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BOSTnet Information

January 29, 2008

"Afterschool and Youth Advocacy Day"

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Special Announcements

Upcoming BOSTnet news and events:

- **Preparing for Afterschool & Youth Advocacy Day!**
Thursday, February 7, 2008
10am - 12noon
Curry Student Center, Northeastern University, Boston, MA.

BOSTnet is helping the afterschool field prepare for Afterschool & Youth Advocacy Lobby Day on February 27th, 2008 with this preparatory meeting. Come to the February 7th meeting to learn more about our legislative priorities and how to advocate more effectively for afterschool. Find out how to set up meetings

with your government representatives; network with other afterschool providers; and get ready for state-wide Advocacy Day on February 27th when hundreds of parents, colleagues and youth will join us at the State House. [Click Here](#) for Directions. Contact BOSTnet for more information or to RSVP at info@bostnet.org or 617-720-1290 x232.

- **Guide to Boston's Before and After School Programs - A Free and Powerful Marketing Tool! Update your information by February 22.** BOSTnet's Guide to Boston's Before and After School Programs is a comprehensive listing of Boston's Out-of-School-Time (OST) programs.

- Detailed Program Information: You may include contact information and detailed descriptions of programming, accessibility, ages served, etc.
- Widely Distributed Printed Guide: Thousands of copies of the Guide reach families and service providers through distribution in 145 Boston Public Schools and Parent Information Centers, Libraries, and Community Centers.
- Online Guide Entry: Once you enter information online, your program's information is automatically included BOTH online and in the printed Guide to Boston's Before and After School Programs

How Do I List My Program in the Guide?

You may go through the new BOSTNavigator site, www.bostonnavigator.org/admin/ for an easy link to enter your program information online. Please submit and/or update your program entry soon as our deadline is February 22, 2008. Please call 617 720-1290 x210 for your login information.

DEADLINE: February 22, 2007

- **Revised BOSTnet Leadership Roundtable and Half-day forum schedule:** Please note that there are a few changes to our calendar as we finish up the 2007-2008 academic year. To view the updated calendar, please [click here](#). To RSVP for one of the Roundtables or Half-day forums, please call 617-720-1290 x232 or info@bostnet.org.
- **BOSTnet welcomes Patricia Jahoda Stahl!**
Patricia comes to us from the Wellesley Centers for Women. There, Patricia co-directed Bringing Yourself to Work which stresses the critical importance of self awareness and emotional intelligence when working in an out-of-school time environment. Patricia co-wrote *Bringing Yourself to Work: A guide to Successful Staff Development in After School Programs* (2003, Teachers College Press) as well as designed and implemented a training program which continues to be disseminated nationally to after school, early childhood and youth programs. Patricia has almost 30 years experience in training, consulting, and developing innovative educational initiatives for children, adolescents and care providers in multiple settings. In addition to her work at the Wellesley Centers for Women, Patricia has been a program consultant with the Paul and Phyllis Fireman Charitable Foundation, and served as the Director of Adolescent Programs at the Boston Children's Museum for a number of years. Patricia holds a Master's of Education from Harvard Graduate School of Education specializing in Risk and Prevention.
- Please visit BOSTnet's [Community Resources & Events](#) and [Community Job Postings](#) webpages to view the latest in events and career opportunities in the OST field!

Out-of-School Time Field Announcements:

- **Notice to Programs -** BOSTnet encourages you to review and update your program information on BOSTNavigator (www.bostonnavigator.org). If you already have your username and password,

please login to www.bostonnavigator.org/admin/. If you need a username and password please contact us at help@bostonnavigator.org. Your help will make this new tool the place for parents and families to find youth opportunities in the City of Boston.

- **Free Training is still available for the Sunflower Science Curriculum** - An innovative, hands-on science curriculum developed especially for afterschool programs by the Intercultural Center for Research in Education (INCRE). Designed specifically for children in grades 2-4, the Sunflower Science Discovery Curriculum is fully bilingual and highlights the accomplishments of Latino scientists. To take part in this wonderful opportunity, contact John Zuman at INCRE (jzuman@incre.org; 781-643-2142) or Michael Bennett at BOSTnet (bennett@bostnet.org; 617-720-1290 x 240).

Policy Update

Advocacy Day

February Thaw - Let's Bring Some Heat to the State House!

February is a busy month for afterschool and out-of-school time advocates. In order to get the most leverage out of the recent ASOST Commission report, we are holding the annual Afterschool and Youth Program Advocacy Day on February 27th. Please keep this day open to join us in advocating for Boston's out-of-school time opportunities. Events start at the State House Grand Staircase at 9:30 AM. After the morning speakers we will be moving into the offices of our state Senators and Representatives to talk about afterschool. This is where we need your participation and voice!

With a difficult budget year ahead of us, we have decided to focus our asks on four key areas for a total investment in afterschool of \$32.9 million:

- Increase of ASOST grant from \$2 million to \$14 million
 - o Include language to push for multi-year funding
 - o Expand MAP earmark and related activities
- An additional \$10 million additional funding to reduce the Department of Early Education and Care waitlist (currently at about 7000 children) through expanded vouchers and contracted slots
 - o Extend school-age voucher eligibility.
- \$8.9 million for the Youth Violence Prevention grants through the Department of Public Health to better support programs that serve older youth.
- Along with the budget item, BOSTnet supports the creation of a statewide Afterschool and Out-of-School Time Public/Private Coordinating Council to coordinate and implement the recommendations of the ASOST Commission report.

Advocacy Organizing Day

To prepare for Advocacy day on February 27th, join us on February 7th at the Curry Student Center of Northeastern University for a organizing and preparation meeting in advance of Advocacy Day. This will

be a good old fashion grass roots organizing event to get people ready to be effective advocates. Please join us from 10am-12pm to:

- Learn more about the legislative process and the ASOST commission recommendations.
- Learn effective strategies to communicate with legislators about issues important to you.
- Network with friends in the field to learn their stories.
- Sign-up to meet with individual legislators.

Space is limited. For questions or to RSVP for this event please contact info@bostnet.org or call 617-720-1290 x232.

Thank you for your continued support!

Strengthening Programs

ASOST Commission Report - Recommendations and Relevancy

The Special Commission's vision for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is a state where children and youth are challenged and engaged, where families have quality afterschool and out-of-school time choices for their children, and where communities work together, in a public and private partnership, to offer enriching developmental opportunities for young people, regardless of their socio-economic or education status.

~Afterschool and Out-of-School Time Commission, Final Report, 2007

Despite the depth of information it contains on the needs of the OST field, the recent Afterschool and Out-of-School Time Commission report is just a starting point. There is still a need for concrete, actionable items that provide tangible and immediate supports for the OST field. It is unclear if the report will result in any new legislation, or what impact it will have on the current budget debates in light of the financial realities the state faces. Its strength is more in articulating elements of a more robust afterschool and OST system for all children and youth in Massachusetts and addresses current gaps in that system through coordination and alignment of state services and funding, information gathering and analysis, and program quality enhancements. The challenge for all of us is to find relevancy in the commission's recommendations to move the commission's vision toward more effective solutions.

The recommendations are based upon public testimony from the 10 statewide public hearings, OST research, and the input of the 3 Work Groups: 1) Information and Access Work Group, 2) Quality, Workforce and Professional Development Work Group, and 3) Sustainability Work Group. The priority recommendations revolve around 5 key areas of engagement:

1.) Building Public Awareness

The commission recognized the importance of building public will and recommends a statewide education campaign to highlight the value and diversity of the OST field. The campaign would highlight the following issues:

- Role of afterschool in youth development
- Current gaps in service
- Active role in education reform debates

2.) Providing Information and Increasing Access

There is a recognition that the multiple stakeholders in afterschool (policymakers, funders, parents, programs) have different information needs to be effective decision-makers. To leverage the power of information, the commission is pushing for a comprehensive statewide data collection system. With better information on supply and demand, investments in expanding access will be more effective.

- Increase access to underserved populations - special needs, low income, older youth, GLBT, homeless, English language learners, etc.
- Increase the use of public facilities - schools
- Inventory and study existing transportation system and make recommendations of better utilization.
- Build on existing IT systems to provide real-time information on youth served, program quality rating, professional and program development opportunities, grants, capacity, etc.

3.) Promoting Quality Programs and a Quality Workforce

The report recognizes the obstacles to professionalism in the field - low wages, high turnover, the lack of affordable professional development opportunities, and limited certificate and degree programs. To address quality issues, enhanced funding, strong community partnerships and a mixed delivery system of a wide-range of programmatic activities are critical.

- Creation of a professional development fund - stipends to workforce to take part in training and other professional development programs.
- Support for leaders and Executive Directors through network development and coaching that address competency gaps in fiscal management and organizational development.
- Develop regional technical assistance centers through public/private partnerships.
- Explore approaches to increasing compensation.
- Develop and implement a statewide standards approach to building worker competencies. Get all staff working toward the same goals.

4.) Fostering Partnerships and Collaborations

A key component of the report revolves around the need for collaboration among schools, CBOs and other social support agencies, but there are no real solutions on how such collaborations can successfully address youth needs.

- Explore whether or not Chapter 70 language can be amended to include incentives for school/CBO collaboration.
- Strengthen legislative language to require schools and CBOs to collaborate when creating new programs.
- Elevate the role of OST in the education of children and youth.
- Improve the coordination of schools and CBOs to help families of children with special needs-mental and physical disabilities.

5.) Sustaining the Effort

Sustainability is about funding, relationships, policy and advocacy. The report recognizes that cyclical and short term funding is a destabilizing factor in the field and leads to many of the problems we associate with bad service. These recommendations tie the others together because they call for investments in facilities, professional development, management training and support, organizational development, strategic planning, and outcome evaluations.

- Explore and tap all potential state and federal revenue streams.
- Promote public/private funding approaches that emphasize low-income children, programs for older youth, summer programming and special needs children.
- Advocate for more multi-year funding cycles and competitive priorities for existing programs across all state agencies.
- Create a centralized, accessible database of all funding opportunities.
- Better coordination of state agencies to improve efficiencies and reduce barriers faced by CBOs applying for funds.

To coordinate and unify all these efforts and move the recommendations forward, the commission co-chairs have pushed for the creation of a statewide Afterschool and Out-of-School Time Public/Private Coordinating Council. There are still a lot of questions about what this council will look like, where it will function, and what authority it will have to implement the recommendations. The report calls for a council comprised of "diverse stakeholders who are leaders in their organizations and their fields . . . including, state and municipal representatives from public safety, arts, libraries, parks and recreation departments, workforce development, higher education as well as leaders from public and private schools, community and faith-based afterschool and out-of-school time programs, youth representatives, private funders and business - all whom have a stake and role in creating future opportunities for the Commonwealth's children and youth."

Out-of-School Time Landscape

Public Hearings on the Proposed EEC Regulation Changes

The Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care is holding public hearings across the Commonwealth to gather input on the proposed changes to the childcare licensing regulations. Hearings will be held in Metro Boston on the following dates:

- February 8, 2008, 1pm-4pm at the Newton Community Service Center.
- February 27, 2008, 5pm-8pm at the Thomas Crane Public Library, Quincy.
- February 28, 2008, 12pm-4pm at UMASS, Boston, Healey Library, University Club Room.

These proposed changes will have a direct effect on how licensed programs operate and we encourage you to educate yourselves and take part in the public hearings to voice your concerns. Among the proposed changes include:

- New definition of all childcare staff as "Educators."
- New Small-Group Care designation for 10 or fewer children not located in home.
- New regulations on appropriate staff/child interactions for positive development.
- New progress reporting guidelines.
- New mandatory orientation for all new staff entering field.
- New requirements around avoiding suspensions and expulsions from programs and a new greater emphasis on family engagement.

For more information about these changes and upcoming public hearings please visit the EEC website at www.eec.state.ma.us. Also, for those who cannot attend the public hearings, comments on the proposed

changes can be sent to Department of Early Education and Care, Attention Denise Karlin, 51 Sleeper Street, Boston, MA 02210 by March 7, 2008.

To access more Community News, Events, Resources and Job Listings, please visit our website, www.bostnet.org, to view our Resources Page.

Quick Links

- [Our website](#)
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BOSTnet just finished celebrating twenty years of helping families obtain a rich network of out-of-school time opportunities that challenge, reward, and inspire children and youth. We need your support to continue working toward our mission to enhance the quality and increase the capacity of out-of-school time programming for Boston's youth! **Please consider a [donation](#) today.**

Contact Information

email: buzz@bostnet.org

phone: (617) 720-1290

web: www.bostnet.org