

Minutes for Thursday August 24, 2023 Rising Scholars Team Meeting

Present: Oliver Goodman and Christian Davis (NPS); Vanessa; Bree; Daysy; Christy; Darrell; Camilo; Joseph; Cynthia

- I. National Park Service Collaboration
 - a. Three projects:
 - i. Oct visit to Alcatraz/RP Group conference
 - ii. Screening for Second Chance month
 - iii. Program in SD for FI families
 - b. Camping options: Oliver says families who are impacted by incarceration would be an option for free bussing and maybe an option for an overnight camping trip
- II. Gender issues in building and with the program
 - a. Vanessa feels like being proactive is critical and she suggested that Nora present the issue in a way like she did in this meeting
 - i. Talk to the women in the program like they're your sisters
 - b. Vanessa thinks that separating people by gender is best
 - i. Vanessa can talk to the women
 - ii. Darrell and Jesse can talk to the men
 - c. Daysy thinks that all peer mentors and staff should attend and speak on this subject
 - d. Vanessa brought up the need to protect the program
 - e. We should ask Patrick Savaiano to do a workshop
 - f. Camilo suggested we create a contract for new students and that the contract will address these issues
 - g. Darrell brought up how this is similar to dynamics inside - the culture of the space needs to be defined; this is a professional environment. It's important to approach this in a respectful way.
 - h. Daysy: This is not a locker room; it's a shared sacred space; we should talk about it at the beginning of tomorrow's meeting.
 - i. Actions:
 - i. Nora to kick off discussion at tomorrow's in-person check-in and peer mentors will take the lead
 - ii. Nora will reach out to Behavioral Health/Patrick Savaiano, who can facilitate a workshop about boundaries and gender relations/communication
1. Action Items from 8/17:
 - a. Joseph to create ground rules poster – to come
 - b. Vanessa to check with PS about possible dates – Nov. 4
 - c. Nora to contact Sue and John Walsh about boundaries workshop – Nora emailed Sue and John and is waiting for a response
 - d. Bree to make flyer to invite MiraCosta and CSUSM PR to check-ins – Bree sent two drafts; in process
 - e. Joseph has begun making a double-sided sign with building hours – one side of this is done and posted
 - f. Nora and Camilo to complete peer mentor fall schedule - done
 - g. Vanessa and Darrell to work on events committee agenda

- h. Cynthia to announce opportunity for students to join events committee
- i. Suggestion box for the building – Daysy to create