



Pillar Group Report: Children & Youth
Date: September 11, 2008

Mission: Provide children and youth of 67214 the tools and opportunities reach proficiency in math and reading, to graduate from high school, and to become employed.

Strategy: Coordinate and enhance the ability to serve 67214 children with existing tutoring and mentoring services.

Activity: Establish Tutoring Coordinator at the Urban League; funded for the first 12 months by Kansas Department of Corrections.

UPDATE on 9/11/08:

- A written agreement has been finalized; KDOC funding for this position is subject to potential budget changes; final budgets will be known by October 2008, and then KDOC will know if this position can be funded. If so, UL and KDOC are ready to proceed with the position. This position will have some presence at Atwater and support the academic achievement working taking place there, as discussed below.

Strategy: Gain access to a list of 67214 children who are not proficient in math and reading, to target those children for tutoring services.

UPDATE on 9/11/08:

- A meeting was held with Acting Superintendent Martin Libhart in this reporting period, along with Board Member Kevass Harding; USD 259 staff are reviewing the logistics of providing this list, addressing potential confidentiality issues.

Strategy: Atwater Bulldogs Academic Camp

UPDATE on 9/11/08:

- The Atwater Bulldogs Camp started July 21, 2008. Seventy students/ballplayers enrolled; 43 have attended all of the sessions; the rest attend some of them. The program is scheduled to go through October 10, 2008. At the beginning, in addition to getting the grades of these students for the last quarter of school year 07-08 (to compare to the first quarter of school year 08-09), the students were assessed in reading and math. A retesting in math will be done September 22 and 24, 2008, and in reading September 29 and October 1, 2008. There are 24 volunteers regularly participating, largely engineers and accountants from the aircraft companies, working closely with the students. Since school started up, these sessions are also used to help the students with their homework, to be sure it is completed. The progress of the program is such that now under consideration is continuing a similar program, with after school tutoring/mentoring on Monday and Wednesday, starting in November, through the school year.

Further results and progress will be reported. KDOC will stay in communication with the Atwater staff to help address funding needs if possible.

Strategy: Establish baseline information about youth employment, including rates of employable youth; rates of unemployment among employable youth; and capacity in the community to serve the unemployed employable youth

UPDATE on 9/11/08:

- The employment needs of youth in 67214 will be addressed at this time through the NCI Corps project/proposal; Secretary Werholtz will provide an update on this project/proposal on 9/11/08.

Strategy: Increase services for children of incarcerated parents.

UPDATE on 9/11/08:

- Two community-based organizations in Hutchinson are interested in helping establish SKIP at Hutchinson Correctional Facility, including an organization with main offices in Wichita. The Risk Reduction & Reentry Volunteer Developer at HCF will work with these organizations to implement SKIP.
- A family counselor is interested in volunteering at LCF to provide parenting and caretaker support at Lansing Correctional Facility. The R3 Volunteer Developer at LCF will work with this volunteer and other specialized staff at that facility to implement SKIP.
- KDOC has hired a statewide family specialist, and she will be working with these facilities, and Winfield Correctional Facility along with Sedgwick County Reentry to prepare a user's manual for SKIP, to help strengthen and implement SKIP in multiple facilities, and to track outcomes. This information will be used, we hope, to attract funders to do more of this work.