



MAYOR'S AFTERSCHOOL SUMMIT



Report to the Community *“Afterschool for All By 2010”* January 2006

Mayor Francis Slay
St. Louis for Kids
Mayor's Afterschool Task Force
Special thanks to the Incarnate Word Foundation



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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Dear Afterschool Stakeholder:

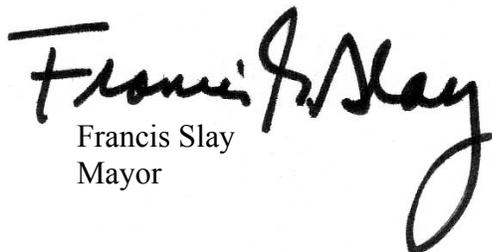
On September 29 I hosted the Mayor's Afterschool Summit in the City of St. Louis. The Summit is another indicator of my belief that the future of the City of St. Louis is vested in how we improve the life chances of our children. Increasing the supply and quality of afterschool programs to create a brighter future for our children is very important to me. To reflect my feelings, I have signed on the national "Afterschool for All By 2010" initiative.

The level of participation, support and enthusiasm for our goal of "Afterschool For All By 2010" in St. Louis is very encouraging. You can see in the overview of the Summit results and an update on activities and actions that have occurred since the Summit that much progress has been made. It is important that we continue to translate our shared commitment into action.

I plan to reconvene the Summit participants this year for an update and additional input into the next phase of developing a coordinated system of afterschool programs in the City of St. Louis. If you would like to update your information or include additional Participants, please contact St. Louis For Kids at 241-0011, or jacksonr@stlouis4kids.org.

Thank you for your interest in making "Afterschool For All By 2010" a reality in the City of St. Louis.

Sincerely,


Francis Slay
Mayor

Mayor's Afterschool Summit Update

January 2006

The Summit – Setting the Stage:

On September 29, Mayor Francis Slay convened 200 area political, civic, business, religious and education leaders, providers, parents and youth to begin the work of creating a coordinated system of afterschool programs for St. Louis youth. The purposes of the Summit were to:

- Increase awareness of the benefits of afterschool programs and the need for a coordinated system of afterschool programs in St. Louis,
- Present an example of a successful afterschool system and how it was developed in San Diego, CA, and
- Offer key stakeholders the opportunity to provide input and participate in developing the system.

The agenda included remarks by Mayor Slay, St. Louis School Superintendent Dr. Creg Williams, St. Louis for Kids Executive Director, Jama Dodson, and keynote speaker Sandra McBrayer of San Diego, CA. Following the keynote, Summit participants broke into groups and discussed a series of focus questions designed to elicit critical issues pertinent to creating an afterschool system for children/youth in St. Louis.



In his introductory remarks, Mayor Slay challenged the community to work toward the goal of “Afterschool for All by 2010”. In moving toward this goal, Mayor Slay announced the appointment of Jama Dodson, to his Commission on Children, Youth and Families.

Superintendent Williams emphasized his support of the Mayor’s “Afterschool for All” challenge noting the need for access by all city children/youth including those attending private, parochial and county schools.

Keynote speaker Sandra McBrayer described San Diego's efforts in building a system of afterschool programs in every elementary and middle school in that city. Among the key elements that led to their success included:

- Commitment and visible leadership of the Mayor and other political leaders;
- Collection and utilization of a wide variety of different types of data and research to illustrate the value of afterschool programs to diverse sectors of the community;
- Collaboration, networking and partnering by non-traditional groups to create a comprehensive system;
- Leveraging diverse funding sources to finance the effort; and
- Advocates who will not accept "no" for an answer.



The Summit - Participants Have Their Say

Summit participants then met in breakout groups to participate in a visioning session. The groups were all asked to respond to a series of focus questions based on a future scenario in which a system was in place and "Afterschool for All By 2010" had been achieved. The questions and responses are recorded below:

Question #1: Who were the key stakeholders involved?

- School Districts – St. Louis Public Schools, private and parochial schools
- City Government
- Youth Service Providers – (Youth Development Provider Network community neighborhood-based programs)
- Funders – Public and Private

Question #2: How was the system funded?

- State and federal funding – earmarks, creative sources such as nutrition, tax dollars, casino tax money, dedicated tax for afterschool programs
- Business partnerships/leveraged dollars, RCGA, Civic Progress, companies that make products that target youth
- Social entrepreneurship by programs to create stable revenue streams
- Foundations, nation and local

Question #3: What were the barriers?

- Lack of unifying strategic plan with coordinated system, specific outcomes/impact, timelines and accountability
- Different organizational philosophies, turf issues, benefits of working together not clear, lack of incentives to partner
- Failure to move toward action

Question #4: What Infrastructure and Broader Systems were necessary?

- Accepted Quality Standards and Quality Assurance Monitoring
- Centralized Data Management Outcomes Evaluation
- Strong Intermediary Organizations –To keep stakeholders focused (St. Louis for Kids)
- Formal partnerships/subcontracts between youth organizations working together toward a common goal
- Governing board of afterschool stakeholders responsible for implementing plan for 2010 (i.e. long term entity that renews members & keeps everything together neutral, independent, cross jurisdictional, able to receive public and private funds)

In addition to the workgroup outcomes, there were a number of important suggestions that emerged from the Summit participant's evaluations. Among the next steps recommended:

- Develop a city-wide strategic plan for an afterschool system
- Report to the community frequently
- Move quickly, from plans to action

A luncheon meeting following the Summit was well attended by thirty additional key



leaders from the family court system, law enforcement, the judicial system, higher education, health care, the arts, government, philanthropy and education.

The attendance, responsiveness, interest and evaluation results of the Summit indicate that it was successful in meeting its goals.

The Summit - The Agenda is Moving Forward

The positive outcomes from the Mayor's Summit have energized our community around the feasibility of a coordinated system of afterschool programs in the City of St. Louis by 2010. Since the Summit the following accomplishments have been made to propel us toward the achievement of this goal in the City of St. Louis:

- Mayor Slay has officially signed on to the national "Afterschool for All 2010" initiative of the Afterschool Alliance.
- Articles on St. Louis Mayor's Afterschool Summit have been featured in the local media and in the National League of Cities newsletter.
- A team from St. Louis visited Baltimore to learn more about the successful "Baltimore Afterschool Strategy" and how the lessons learned there can be utilized here.
- Jama Dodson, executive director of St. Louis for Kids and newly appointed member of the Mayor's Commission of Children and Youth, made a presentation on afterschool programs to the Commission at their meeting in November.
- At the request of the St. Louis Mental Health Board of Trustees Proposition K initiative, St. Louis for Kids has organized an Afterschool Planning Team scheduled to develop a comprehensive system plan and financing strategy for elementary schools in the City of St. Louis due in March 2006.
- The Mayor's Afterschool for All 2010 Steering Committee is working on completion of a strategic plan for a coordinated system of afterschool programs in the City of St. Louis
- ARCHS and St. Louis for Kids, both intermediaries, are developing a partnership model to work together to support a coordinated system of afterschool programs.

These accomplishments demonstrate the commitment and dedication needed to achieve our goal of "Afterschool for All By 2010" in the City of St. Louis. The Mayor's leadership and vision, the collaborative spirit from a broad cross-section of organizations and the belief that we must accomplish our goal for the children, make us all determined to make it happen.



If you have questions or comments please contact, Ron Jackson at 314/241-0011 or e-mail jacksonr@stlouis4kids.org

We look forward to your continued support. Thank you for all that you do for the children.

Mayor's Afterschool for All 2010 Task Force (Organizational members): ARCHS, Lawrence L. Cohn, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Incarnate Word Foundation, Jamison Memorial Human Resource and Development Agency, Mayor Francis Slay's Office, Missouri Botanical Garden, Public Policy Research Center – UMSL, St. Louis Mental Health Board of Trustees, St. Louis Public Schools, St. Louis Science Center, Urban FUTURES, YMCA of Metropolitan St. Louis.