

DREAM Board Meeting Agenda

July 26, 2006
DREAM Office
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Chair Report

(old business and new business)
Chair, Jon Harris
(5:30pm)

Q & A*

(answers to questions brought up through homework)
Executive Director, Mike Loner
(5:50 pm)

Discussion #1: Board's Top Priorities

Bree Dessault (Jon Harris will be subbing in for her)
(6:10)

Great job on the retreat everyone! Bree summarized the discussion into “Top Priorities” and fodder for Ends work. The goal (and challenge!) of this discussion will be to 1) agree upon a final list of priorities, and 2) distill all priorities further into proper policy (EL/Ends/Policy Governance).

Talking Points

- Which of these priorities are results (Ends), and which are means (Executive limitations. (one priority can contribute to both Ends and EL)
- Which stakeholders are excluded from our Ends Policy

I have included a copy of Bree's notes and our current Ends policy to help with this discussion.

Discussion #2: Camp Advisory Board

Executive Director – Mike Loner
6:40

Talking Points: Camp DREAM has potential for an advisory board

- What purpose would an advisory board serve?
- How could an advisory board benefit camp?
- Who would be on the advisory board?

Comments from the July 2006 Homework

2) Executive Directors Report: May 2006:

- Great news and work - Camp is taking giant steps and D-units sound energized as usual.
- Sounds like everyone got real creative with the camp road damage - great news!!!. Also- with Justine, is there any way she can make sure this gets replicated or expanded for next summer? Perhaps this can be a multi-year project with her?
- Very exciting! Can I mention that I am so excited and proud and pumped to see the DREAM team here at Ben & Jerry's this week, helping us with a mentoring project here in the company? So great to Mike, Mike, Chris and Kristin in their DREAM gear, pumping up the crowd!

3) New Monitoring Policy – EL 4 and Ends 3

EL 4.1 Accepted

- I don't know much about how the VISTA program works, but should they also be taken into consideration in this EL? Is there any way to supplement the income or benefits provided by Americorps? I imagine there is quite a gap between the ED and the temporary VISTA employees – there may be no way around this, but if the organization is to become less dependant on VISTA staff, it may be worth also discussing the salaries and benefits of the entry-level jobs.

EL 4.2 Accepted

EL 4.3 Accepted

Ends 3.1 Accepted with condition

- This is obviously a difficult End to measure, and it looks like at the overall program level you can report positively based on parent surveys. However, I think the difference between the different locations is the most interesting thing to explore here. Would it be possible to have a report specifically on parent engagement from each community – what works, what doesn't, etc. Perhaps then we could identify some things that staff or volunteers might be able to do in Armory, for example, to increase parental social involvement. Another thought for the future – by neighbors do we only mean the parents of other DREAM participants? Because I think it would be very interesting to also conduct a survey of community members who have no direct connection to DREAM and see what their assessment of the impact of the program is.
- How often are LABs held, how have they been adding to the program, and what challenges lie ahead for them next year? How do you plan to improve the less active labs?
- Where does the line between DREAM's involvement with parents/families end and other service organizations (Casey family services, etc) begin. Related to these ends - how much can DREAM accomplish before it needs to stop, recognize its limited resources, and let other service org's take over?

Ends 3.2 Rejected

- I agree that the second survey question is more important at this stage – it may be too much to expect that parents will have the time and energy to actively take part in running programs, but as long as they feel like their input is well received they can influence how programs are run.
- Bree: Maybe we, as a board, should define what "running DREAM" means. I envision it as parents contributing to the design and execution of DREAM programming, perhaps via LABs and mentor relationships. If this is the case, I'd like to learn a little more about this aspect of parental involvement and whether Mike thinks it meets standards.
- The wording "actively engaged in the running of DREAM" implies some sort of governance over the organization. Is this what we mean? From your report Mike, it sounds like parents are actively engaged in their local programs. Is there any room to be more specific here? I would suggest we change policy to more closely reflect what DREAM is trying to accomplish. Pete should consider this for his "Family" Ends.
- This comment applies to all of the parents' ends... Do the results dictate that the group find other ways to pull in parents, encourage group activity?

4) Re-Monitoring Policy

None

5) Board Proposals

A) Bree Dessault: Follow up to Board Retreat - Rejected

- Mike: Hey Jonny, I didn't see the list of potential priorities at the end of this doc but would definitely love to put some time into thinking about them (esp. considering their importance for next year!). I won't have time before the meeting b/c of this program host gig, but would appreciate a chance to give input here...
- I am bummed I missed this day and discussion, and am looking forward to talking more about these priorities, which look great. One thought after reading through the notes – for retaining children and increasing their influence, would it be possible to set up a cross community youth advisory board, where a young leader from each community is nominated to participate in regular meetings and events, including providing their input and vision for the future of DREAM? Does anything like this already exist?

B) Jon Harris – Incorporating Camp discussion into Policy

- Mike: Jonny, I think this is a solid first draft, woohoo! We need to put a lot of "to"s after "the ED shall not fail..." I think the policy intro is good but needs a little fine tuning to be completely clear. I would add to 11.2 something to the effect of "and follow all other requirements as specified in the town permit." Let's

see...a period should go before "Accordingly" in the first paragraph. I would love to see something in here about us remaining aware of what is happening on adjacent properties. Maybe something about having strategic, long range planning when it comes to both program and site development? The emergency management bullet...maybe something like "To train staff in a current emergency management plan." And a separate bullet saying that "Shall not fail to ensure that adequately trained emergency medical staff are present at all Camp events." Lastly (well, probably not :)), I think an edge our Camp has is it's continual pursuit of highly creative programming and site development and I would like to see creativity continue to be a filter through which all projects pass...will this effectively stretch our children's imaginations and excite/engage them beyond what any other camp can offer.

- 11.1 – Perhaps we should discuss or indicate in policy exactly what types of accreditation or certification we are referring to (environmental impact, safety, public access, etc). If this added substantially to the expense of managing the property, would this still be a priority? How will “highest” or “applicable” be determined? I really like certification programs like LEED (green buildings) and FSC (forest management) and think they are valuable means of ensuring and rewarding responsible actions, but they can be a financial burden, and 11.4 may capture the same intent with the more broadly defined “best practices.”
11.2 – Also confused about advisory boards. Is this as required by regulation, or establishing a local advisory board to guide the use of the land (a great idea, but a substantial institutional investment)?
11.3 – Typo – “to build”
11.7 – Typo – replace “and have” with “to”
- The new policy looks great. I think that: EL 11.7 The ED shall not fail have and train staff in emergency management - should be switched around. Maybe: the ED shall not fail to assure that staff is trained in emergency management
- EL 11.6 The ED shall not fail to adequately maintain property assets, including tools, facilities, gear and the physical property. (Is the property technically covered by 11.1?)