Georgetown County Out of School Time (GCOST) Collaborative – Progress Report - 2015

**GCOST is on a FY that aligns with the school year 2015-16. They will review and revise their strategic plan in May. This is an interim report for them.**

**Goal 1: <u>Quality Programs</u> -To increase the quality, accountability, and sustainability of out of school time programs in Georgetown County.**

Objective 1: Develop a plan for implementing a quality assessment process for interested GCOST members.

- <u>Objective accomplished</u>: Two member organizations of GCOST plan to pilot the NYSAN quality assessment process beginning in January 2016.

Objective 2: Enlist at least 5 member organizations to participate in at least one collaborative grant opportunity.

- <u>Progress on objective</u>: Cultural Council is planning to partner with GCOST member organizations to collaborate on arts education projects.

Objective 3: Review and share existing county data that describe the condition of children and youth.

- <u>Progress on objective:</u> David Almonte, director of student information, has joined GCOST and is working with members to address this objective.

Objective 4: Participate as partners with the Georgetown County Achieves Together (GCAT) collective impact initiative to improve student outcomes cradle to career.

- <u>Objective accomplished:</u> Chairman of GCOST, Eric Spatz, is a member of the GCAT Committee. He is acting as a liaison between GCAT and GCOST. Several member organizations of GCOST have signed partnership agreements to join GCAT.

Objective 5: Provide support and guidance to increase the use of evidence-based programs in the county.

- <u>Progress on objective</u>: Formed a stronger relationship with the SC Afterschool Alliance and have benefitted from their addition of an outreach coordinator, who is keeping local collaborative groups informed about the use of evidence-based out-of-school time programs in the county.

**Goal 2: <u>Community Awareness</u> - To increase community awareness of the importance of out of school programs and support programs in Georgetown County.**

Objective 1: Hold an annual advocacy event that calls attention to the benefits of out of school time programs.

- Annual advocacy event, *Lights on Afterschool*, was cancelled for October 2015 due to the flood in October

Objective 2: Develop an agenda with area groups to advocate for children and youth on a local, state, and national level.

- <u>Progress on objective</u>: The relationship with the outreach coordinator from the SC Afterschool Alliance has improved the ability of local out of school time programs to learn about state and federal legislation that affect them.

Members recently responded to an advocacy alert by sending emails to members of the SC House of Representatives regarding recommendations for schools with high percentages of student populations that fall into poverty designations. They also sent emails to South Carolina's US Senators and Congressmen regarding summer feeding programs.

Objective 3: Develop and implement a process for demonstrating the effectiveness of out of school time programs and services to increase student achievement.

- Progress on objective: Plans are developing to coordinate these efforts by working with GCAT Community Action Networks and by creating their own method of demonstration effectiveness of out of school time programs to increase student achievement.

Objective 4: Implement at least one marketing campaign that conveys to the community the effectiveness of quality out of school time programs and services in Georgetown County.

- No reported progress on this objective for GCOST; however, some member organizations have greatly improved their marketing campaigns.

**Goal 3: <u>Training Opportunities</u> - Increase the training opportunities for staff and volunteers in out of school time programs in Georgetown County.**

Objective 1: Assess the training resources and training needs for staff and volunteers in out of school time programs and services

- Progress on Objective: Plan is in place to accomplish this objective prior to the next GCOST training meeting.

Objective 2: Survey PK-12 teachers and staff to determine how out of school time programs can support school-age children and youth.

- Progress on objective: GCOST members are planning to create a survey to address this objective.

Objective 3: By partnering with local organizations and sponsoring our own events, provide substantial training opportunities for members of GCOST at least once per year.

- Objective accomplished: GCOST held a well-attended (about 50 people) training session in March 2015 titled, "Together Developing a Future for Georgetown County." They also held a Summer Networking party.

**Goal 4: <u>Program Attendance</u> - Increase the number of children attending quality out of school time programs in Georgetown County.**

Objective 1: Monitor the program capacity of out of school time programs as compared to the total number of school age children in Georgetown County schools.

- Progress on objective: Members of GCOST will work with David Almonte, of GCSD, to address this objective.

Objective 2: Continue to explore the barriers to out of school time participation and develop plans to overcome them.

Progress on objective: Members of GCOST are planning to meet with GCSD senior staff to address barriers to the collaboration between the two groups.