

MLK Partner Meeting Notes 5.6.20

Discussion Notes from Summer Breakout Groups

Questions:

- Talk about how the pandemic has impacted your organizations?
- What are your plans to adapt to a virtual or alternative framework?
- What supports or questions do you still have around contingency planning?

Day Camps/Direct Service Providers:

- Overview:
 - All have pivoted to providing remote communication and programming. Issues including lower attendance & participation rates, and building access that have arisen included
 - Running 2-week long online workshops
 - Primary challenge is work permits.
- Organization Notes
 - Piers Park Sailing: Usually outside and launching 30 boats, now have 1-2 people at a time so few boats in the water. Doing 3-track contingency planning: Having a full summer program with 150 youth using PPE; Breaking the program into 2 ½ day programs with half of the youth at a time showing up for 3.5 hours of programming for each group daily; or a complete on-line program where they have to work on practice videos (and still need to develop curriculum)
 - Teen Empowerment: Working on a summer curriculum
 - Crossroads: Summer programming includes 1,000 kids to overnight camp and 1,000 to day camps, both of which are in question. Contingency planning is underway but there are significant limitations, questions include will need to downsize and potentially split sessions. They are working on the possibility of implementing some remote learning and creating program packets that they can deliver to youth within a variety of school systems.
 - South Boston Health Center: Because their program is reliant on partner organizations in the neighborhood, has been very hard to get any planning done for the summer, no one is answering her email so she doesn't know how they can move ahead with their summer program planning. Wants to provide jobs for the summer for youth, the kids really need the jobs.
 - YES: Trying to run their summer camp, hard to figure out how they can do that right now. Planning to do project-based learning, experiential learning.
 - Boys & Girls Club: Goal is to have a limited opening but not sure on the number of kids they can let into their building. Continuing to hire youth for the summer employment program, on track with this. Looking into best practices for remote learning to keep kids engaged, know that they will not be able to have hundreds of kids onsite
 - Save the Harbor, Save the Bay: Have hired their youth and can spring into action as soon as they get the word that they can run their program. They also have a digital version for their program if necessary, can use a video stream. They know that they will not have 700 youth on boats in the harbor this summer, access to beaches and outside spaces will be limited they expect.
 - Phillip Brooks House: Planning for online camp, campers will receive tech packages. They will offer one-on-one and group settings online and will provide learn-at-home activities weekly for campers. Teen staff will teach lessons online weekly. They set goals about personal learning and will receive tutoring, weekly mentoring and supervision. They are also thinking about creating social spaces for youth as mental health for teens is a priority. They have figured out how to do payroll remotely for the youth they pay directly and are assuming that Successlink will work it out.

Office/Admin:

- Overview: General uncertainty about ways to proceed with summer planning. Contingency planning rather hard for organizations whose nature of the work (i.e outdoor activities) itself involved being outside. Many are using Zoom for meetings and organizations have not had to purchase additional platform to accommodate needs.

- Organizations:
 - Youth Enrichment Services Inc.: biggest challenge was facing the unknown and some of the hurdles that has created for them in terms of general scheduling, This uncertainty also touches on keeping afloat their own organizations and finding funding to continue being resilient. Representative talked about an ABCD approach (A: Business as Usual, B: Reduced In-person work, C: Highly Reduced In-person work, D: Fully Remote).
 - Boston Partners in Education: Looking into a hybrid option for contingency planning. It is harder for them to adapt to online learning & waiting for future guidance. Emphasized the importance of maintaining a sense of community for scholars while they are working remotely. Has sent out a survey to gauge where student stand in terms of interest and access to resources. Using Trello to promote accountability.
 - Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras: able to adapt to remote work relatively well, using SmartMusic & Trello for online training and project accountability. Has not had much time to do contingency planning

Youth Development:

- Overview: All of the organizations in my group plan on providing online engagement for scholars during the coming summer. Only one organization, the West End House, mentioned the provision of very limited in person program opportunities. The online activities will include research, learning, professional development, one on one counseling and educational support, and organizing of online social, educational and support group events and activities. Most organizations are struggling to see that all of the youth are provided with the technological support they need to participate in online programming. The specific needs mentioned included **chrome books and hot spots** to enhance Wi-Fi functionality. Many of the organizations have questions about how to do the back end required paper work to pay youth. Many also mentioned the need to see that youth and families have enough food and shelter and some are providing direct assistance in providing these resources to those in need. Finally, several organizations mentioned concerns about mental and physical health and the need to screen young people to insure that they are living in safe home environments.
- Organizations:
 - Camp Harborview, Josh: They serve 1,000 campers per summer. This summer they will be providing services on a completely virtual basis and they will distribute at home engagement kits: things like jump ropes and chalk. They will also provide food access and plan to employ 115 youth.
 - Freedom House, Ashley: They will provide classes and summer long academic projects for 50+ students. Their big challenge is getting everyone the tech support they need. Chrome books and hot spots to enhance Wi-Fi are at the top of the list.
 - West End House, Elena: They are now 100% virtual programming, providing food delivery to their families and continue to provide year round employment programs for teens. They hope to transition to the summer and provide some limited in person programming during the summer months – 5 to 10 youth in the building at a time.
 - Courageous Sailing, Ashton: They are completely closed until June 1st. They will use a remote learning model this summer, serving 70 youth. They have social workers on staff to do wellness checks and support the mental health of the youth. In addition, the social workers are screening for child abuse and neglect and run online grief and trauma recovery groups.
 - Mothers for Justice, Dominique: They plan to be completely virtual this summer, serving 50 youth. Their program will provide online workshops, professional development opportunities, and teen talks to support mental health.
 - IBA, Pedro: They will run a multi-media online program for 32 youth providing a combination of workshops on social and emotional wellbeing and art projects. In addition they will provide one-on-one counseling to encourage continued youth engagement in educational and professional growth and provide an appropriate forum to discuss mental and physical health challenges.
 - Jonathan Rosenthal, Missed his organization: They have traditionally placed youth in jobs at hospitals and other non-profit organizations. They are having some success in making arrangements with law

firms, but are very concerned because the hospitals will most likely not have the capacity to provide employment for youth this summer. They, like others, raised the issue of how to maintain the administrative capacity to pay the youth and the need for adequate technology to be able to provide online learning opportunities for youth.

- The Museum of African American History: They will provide employment for 7 scholars that will be completely remote. The emphasis will be on conducting in depth research and providing online programs for visitors.
- Sociedad Latina, Alessandra Sangurima At Sociedad Latina, we have continued our youth programming virtually so far. We currently use zoom and google classroom to work with the youth for 6 hours a week. We plan to continue using these tools for the MLKS summer opportunity. We are still brainstorming how to provide quality programming for 20-25 hours a week since most of the work was going to take place in our community garden. Currently, we are building out our virtual curriculum and preparing for summer virtual lessons and workshops. We would love to do a hybrid program incorporating some garden work if it is safe to do so. We plan to follow the protocols and guidelines set by BPS. We have been checking in with the families of the youth we work with and providing them with resources and we plan to continue this work as well. Some challenges they have encountered/ anticipate: adapting to and training for using zoom and google classroom, creating virtual programming that is engaging, and concerns about youth participation and attendance this summer if it has to be completely virtual. Thank you for today's meeting! I found it helpful to learn from other organizations and would love to learn more and get the opportunity to collaborate with them this summer.

Other:

- Organizations:
 - Anthony Oliver, Urban Scholars UMass Boston, – work in HS in morning and afterschool tutoring in afternoon at Umass.:
 - Study Hall for students
 - Friday online game nights, DJ showcases online
 - Sessions around different professions
 - Online college tours
 - Online version of summer program – take classes online and continue with activities they're doing now
 - Looking for other ideas to keep students engaged – social marketing for different companies
 - Alex Youth, Build Boston:
 - Spring session cancelled entirely
 - Don't have formal setup in organization, in research phase for this summer. How other design orgs are delivering programs
 - Waiting for directives from gov't, BPS – how and if summer programs should be conducted
 - Summer program would have to be reduced capacity
 - PPE on coming into studio space?
 - David, Ellen – SFTT: Delivering trees door to door at Hyde Park, mailing trees through Arbor Day, distributing seedlings at Emerald Necklace for people to pick up
 - Youth measure/map trees: not sure what teens would do this summer now
 - Climate Justice group:
 - Unsure how to recruit students with uncertainty of what program looks like – not sure how many they can support, what they're looking for in skillset and interest
 - Outreach, data analysis
 - Very unsure what they're doing
 - Brenda – HSTF:
 - Remote programming for youth still happening
 - Arts classes to youth on different platforms, supporting with schoolwork

- Hired social worker on staff to run sessions with young people
- Summer – Too much to think through both in person and hybrid models – now thinking as going all remote this summer and planning for that
- Summer projects – virtual learning, showcasing, and projects they can work on in their own time
- Different platforms all over – need one consistent platform, staff need professional development to meet them where they are instead of getting them adjusted to platforms they already know
- BETTER AT ZOOM! Need support on what they can do
- TRainign for nonprofits
- Liz – NEAg:
 - Lost a lot of staff – just her now
 - School kids laid off
 - Reduce numbers 75 to 25 kids
 - Biggest challenge – not having good coms from some funders
 - Tawanna – Future Chefs
 - 15 students, 8 seniors – onboard new students through MLK since year long program
 - Become more of resource to family – rent, groceries, college deposits
 - Weekly check ins, game nights, one on one meetings
 - Biggest concern – transition 8 seniors on, commitment to them, do they cut then loose or how do they keep them engaged
- AFH: just hired back all of their Boston teens now and for the summer. Entirely remote work for students
- Zumix: Had spring programming that was able to be transferred to remote. Now figuring out how to continue for the summer.
- Freedom House: Students facing challenges (safety at home, technology). College students who are being served do not have access to laptops either – universities require a \$200 deposit which is impossible for families that are economically challenged. Need help connected to mental health resources – referrals are unresponsive. In the meantime, have created virtual cafes to engage young people, manned by our couches and keeping at 1 hr. Zoom fatigue is an issue.
- Hawthorne Youth Center: Potentially lowering number of students hired. Hope is to have students working outdoors for outdoor garden program. Cautioned online safety for banking/ personal data such as SSN.
- UMass Boston: Hit or miss with keeping students engaged. Trying to figure out cadence. Moving to full remote workshops with career development and other offices.