



Memorandum

TO: ALL CHILDREN ACHIEVE
COMMITTEE

FROM: Sara L. Hensley

SUBJECT: PARENT INSTITUTE FOR
QUALITY EDUCATION
STATUS REPORT

DATE: 04-23-04

Approved

Date

RECOMMENDATION

Accept this status report on Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) services.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update to the All Children Achieve (ACA) Committee on the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE), a City of San José's Bringing Everyone's Strengths Together (B.E.S.T.) funded program and to report on other City grant funded parent education involvement programs.

BACKGROUND

The Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) is a non-profit community based organization that has been serving San José parents since 1996. In 1999 PIQE was identified through the B.E.S.T. Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process as a qualified service provider with the capacity and expertise to provide parent education involvement services and was thereby deemed eligible to contract with the City to provide these services. PIQE is currently providing B.E.S.T. funded services for the fourth consecutive year.

At the May 8, 2003 All Children Achieve Committee meeting Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) staff provided an update on the parent education involvement services delivered by PIQE to San José parents during the previous three school years, from FY 2000-2001 through FY 2002-2003. PRNS was asked to continue providing annual updates to the ACA Committee.

In FY 2003-2004 PIQE continued to provide a structured nine-week program to parents of targeted youth at B.E.S.T. identified schools. These programs educate parents on: a) how the school system functions; b) academic standards set for each grade level; c) parent/teacher

communication; d) college and career options available to their children; e) parent/child communication; and f) building their child's self-esteem. PIQE added a new Teacher education component this year to help teachers communicate better with parents to involve them in their child's education. In collaboration with Stanford Research Institute, PIQE developed and piloted the Teacher Workshop. This six-hour workshop is designed to help teachers learn strategies for involving parents in a meaningful, effective way. Teachers review strategies to conduct a successful parent-teacher conference; how to discuss with parents grade level expectations and academic standards; all with a special emphasis of working with minority and immigrant parents. In FY 2003-2004 PIQE plans to provide training to 15 teachers.

The B.E.S.T. evaluator, Community Crime Prevention Associates (CCPA) conducted a Needs Assessment Survey in January of 2003 asking San José's youth service providers, children and their parents what services they felt were most important. The "Respondents agreed, regardless of the region of San José in which they reside, that assisting parents to work with their children to solve problems is the greatest service need in the strength and skill building category of services." These survey results support the City's direction of incorporating parent education involvement services into its service delivery strategy for youth and families. Because of these overwhelming results, B.E.S.T. staff directed all of its agencies funded in FY 2003-2004 to work toward incorporating more services for parents into their programs. As a result, more San José parents are receiving instruction and support in how to help their children succeed in school.

ANALYSIS

This report provides an update on the parent education involvement services to be delivered by PIQE to San José parents for FY 2003-2004. This report also includes San José B.E.S.T. funded agencies and other City funded programs that addressed this need in FY 2003-2004.

PIQE

Parents Served:

- PIQE served 1,406 parents in FY 2002-2003, 95% of goal
- PIQE projects to serve 1,380 parents and 15 teachers in FY 2003-2004

Funding:

- \$40,000 from B.E.S.T. in FY 2003-2004
- \$120,000 raised by PIQE in additional non-City funding in FY 2003-2004 as a match to B.E.S.T.-funded services

School Collaboration:

- PIQE worked very closely with schools to assist them in their parent outreach and involvement efforts. School districts and individual schools participate in the program from the outset of each service cycle by providing a funding match,

negotiating when and where services will be provided, involving the school principals in each workshop, and making school facilities available. PIQE also connected parents with school resources by distributing a list of their school's resources to parents and inviting the school staff to be present at the workshops.

- School sites were chosen based on a number of factors including B.E.S.T. targeted schools, school matching fund availability, scheduling, and interest in the program. PIQE is currently providing B.E.S.T. funded services at 14 San José elementary, middle and high schools.

Evaluation Results:

- The Final B.E.S.T. Evaluation showed PIQE at 95% of goal for FY 2002-2003
- PIQE is currently performing its services on target and has provided 45% of the contracted goals for the first half of FY 2003-2004

Other City Funded Parent Involvement Programs

- In the spring of 2003 B.E.S.T. staff directed all of its agencies to be funded in FY 2003-2004 to work toward incorporating more services for parents into their programs. As a result an additional 19 of the 35 agencies funded through B.E.S.T. are currently providing some form of parent education or involvement programs to 1,375 parents. Added to PIQE's FY 2003-2004 goal of 1,380 parents this makes a total of 2,755 parents projected to be served through the B.E.S.T. program this fiscal year. Parent Involvement Services offered through the B.E.S.T. program provide curriculum-based workshops for parents of gang-involved youth or youth involved in risky behaviors on how to better display emotional and instrumental support. Topics may include effective parent negotiation and communication skills, family management, and social competencies. These services also provide training to human service workers helping them develop skills to improve the way they work with parents.
- In FY 2003-2004 the Healthy Neighborhoods Venture Fund (HNVF) contracted with a number of agencies that provide some kind of parent involvement component in their programs. Currently there are at least eight HNMF funded programs providing direct services to parents. These programs provide training to parents in healthy parenting skills, early literacy education, and a variety of family support services.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The B.E.S.T. Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process was conducted during spring 2000 to establish a list of eligible service providers for B.E.S.T. funded services for FY 2000-2003. Parent Involvement Services was included in the list of desired Eligible Services.

All Children Achieve Committee

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COST IMPLICATIONS

There are no general fund cost implications associated with this memo.

SARA L. HENSLEY
Director of Parks, Recreation
and Neighborhood Services