

## Message from the Director...

Dear Readers:

Eight months ago when I first accepted this position, I was sent an article entitled, "A Practical Approach To Collaboration" by Michael C. Gilbert (see page 3 of the newsletter). In this short article, Gilbert shares his perspective on successful collaboration: *It is not necessary to align our missions and goals to forge a meaningful partnership. It is necessary, however, to agree on a set of actions.* This simple, but realistic approach, allows organizations with separate agendas to find a common ground that resonates with their respective missions. It is in this spirit that the Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool/Youth Development Network exists.

PSAYDN is bringing together over 200 individuals representing the academic community, provider and advocacy organizations, state/local government and philanthropic institutions. The goal is to develop a comprehensive plan for improving and expanding Afterschool/Youth development programs statewide.

It is through this community-building ingredient that we were able to organize two successful regional summits in State College and Pittsburgh, as well as co-sponsor, The Governor's Summit and The Promising Practices-

Proven Strategies conferences which provided meaningful professional development opportunities to over 500 educators, policy-makers, advocates and program providers. We are already seeing the positive outgrowth of these activities through newly formed regional networks and new partners.

*It takes teamwork to make the dream work.*

Over the summer, PSAYDN's partners will continue to build consensus around a set of policy actions that will move towards increasing access to high quality out-of-school time programs that promote positive youth development and support the successful transition to adulthood. We must continue to remember that there is not a singular solution to improving the academic, economic, and social outcomes of Pennsylvania's young people. Multiple strategies and partnerships are needed. With this said, it is with great pleasure that I announce and present the first issue of the Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool/Youth Development Network newsletter.

Enjoy this issue,

Kisha Bird, Project Director, PSAYDN

## The Governor's Summit On Extra Learning Opportunities

On March 1, 2006 over 150 educators, advocates, and state government officials' gathered to discuss the importance of Extra Learning Opportunities (ELO). The Governor's Summit entitled, *Leading for Learning: Creating a Vision for Extra Learning Opportunities in Pennsylvania* was sponsored by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in partnership with the National Governor's Association and the Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool/Youth Development Network. The

Summit provided a platform by which stakeholders could galvanize momentum for creating a comprehensive, statewide policy agenda.

Governor Edward G. Rendell of Pennsylvania sent out over 400 invitations to business leaders, afterschool advocates, researchers, educators, foundations, policy-makers and faith-community-based organizations to express his commitment toward ELO initiatives. "This is an

investment in children who need a safe place to go once the school day ends," Governor Rendell said. "Instead of hanging out on the corner, students will be able to make friends, improve their academics and just have fun."

The Governor's Summit highlighted the variety of promising ELO approaches that have developed across the Commonwealth. The attendees were encouraged to help Pennsylvanians mobilize schools,



communities, private sector and social/ health services support and resources in order to remove barriers that impede students from learning.

Featured speakers included: Mayor Stephen Reed of Harrisburg,

*See Governor's Summit on Page 3*

## PSAYDN

*The PSADYN Newsletter* is published quarterly by the Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool Youth/Development Network with funding from the Mott Foundation and Pennsylvania Department of Education.

PSAYDN's Steering Committee partners include Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Center for Schools and Communities, Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, Harrisburg Area YMCA, The Heinz Endowments, Pennsylvania Department of Education, Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children and Philadelphia Safe & Sound.

For a full list of partners, visit [www.psaydn.org](http://www.psaydn.org).

## A Practical Approach to Collaboration

By Michael C. Gilbert

You don't have to agree on a set of aesthetic principles in order to have a good time going to the movies with someone. You just have to agree on a movie.

You don't have to agree on fundamental issues of community in order to share an apartment with someone. You just have to agree about how some things will get done around the house.

You don't even have to agree completely about child rearing values in order to raise children with someone, to everyone's reasonable satisfaction. You only have to have some minimal boundaries about parental behavior and a respect for a diversity of styles.

So why is it that so many nonprofit organizations, especially social change and activist organizations, act as though they must agree on all principles and values in order to collaborate successfully?

The great secret of successful collaboration is this: **The only agreement you have to have is on what you are all going to do.**

That's it. You have to agree on actions. You don't have to bring the visions and missions of your organizations into alignment. Usually, you don't even have to bring your strategies into alignment. So long as you can find an operational overlap, you can forge a successful collaboration.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

July 10-12, 2006  
21st Century Community Learning Centers  
*2006 Summer Institute*  
[www.synergentinc.com/21stcentury](http://www.synergentinc.com/21stcentury)

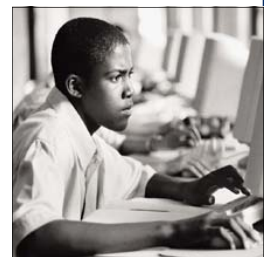
July 27-29, 2006  
15th Annual Community Technology Conference in D.C.  
[www.ctcnet.org/what/conference](http://www.ctcnet.org/what/conference)

October 12, 2006  
Lights on Afterschool  
[www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org)

## WHAT IS "THE NETWORK?"

The **Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool/Youth Development Network** is a collaborative effort among state, regional and local partners. Its purpose is to promote sustainable, high quality out-of-school time youth development programs through advocacy and capacity building to enhance the welfare of Pennsylvania's children, youth and families.

Our **Vision** is that all children and youth deserve access to high quality, out-of-school time programs that promote positive youth development and support the successful transition to adulthood.



## GOVERNOR'S SUMMIT

continued

Secretary Gerald Zahorchak, Pennsylvania Department of Education; Secretary Donna Cooper, Governor's Office of Policy and Planning; and Deputy Secretary Harriet Dichter, Office of Child Development, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.

"I think the best part of the summit was the opportunity to hear leaders and professionals in the field provide information on the value of afterschool

programming," remarked a participant.

The Governor's Summit also featured a panel of speakers with both state and national perspectives, including one of the country's leading researchers on afterschool, Deborah Lowe Vandell, University of California-Irvine. Dr. Vandell provided the audience with recent research documenting the value of afterschool programs to positive youth development. In her presentation, Dr. Vandell noted that current research indicates that afterschool programs have greater effects on low-income children, children

with limited English language skills and low achieving students.

Dr. Vandell was also joined by An-Me Chung, a program officer with the Mott Foundation; Peter Eldridge, a senior education program specialist with the U.S. Department of Education; Ayeola Fortune, Project Director of the Extended Learning Opportunities and Development Project, the Council of Chief State School Officers; Nathaniel Gadsden, Founder and Pastor of Imani African Christian Church; Jay Leff, President of the National Youth Rights Association Vermont chapter; Christine Munchak, President of

Pennsylvania PTA; Anita Smith, President and CEO of Capital BlueCross; and David Spotts, Chief of Police for Mechanicsburg.

As the Summit came to a close, Joan Benso, President and CEO, Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children encouraged the attendees, "Make a commitment to join existing efforts to expand and improve out-of-school time activities for all Pennsylvania's youth."

## PARTNER NEWS

On Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, after school program providers gathered at a meeting hosted by YouthPlaces and A+ Schools to discuss the formation of a Peer to Peer Network for after school providers in Pittsburgh. Response to the Kick Off meeting was overwhelming - over 60 individuals "rsvp'd" for the event and 50 providers were in attendance.

The group was encouraged to help steer the direction of the Pittsburgh Network. After breaking into discussion groups, the goals centered on the goals of the Network, what topics to focus on in future meetings and

methods to communicate with each other between meetings. Consensus was easily reached, with the group targeting their need to create collaborations and partnerships, uniting around a common vision for the region, sharing best practices and supporting quality and; of course, networking and sharing resources.

The Pittsburgh After School Network will meet monthly. For more information about the Pittsburgh After School Network, please call:

Dina Vargo, A+ Schools  
412-258-2663 or

Lori Schaller, YouthPlaces  
412-434-0851

## NEW AFTERSCHOOL RESOURCE

In April 2006, the 21st CCLC and PSLA launched the *21st Century Community Learning Center Statewide Technical Assistance and Training Center*.

This collaborative effort funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Education is a joint venture between the Center for Schools and Communities and the Pennsylvania Service Learning Alliance. 21st Century Community Learning Centers focus on providing expanded enrichment opportunities to children attending low performing schools. For more information about 21st CCLC, please visit, [www.21stcclc.org](http://www.21stcclc.org)

[www.PSAYDN.org](http://www.PSAYDN.org)

Visit the PSAYDN website to learn about:

- Upcoming local, state and national events
- Resources, articles, websites
- Copies of the Newsletter

E-mail: [kbird@csc.csiu.org](mailto:kbird@csc.csiu.org)  
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## House Democratic Policy Committee Measures Quality of Afterschool in Pennsylvania

*"We can all agree that Pennsylvania's children deserve the opportunity to learn, and that an educated work force is our most effective economic tool."*

—Representative Stephen Stetler, Democrat-York

On April 20, the House Democratic Policy Committee held a public hearing in the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh on after school programs in Pennsylvania.

Requested and hosted by state Rep. Jake Wheatley Jr., D-Allegheny, the hearing featured testimony from Harriet Dichter, Deputy Secretary, Office of Child Development, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare; Kisha Bird, Project Director of the Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool/Youth Development Network, Center for Schools and Communities; Lori Schaller, President, Youth Places; Victor Papale, Executive Director, A+ Schools; Joyce Keyes, Director of Education, Wireless Neighborhoods; Amy Snider, Senior Planner, Office of Community Services, Allegheny County Department of Human Services; and a panel from the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh: Jane Werner, Executive Director, and Alana Kulesa, Youth Programs Manager.

"I commend Representative Wheatley for requesting a hearing on the importance of expanding Governor Rendell's early childhood education initiatives to after school programs. These programs deserve more state support because they place a priority on high-quality early learning programs to improve educational and lifelong outcomes," Stetler said. "We can all agree that Pennsylvania's children deserve the opportunity to learn, and that an educated work force is our most effective economic tool."

Wheatley added, "As evident by today's hearing, quality after school programs provide valuable life lessons to kids. In addition, parents struggling to make ends meet by working multiple jobs can be assured their kids will be in a safe place. I will continue to explore this proposed expansion of the Keystone Stars program and the TEACH scholarship program."

The Keystone Stars program offers retention awards to qualified teachers. The TEACH scholarship program provides financial support to staff to attain advanced degrees for after school programs. For more information about this article, please visit [www.psaydn.org](http://www.psaydn.org).

### 10 PRINCIPLES OF ADVOCACY

1. **Consider yourself an expert information source.** Elected officials have limited time, staff and many competing issues to deal with every day. They cannot be as well informed as those actually implementing or witnessing the programs. You can fill their information gap and be their "expert."
2. **Always tell the truth.** Make your word impeccable.
3. **Know who is not on your side.** The elected official will want to know who stands against your issue. Anticipate the opposition arguments and provide the answers and the rebuttals.
4. **Know who is on your side.** This is your strength. The elected official will want to know this.
5. **Make the elected official aware of any personal connections you may have.** If you have friends, relatives, or colleagues in common with an elected official let them know. This is how we connect with one another.
6. **Admit you don't know something.** It gives you a reason to follow-up with the official after you have researched an answer.
7. **Be specific.** Tell the official what you want. Ask them directly. Expect a direct answer in response.
8. **Follow-up.** The elected official should be held accountable for any statements they make to you. Find out if the official took action. Then thank them for any action they took and make your next request.
9. **Don't "burn bridges."** It is easy to get emotional about these issues. Don't lose it. Your enemies today may be your allies tomorrow. Always leave your dealings with elected officials on positive terms. You will be back.
10. **You are the boss.** You should be courteous but not intimidated. Elected officials work for you.

—Brought to you by the Afterschool Alliance,  
[www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org)

## Promising Practices-Proven Strategies: Delivering Quality Extra Learning Opportunities for Our Children

*Promising Practices – Proven Strategies, Delivering Quality Extra Learning Opportunities for Our Children*, a conference on Extra Learning Opportunities sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Education in partnership with The Center for Schools and Communities, was held on March 1 - 2, 2006 at the Hilton Harrisburg. This conference brought together practitioners who support children, families and communities by providing supervised environments during non-school hours. Over 490 participants took the opportunity to learn about and discuss the research, policies and practices that can improve or enhance extra learning opportunities in the Commonwealth.

"The idea of knowing that you are not alone in the field of afterschool programming and that there are others who are willing to help and improve the quality of service for your individual program made this conference so valuable," remarked an attendee. 46% of the conference attendees were afterschool providers; educators/teachers made up about 14%.

Keynote Speaker, Dr. Deborah Lowe Vandell, Chair of the Department of Education at the University of California—Irvine, shared the findings of her intensive study of 1,300 children from birth through age 15. Dr. Vandell described a convergence of factors that are contributing to a growing interest in

after-school programs. She also noted that afterschool programs do make a difference when the quality of the programs is high and students attend them regularly. Dr. Vandell shared findings from a number of studies that describe why afterschool programs are beneficial.

More than 100 different presenters led workshops on topics ranging from child obesity to identifying funding opportunities.

Motivational Speaker and Educational Consultant Darrell Andrews provided the Keynote Address. He challenged conference attendees saying "It takes teamwork to make the dream work!"

"I feel very inspired! I can't wait until the next conference," exclaimed an attendee.

## Pennsylvania Latchkey Kids from Working Families Vastly Outnumber Those in Afterschool Programs

More than one-quarter of Pennsylvania children of working families are unsupervised in the afternoons, according to data by the Afterschool Alliance. The data are from the second wave of detailed analysis of the Alliance's groundbreaking household survey, *America After 3 PM*, funded by the J.C. Penney Co., Inc. The data focus on working families - those in which both parents or the single parent holds a job.

Pennsylvania-specific sampling finds that just eight percent of children in Pennsylvania working families are in afterschool programs, while twenty-eight percent of children in Pennsylvania working families are "latchkey children" with no adult supervision in the afternoon.

We have a lot of work still to do in creating afterschool opportunities for our kids around the state," said Pennsylvania Afterschool Ambassador Alana Kulesa, Youth Programs Manager of the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh. "We've made a good start, but the resources devoted to afterschool are still not nearly



sufficient to meet the demand from working families. It's essential to increase funding which will enable organizations to provide quality afterschool programs to every Pennsylvania family that needs them." Afterschool Ambassadors are appointed by the Afterschool Alliance to serve one-year terms. To read the entire article visit, [www.psaydn.org](http://www.psaydn.org)

### QUICK FACTS

- Across *virtually all OST contexts*, youth from higher income families were more likely to participate than youth from lower income families.
- For *tutoring programs*, however, youth from lower income families were more likely to participate than youth from higher income families.
- Across most types of programs and activities, Latino youth are consistently underrepresented, and White youth are consistently overrepresented, with Black youth somewhere in between.
- Black youth, however, showed particularly high participation rates in some OST contexts, such as before and after school programs and summer camps.

*From the article, "What Are Kids into These Days? Demographic Differences in Youth Out-of-School Time Participation." To read this entire article please visit, [www.hfrp.org](http://www.hfrp.org)*

## Building an Evaluation Toolkit for Professional Development

*Jennifer Buher-Kane, Nancy Peter, and Susan Kinnevy of the Center for Research on Youth and Social Policy at the University of Pennsylvania share their experience of creating a tool kit designed specifically for those who provide professional development to out-of-school time program staff.*

The need for effective professional development for out-of-school-time (OST) staff is well documented. Researchers and practitioners have shown increasing interest in finding and utilizing methods that effectively evaluate professional development for this population. In the summer of 2004, we at the Out-of-School Time Resource Center (OSTRC), housed within the Center for Research on Youth and Social Policy (CRYSP) at the University of Pennsylvania, attempted to locate research based survey instruments used to evaluate OST professional development.

After an extensive literature review and conversations with key stakeholders, we determined that these instruments did not exist. Seeing a need for such tools, we implemented a mixed method pilot study to design

and test survey instruments that can be used in OST workshops and conference settings.

We at the OSTRC plan to publish these survey instruments as part of an evaluation tool kit that will be available, free of charge, for those who design or provide professional development to OST staff. We will share the data collected through these surveys and maintain a data storehouse that will track their use over time on a national level. We are also conducting further research on evaluating alternative forms of professional development and accurately measuring changes in OST student outcomes that result from professional development.

This entire article with sources is available by visiting [www.psaydn.org](http://www.psaydn.org) or by visiting the Harvard Research Project, <http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects/afterschool/bibliography>.

### ABOUT PSAYDN

Pennsylvania is one of thirty-one states that are part of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation's funding of statewide afterschool networks. The current state fiscal partner is the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Formed in the fall of 2004, PSAYDN operates out of the Center for Schools and Communities in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania.

PSAYDN promotes sustainable, high-quality, out-of-school time youth development programs through advocacy and capacity building to enhance the welfare of Pennsylvania's children, youth and families.

PSAYDN's vision is that all children and youth deserve

access to high quality out-of-school time programs that promote positive youth development and support the successful transition to adulthood.

For more information or to join PSAYDN, please contact: Kisha Bird, Project Director  
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Phone: 717.763.1661 ext. 210  
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To learn more about the Network and view a full list of PSAYDN's partners, please visit the website - [www.psaydn.org](http://www.psaydn.org)

### SUBMIT AN ARTICLE

If you have suggestions about articles for the website or future editions of the Newsletter or if you would like to submit an article or resource, please email Ashley Napier, [anapier@csc.csiu.org](mailto:anapier@csc.csiu.org).

We are currently accepting articles for the following topics:

- Policy and Advocacy
- Funding and Resources
- Research and Evaluation
- Afterschool Program Highlights
- Newsletter Title

If you prefer to mail your information, please send to:  
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275 Grandview Avenue, Suite 200  
Camp Hill, PA 17011  
Attn: Ashley Napier