



ADVOCACY &  
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SOLUTIONS, LLC



# Little Rock Master Plan for Children, Youth, and Families Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

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June 2015

On June 2, 2015 the Little Rock's Master Plan for Children, Youth, and Families Advisory Committee met for the second time to guide the development of a Master Plan for Children, Youth, and Families.

The consulting team of Advocacy & Communication Solutions, LLC, Social Justice Institute at Philander Smith College, and the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation presented several items to the advisory committee to help them think about goal setting. These included the following:

- An updated youth data sheet
- A local environmental scan
- A youth and community engagement overview

The advisory committee made the following observations and requests (*and the consultant team is responding per the information below*):

- Communication and awareness is critical for the Master Plan process. The advisory committee expressed concerns that the community was not aware of the process.
  - *The consultant team is working with the City to ensure that the city puts a communication plan in place and that it is implemented.*
- The youth data sheet should include schools other than Little Rock School District (charter and private schools) and the poverty data should be disaggregated by geography, age, and race/ethnicity.
  - *The consultant team will include additional data in the youth data sheet.*
- The advisory committee wondered if the current schedule of youth meetings would gather a representative sample.
  - *Per the request of the advisory committee, a review will be conducted of currently scheduled youth engagement to determine if more meetings need to be held or if existing meetings can be canceled and held in different locations in order to reach an even more diverse set of youth. While originally the plan was to conduct 8-10 community conversations,*

*13 are currently scheduled in addition to a planned survey of the 600+ youth employment participants.*

- The advisory committee needs to better understand the state of current programs funded by the Prevention, Intervention and Treatment (PIT) funds.
  - *The City will share data and develop a presentation detailing what the City programs currently look like and how the programs are doing in general. The presentation will include the following:*
    - *Funded programs, who those programs serve, program geography, and program outcomes.*
    - *Any plans (under discussion or near implementation) to change current initiatives or launch new initiatives.*
- The environmental scan should include information from the Little Rock School District.
  - *The consultant team will interview a set of individuals and include additional data from the Little Rock School district in the scan.*
- The City should have a process for adding to, and viewing information included in the environmental scan.
  - *The City will upload a searchable PDF of the scan on its website. A form will be developed for submissions to be made for additional programs to be added to the scan. Those forms would be submitted to a designated Community Programs staff person who would add programs on a monthly basis.*
- The Master Plan should include capacity building, support and training for individuals who work with youth.
- The entire Little Rock community needs to be held accountable for the outcomes of youth. There needs to be clarification on the roles of the Commission for Children, Youth, and Families, City staff, and the Board of Directors.
- There are limitations to the Master Plan if it does not address the 0-5 age group.
- The advisory committee would like additional discussion and more time to set the goals and strategies for the Master Plan.
  - *Extended meeting time and new meeting dates will be set to ensure there is enough time in the process for these and other discussions.*

### **IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS**

The consultant team will follow up with the following items:

- The consulting team will poll the advisory committee to determine additional meeting dates for the advisory committee. Once confirmed, ACS will notify the advisory committee.
- The consulting team will provide additional information and inputs to the advisory committee as they are available on a bi-weekly basis.
- The consulting team will provide status updates on the requests listed in this summary as they are available on a bi-weekly basis.