

Minute 17

Gedam Sefer Community and University Partnership

Place: Bethlehem Public School

Date: Saturday February 13th 2008

Time: 9:15 AM- 12:00 AM

Present:

1. Mulu Yeneabat Gedam Sefer Community University Partnership
2. Betemichel Markos Gedam Sefer Community University Partnership
3. Mawura Bucci Gedam Sefer Community University Partnership
4. Elias Debebe School of Social Work MSW 2nd Student

Children (39)

Children's Discussion about Community and Children's Strengths and Gaps Preparation on how to present their findings to their parents on Saturday February 16

The Project Coordinator represented the children's findings and their presentation to the Idir and Community elders. The children's committee members also asked their colleagues if they have ideas that they did not raise on the previous discussions. The children explained that the issues discussed by their previous meetings are many and should focus on them, and agreed that it is better to present them to their parents as what they did to the Idir and community elders.

The Coordinator asked the children to forward ideas on how to present it to their parents. Some children suggested to present their community's and the children's strengths, gaps and solutions as they did it previously. But the majority of them said that, this will take too much time and there are possibilities of not remembering them. Others also argued that some of the children might not be bold enough to speak about the community's gaps, particularly concerning parenting gaps, since their parents may take it as if it is directed against them. After a hot discussion among themselves, they agreed that 6 representatives should prepare all of the issues that have been discussed up to now. The six representatives will divide the issues into three parts:

1. Gedam Sefer Community's and Children's strengths
2. Gedam Sefer Community's and Children's gaps
3. Possible solutions to the gaps

The children agreed that their colleagues in collaboration with the Gedam Sefer Partnership staff to prepare the issues and present it to their parents on Saturday. After each issue are presented all the children have the duty and obligation to add issues that might not be raised and also make clarifications. The six children elected to present their findings agreed to meet on Thursday at 3:00 PM to conduct a detailed discussion with the Partnership staff and to divide the issues among themselves.

The children agreed to invite their parents for Saturday and also asked the community outreach workers to give the invitation more weight.