

Mā'ili P-3 Focus Group  
Mā'ili Elementary School Library  
October 22, 2009  
2:15 pm-3:45 pm

**Handouts:** Agenda, minutes, websites advertising Wai'anae programs

**Attendance:**

Val D'Amato – DOE Leeward Complex PCNC Coordinator  
Linda Asato – Nānākuli/Wai'anae Neighborhood boards  
Joy Kiyon – PCDC  
Susan Matoba Adler – UH West O'ahu  
LaurieAnn Dunn – INPEACE  
Michelle Mahuka – INPEACE P-3  
Annette Keanu – Mā'ili Elementary K GLC

**Review Minutes**

**Announcements:**

- Rally against Friday Furloughs at capital tomorrow by Father Damien statue.
  - Contact Deborah Berger from The Learning Coalition for more info.
- Early intervention is furloughed some Fridays (some private hired employees are not furloughed).
- Michelle Calderon from Dept of Health sends message that DOH is furloughed and has adjusted their schedule.
- Info rack on hold.
- Send brochures to Annette.
- Wai'anae Neighborhood Meetings are 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at Wai'anae Satellite City Hall at 7 p.m.

**Building Relationships with Parents:**

Current Mā'ili Efforts

1. Parent Bulletin board, theme for the month: "Be A Hero," inspire others to succeed in life. Be responsible (kuleana).
2. For Grandparents Month (September), Mā'ili students made 500 flowers and displayed at nursing home on Jade Street. Annette has pictures, letters from students, and a media release for the event. Only 10% of families visit the 80+ patients—nursing home patients were touched by the students. The activity was a successful effort to engage students into their community and participate in meaningful school assignments. Annette hopes to continue these community involvement activities throughout the school year.

As we discussed ways to build relationships with parents, we felt it would make most sense to identify the reasons why parents are not engaged in the first place (to understand where they are coming from). From there, the group also offered suggestions to address those some of those reasons. These suggestions can be areas to focus our efforts and energy.

| Reasons why parents are not engaged                                 | Possible ways to re-engage parents   |
|---|--|
| 1. Parents don't have knowledge to help                             | ➤ Parent education workshop related to child's homework, education, math, computer lit, HSA  |
| 2. Time   |  |
| 3. Shame  | ➤ Make program fun that doesn't shame parent   |
| 4. Some parents think they are not capable of educating their child |  |
| 5. Some parents feel it's not their job                             |  |
| 6. Teacher-Parent Relationship and communication is strained        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Teacher Training on:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. working w/parents (Susan Matoba Adler)</li> <li>2. Hawaiian culture training</li> </ol> </li> <li>➤ Sharing info about child's personal life in school with parents</li> <li>➤ Find out about children's home lives (get to know and talk to kids)</li> <li>➤ Teacher/school compassion toward family situations</li> <li>➤ Teachers need to find someone in that child's life that can be there for the kid</li> <li>➤ Show parents you're on their side:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ "What can I do to help you?"</li> <li>○ Let parents know <i>why</i> you need certain information or cooperation from them (inform them of consequences); how it is to their benefit</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| 7. Substance Abuse/Emotionally Mentally Unavailable                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Find community resources for child</li> <li>➤ Connect children to community members that can support them and be healthy role models</li> </ul>   |
| 8. Poverty  |  |
| 9. Teachers are strained  |  |
| 10. Attitude of entitlement   |  |
| 11. Other priorities that take precedence over workshops            |  |

Example of Community Transformation: Harlem Children's Zone.

<http://www.hcz.org/press-a-publications/151-this-american-life> (click on link to listen to audio)

We also listened to a brief segment of an NPR audio about Geoffrey Canada and his work in the Harlem Children's Zone. From the projects himself, Geoffrey returned to his community where he brought back parenting skills, child development knowledge, hope and a vision to transform Harlem into a community (of about 70 NYC blocks) that has a positive attitude toward education and informed decisions on how to raise children. The community effort successfully engaged parents who were disengaged for many of the same reasons listed above. What can we learn from this example? Who are key "insiders"/community members who can inspire, lead, and are willing to stick their necks out?

Some notes on past efforts in Wai'anae:

1. "Model Cities" concept was brought to Wai'anae. A welfare-to-work program was involved; a nice concept, but lack of qualified staff was an issue.
2. Handouts and freebies creates an attitude of entitlement and enables current behaviors.
3. Families must be able to trust providers. What do you do with high turn-over of providers?

**Next Meeting: November 19, 2009 2:15-3:45 pm**