Bringing Fun to ALL Families

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Agenda

- Each organization presents their program and experience.
- Talk to your neighbors!
- Q&A
Providing Opportunities for Play

Provide passes to organizations that serve children and families in the community, especially those with special needs, social barriers, or financial disadvantage.
Providing Opportunities for Play

WHY?

• Calls from organizations that are looking for some discounted “organizational membership”.
  o Don’t fit into corporate passes.
  o Don’t fit into family membership.
  o Don’t fit into group visits.
Providing Opportunities for Play

Each org tracks:
- # of passes distributed
- the family’s zip code
- whether it’s their first visit
- reasons for distribution.
## Providing Opportunities for Play

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th># of passes distributed</th>
<th># of passes used</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thom Child and Family Serv.</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorchester House</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Boston Neighborhood</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Shore Mental Health</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fathers’ Uplift</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Providing Opportunities for Play

• Most organizations gave out all passes.
  • Families who came had a good time.
  • If the organization is more engaged with us, they put more efforts to encourage families to use the passes.
• Not many families used the passes.
  • Transportation.
  • Tracking the pass.
  • Organizations’ internal situations
  • Form-based evaluation.
Providing Opportunities for Play

Build more trust and have in-person relationships.

Reduce “forms”.
Providing Opportunities for Play

Application

Mid-term Eval

Final Eval

15 min

Just track how many passes have been distributed
- whether it’s the family’s zip code
- whether it’s their first visit
- reasons for distribution.

Orientation
Providing Opportunities for Play

POP program now...

- Communication has improved – more pass usage overall.
- Sense of connection and participation go down in latter half of the year.
- New organization, change in organization situation affect the usage.
Providing Opportunities for Play

POP program future...

- Let new organizations to try out and have individual relationship to decide most appropriate pass amount for the next year.

- More grant opportunities.
Providing Opportunities for Play

Funding

• Grant (John Hancock)
• $5000+
Goals
1. To get more “hard to reach” or isolated families to the Museum
2. To get more user voice into exhibits and programs

Strategy
• Identify parent leaders in Boston neighborhoods
• Give them a FREE membership to bring other families
• Involve them in Museum exhibit and program planning
Challenges

• Unclear Expectations – recruitment, hours spent

• Museum bureaucracy – are they “members” or “volunteers”?

• Feeling like “others” – including them in fundraising events

• Accepting them as advisors and valuing their experiences – regardless of formal education
Changes

• Added an application and interview component

• Time commitment – 2 year max

• Require their involvement in a “working group”

• Start as a cohort
Budget = $20k

- Manager/Coord @ 20%
- Memberships
- Parking for meetings
- Food for meetings
- Printing/copying
- M&S

Funding
- Foundation seed money
- Corporate
- Mission
Long Island Children’s Museum
Be Together, Learn Together Program
The Be Together, Learn Together program was a partnership of the Long Island Children's Museum, Nassau County Department of Health and Human Services and Nassau County Family Court. This program was federally funded through the Institute of Museum and Library Science (IMLS) and was designed to help children and families who were served by Nassau County social service agencies.
Creation of BTLT

• No Wrong Door Policy - 2005
• DHHS and Nassau County Family Court Approach LICM

• Providence Children’s Museum as model
• Program fit within mission of museum and pre-existing LICM programs
BTLT Program Components

- Subsidized tickets
- Adoption Day
- Supervised Visits at the Museum
- Museum facilities available for meetings
- Weekly Family Activities at DHHS
- Caseworker training
- Advisory Committees
- Parenting Workshops
- DHHS Staff Appreciation Nights
- Redesign of Supervised Visitation Rooms
- Children’s Library
- Various Drives for Coats, books etc…
- Evaluation of program
Welcome Center Activities
Supervised Visitation Rooms

Room #1 Before

Room #1 After
Supervised Visitation Rooms

Room #1 Before

Room #1 After
Supervised Visitation Rooms

Room #2 Before

Room #2 After
Supervised Visitation Rooms

Room #2 Before

Room #2 After
Children’s Library at DHHS Welcome Center

Before
Children’s Library at DHHS Welcome Center

After View #1
Children’s Library at DHHS Welcome Center

After View #2
Challenges

- Evaluation of program
- Documentation of program
- Confidentiality
- Understanding how your partnering organization functions

- Partnering with organizations that have an extremely high work load
- Creating sustainable programs and changes
Lessons Learned

• Find allies in local organizations
• Partner with community providers who already have relationships with DHHS
• Remember many of the organizations you are partnering with are dealing with crises

• The needs are great and can be overwhelming—work with the museum’s strengths to address needs.
• Connect with other museums working on similar programs—they are a resource and a support system.
• Be Persistent and Patient
Possible topics for the conversation...

• Are you hoping to start similar programs? What are you hoping to get out of this session?
• Benefits and challenges to apply any of the aspects of presented programs in your organization.