



FAITH'S FRIDAY FLASH

NORTH GA GLRS

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FOCUS ON ACTION PLANS/ INTERVENTIONS

There were many of you that were not able to join us for the Elluminate Session on Thurs., Mar. 19. Lois Myers, who is a consultant for Pioneer RESA as a school improvement specialist, did an outstanding presentation regarding Action Plans. She discussed how to align your school improvement plan and action plan and she emphasized some definite "dos" on our Action Plan.

I would highly encourage everyone to view the archived session that can be found on the Coaches website and I thank you again, Lois, for sharing your expertise. Lois also indicated that if you have some specific questions please email to me and I will post the questions and her answers for you to review.

By April 15th, I would like for each Coach to submit their updated Action Plans.

That will give me a day to review before the April 16th Elluminate Session. During the session I plan to share several of the plans with you and open the session for discussion regarding the plans. Don't worry ; I'll let Coaches know ahead of time if their Plan is one that will be shared! Which brings me to another topic concerning the Elluminate Sessions. Those of you that have your microphones up and working have really made the sessions so much more interactive. Laura Brown made sure that all coaches received quality headphones with the attached microphone. Please arrange to have yours ready to go for the Session on Apr. 16th; I want us all to be able participate in the discussion regarding Action Plans.

Please keep in mind Dr. Bost's suggestions as you continue to refine your Action Plans: Make sure that:

- There is clarity/ specificity
- Measurement (data) equals your interventions you plan to implement
- There is a match between your strategies and activities
- Who is responsible/your point person for activities?
- Your plan has told a story



NOTE!

The website for coaches can be found at www.pioneerresa.org. Note additions of Implementation Plan and revised Action Plan form and example. Please check frequently; we are continuously adding updates as we listen to your suggestions

See Page 2 for some suggestions when working with your teams on your Action Plans.

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IMPORTANT DATES!



Mar. 31, 2008– March Activities Logged

April 15, 2008-Action Plan due to Faith (Submit Electronically just for review)

April 16- Elluminate Session (2:00-3:00)

April 22-23, 2008 Coaches training in Cleveland, GA. (Apr. 22 @10:00; Apr. 23 @8:30) I will include a list of lodgings in upcoming newsletter).

MAY 1, 2008-FINAL ACTION PLAN DUE

Develop Strategic and Action Plans:
Quick Tips: A Successful Planning Process

***Adapted from An Action Planning Guide for
Community-Based Initiatives, the University of Kansas Work Group on
Health Promotion & Community Development***

Be inclusive

Good planning is active and inclusive. Seek out key players with diverse viewpoints on the problem or issue. Once a diverse group of important players is at the table, it is important to get them to communicate with each other. Effective leaders often call on silent members during pauses in the discussion. They convey the value of each person's voice on the issues. Occasionally, it may be necessary to discourage an overly enthusiastic member from talking too much or dominating meetings. Leaders may do so by thanking them for their comments and indicating the importance of hearing from other members of the group.

Manage conflict

If the group is effective in attracting diverse views, conflict among members may result. Group facilitators can recognize differences, perhaps noting the diverse experiences that give rise to divergent views. To resolve conflicts, leaders may attempt to elevate the discussion to a higher level on which there may be a basis for agreement. By reminding the group that we all share the vision of a healthy community, leaders can help members find common ground.

Use brainstorming rules

Group facilitators must avoid making judgments about ideas and suggestions. Brainstorming rules apply. All ideas must be heard and noted without criticism.

Be efficient

Planning meetings must be efficient, starting and ending on time. It is helpful to have an agenda or to build a consensus at the beginning of the meeting about what will be accomplished and in what time frame.

Communicate products of planning

Planning will result in a useful product. Try to structure every planning session so that it results in a product, such as a list of issues or ideas. Show off the product at the end of planning meetings, distributing copies of the products of planning to all members.

Provide support and encouragement

Finally, it is important to provide support and encouragement throughout the process of planning. Good planning takes time; it usually requires months to produce a detailed plan of action. Acknowledge the contributions of all participants, especially key leaders. Let the group know when it is doing a good job. Positive feedback feels good, particularly to those who are used to being criticized for their work.