

# World Café Session on Social Capital

## The USF Collaborative for Children, Families & Communities

At the 2005 Florida Children's Services Council conference the USF Collaborative's Resilience and Protective Factors Working Group conducted a World Café Session on Social Capital.

Participants were asked to answer two questions: The responses are listed below:

### *How do we see and experience social capital in our communities?*

#### *Social Capital is Decreasing*

- Age of Technology decreasing Social Capital
- People left social capital up North

#### *Issues that bring people together*

- Hurricanes
- Opposition to Adult Entertainment

#### *How can we sustain connections?*

- Build more when we're younger = where you grow up
- Successful collaborations
- Find people to support you
- Developments can be planned with play spaces and parks
- Have activities outside
- Families have dinner together
- Time—balance work relationships with commuting time
- Cultural diversity & immigration—there is a lot of social capital among immigrant groups
- Need for cross-social & ethnic groups to promote/grow social capital

#### *Barriers*

- Cultural & racial barriers
- Gated communities lock people out and displace others
- Barrier = age, marital status & kids
- State systems can inhibit our ability to create social capital (Juvenile Justice and Foster Care)

#### *Groups that naturally recognize commitment to social capital*

- Soccer Moms
- Red Hat Society
- Fantasy Football Leagues
- Internet = blogging, chat rooms
- Committees for celebrations
- Companies sending volunteers

#### *For more information*

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# *How can we build more social capital?*

- Beacon Model—open schools to the community
- Identify positives
- Cross networking of centers

## *Community investment strategies involve those with investments in social capital*

- Parents
- Leadership
- Spreading the word

## *Model childcare center*

- Neighborhood based
- Engaged caretaker
- Computer–Net–Connection to teachers using technology
- Brewer Center

## *Marketing Strategies for Children's Services Councils*

- Children Services Counsel's are a key leader group to get the message out
- Infiltrate businesses
- Offer incentives to maximize program development - "carrots"
- Social Capital outreach
  - Incentives "Value added money"
  - Inventory of Social Capital
  - How to support existing activities
  - Inter faith—natural leaders

## *Individual basis:*

- Open house
- Block party
- Coalition building
- Need for information- where are services
- Involve business—Restaurants
- Community round table in Tampa
- Meisen Plaus

## *During Late Adolescence—Early Adulthood*

- Agencies encourage employers with requested or volunteered time for 1 hour/week
- Unstructured play times to stimulate creativity

## *40 Developmental Assets*

- Agencies develop activities and the Children Services Counsel funds them
- Funders forum—start groups

## *Marketing to get community engaged*

- Speakers Bureau
- Show and create opportunities to volunteer
- Web/Speaker bureau

## *Measure*

- Support bonding activities we can't see like sports and practice
- Bridge bonding purposefully between gerontology and youth
- Creative ways to maximize existing connections

## *Transforming Children Services Counsel's to promote social capital*

- Release time/volunteering & decrease in work responsibilities to make it work
- Commuting: location of school & home work to build more social capital
- Celebrations: Family Friendly Workplaces
- Funding that is outcomes and program-based
- Natural groups (cheerleading club)—build capacity and should be funded
- More easily accessible processes to apply for money and train them how to measure outcomes
- Neighborhood centers—partner with them to carry out the social capital work

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