

**Community Café: The Harvest
SPO-CAN Council/Our Kids Our Business
Retreat**

Date: Aug. 19, 2011

Location: Member's Home

Host(s):

Barb Giachetti

What questions were asked at the Café?

1. What is the deep reason to bring people together in your community?
2. What relationships do I want with my community?
3. What do I need to do in order to build partnerships?

Question #1

- ✓ Community—different perspectives; listening to people and hear what they have to say; letting go of judgment
- ✓ Reality with professionalism. Judgments, problem doesn't show up on assessment—let's move on. People will not be honest and share.
- ✓ SPO-CAN Council-Goal: Prevention—feel helpless—bigger issue—must come together!
- ✓ Education tool—goes both ways between parents and agencies
- ✓ Feel like have a voice and can impact my world. Agencies can become isolated.
- ✓ Community Café is a different way of governance—really empower parents by giving them opportunities to come together. Bridge the gap between experts and parents.
- ✓ Core human need is belonging. How can parents feel like they belong?
- ✓ Introduce Café process—it can then become grassroots. Can't change large systems like Head Start or other federal programs. However, perhaps Café's can fit into existing systems to empower parents and build parent leadership.
- ✓ What about using social media?
- ✓ How can families become self-sufficient when everything is top down?
- ✓ We can disagree civilly and can still belong—we can role model this for parents/groups.

Question #2

- ✓ Honesty; Integrity; Challenge us; Respect.
- ✓ Part of community is feeling passion. What's good-stays. Not good—change.
- ✓ Change is hard. Sometimes a sense of hopelessness.
- ✓ Appreciate and gratitude
- ✓ People come together to fight a common enemy. How do we come together for positive? Community we develop for ourselves--relationships
- ✓ Power and influence are different. Letting go of power and create more belonging. As a group, we can influence—be involved but not always the leader.
- ✓ Parents' voices and grassroots change are the future
- ✓ Feel as though we don't have power
- ✓ Learn to let people help me!
- ✓ Wish public systems would re-engage with community

- ✓ OKOB brought together—improve relationships—learn more about each agency and each other—learn about resources in the community.
- ✓ Where does business fit in? Maybe need a clear vision/a common thread. We have one event in April—how to continue? Build solid relationships.

Question #3

- ✓ Include families and families share their stories
- ✓ Trained and productive work force
- ✓ Time
- ✓ Focus-localize. What about a business plan?
- ✓ Analyze which relationships we have made. For example: Downtown Partnership. Touch base with Marty the previous President of DT Partnership
- ✓ The advantage of OKOB and the one-time event is that we don't exhaust our people.
- ✓ Future: if we give message to places like the Rotary, it sounds self-serving. And what is our message?
- ✓ Communication: drop child abuse and neglect and broaden—ALL Children. Another example: school readiness
- ✓ Learn more about Strengthening Families Initiative from the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP. Learn more about protective factors. Learn about the AIM grant from CSSP because it is targeting Spokane.

Harvest: Take-a-ways from today and what are our next steps?

- ✓ Community Café-a way of doing. Do we need Café with whole Council? How do we bridge gap? Change who we are?
- ✓ Develop more voices through Community Cafes—leaders/leadership
- ✓ SPO-CAN Council same people for 30 years. Café-social networking-bring in new people
- ✓ Grassroots—take back their power!
- ✓ Transition? What will this look like in the future?
- ✓ Revolution
- ✓ How do you take the Harvest and who keeps it going?
- ✓ Strong Families equal Strong Communities

How many participants?

6 adults and all unduplicated (first Café for this group)

What community partners were there?

Children Home Society-1 staff