summits and think stereotypes can be eliminated.
- \*These suggestions have been taken to the Supt. through the Middle School Focus Groups. The next step is to present them to the School Improvement Teams and PTO.

**ISAAC (Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication): Deb Heminway and Debra Sargent (860-447-1003)**

- educated staff on signs of an unhealthy school culture (Pedro Noguera’s list) and shared through CCC.
- organized and hosted a teen summit with the goal of sending each participating school “home” with a concrete plan for an “Extreme Makeover” – following the conference theme.
- established relationship with First Congregational Church when primary teen summit site (The Garde Arts Center) was unavailable. Brought food for their soup kitchen and went to an opera; community service throughout the school.
- initiated contact with community members, including Shiloh Baptist Church, inviting them to join the CCC.
- initiated the experience of kids being heard as they brainstorm ideas and start to form, pursue, and alter goals.
- put more focus on statistics/goals/objectives to help justify the Middle School Teen Summits (result will be a Summit handbook).
- used Dr. Noguera’s charge to school superintendents as a way to encourage and validate the students’ “Makeover” assignment.

**Lawrence & Memorial Hospital: Jamie Brooks (860-442-0711 x2092)**

- desire a workforce that is more reflective of the local community. Therefore, are helping students to learn about healthcare careers; helping adults to recareer into healthcare fields; and are creating partnerships with schools and community agencies to achieve the above (including HOSA, Summer Camp, and Community College classes).

**LEARN: Scott Brown (860-434-4890 x328)**

- used Pedro Noguera's concepts as they planned for the Marine Science Magnet School (a regional school to be located on Birch Plain Creek in Groton).
- emphasized the importance of higher expectations combined with support structures for many urban students (e.g., Algebra 1 plus double math instructor as needed).
- want to avoid tracking, so will use personal one-on-one student advisories)
- want to enhance school climates via improved faculty relationships/communications.
- know that high performing schools are high impact schools.
- will use "home room" advisor-advisee sessions to help students build their portfolios for graduation.

**Ledyard High School: Rich Cirillo (860-464-9600)**

- provide a morning meeting (homeroom) between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> blocks for purposes of attendance and announcements; have an activity period every other week that extends the 5 min. morning meeting to ½ hour to allow students the opportunity to attend various activities.
- will implement an advisor/advisee program to provide a more positive connection between teachers and their students.

**Liz MacAdie: Private Practice LCSW (and facilitator for CCC) (860-889-5194)**

- has been a long-time member of CCC.
- joined the Anti-Bullying Coalition after hearing Conrad Boeding and Barbara Coloroso; group now has teen theater/playshop to act out skits of what is a bully. Group also just got a small grant; Melissa Olsen, State Rep., attends meetings.
- informed school of "MySpace" internet issues and police have given an informative free internet safety forum.

**Montville Alternative High School: Dawn Gunter (860-848-7816)**

- have "officers in classroom" (OC) monthly for forum and additionally for volleyball tournament.
- debrief daily at the end of the day with entire staff, plus make positive comments about students at staff meetings.
- provide community service blocks.
- have initiated "Writer's Block" – to raise students' writing skills.
- involve students in businesses.
- place students in work programs
- hold town meeting for students.

**New London Development Corp. (Parent Leadership Training Institute): Catherine Foley (860-447-8011)**

- forums on violence, teen pregnancy, educational quality, and youth organization (YO).
- have worked district-wide on health & wellness expo., plus an open house/expo.
- interacted with Whaler's Rotary and Whalers Café.
- established Teen Pregnancy Prevention Task Force with paid position of community organizer (member of the community with PLTI experience).
- formed alliances with Youth Organization and FRESH, CTWorks, UW, and Kidscafe.
- formed alliances with NL Adult Ed. and YPP Prof. Development.
- coordinated PTLI projects: in the parks and job training.
- focused on after-school and evening/weekend programs.

**Norwich Free Academy: Kim Caron (860-887-2505)**

- through focused strategic goals, NFA has worked to make the school a community, make a large school feel smaller by personalizing the school experience, and improving student achievement.
- has affiliated with ethnic groups in the community to support high academic achievement. Social gatherings honoring high achievers and those with potential celebrate and support academic rigor.
- has established faculty-student pods to enable mentoring, family connections, and personal relationships between students and faculty.
- through recognition of the fact that 35 different languages of origin are spoken in their school family, NFA has worked to create a school improvement team, emphasize a culture of character, and connect with the sending towns in preparation for integration into the rigorous, diverse campus that is NFA today.

**Norwich Public Schools: Chris Morello (860-823-4213 x6)**

- focus on Service Learning that encourages academic engagement.
- monitor attendance and provide a variety of after-school programs for school connections working through “Intentional School Culture.”

**Teacher’s Memorial, Norwich Public Schools: Susan Neilan (860-823-4212 )**

- initiated “Caught Being Good” to move toward a more positive school environment.
- partnered with the alternative high school students for drill team/dance troupe (end results = performances) and community service projects.

**United Community & Family Services: Carol Thompson (860-892-7042)**

- used services’ collaborative to involve youth and send them to trainings.
- sponsored groups that encourage peer relationships and leadership.
- used group get-togethers for mentoring.

**Waterford High School: Don Macrino (860- 437-6956)**

- has formed a partnership with a school in China in recognition that globalizations has fundamentally changed the way we do business.
- has formed a school improvement team, Professional Learning Communities (PLC).
- is opening its eyes to diversity.
- has great expectations of our students (PLC).