

Ladies and gentlemen of the council,

I am Marty Bell retired former Deputy Superintendent of the Jefferson County Schools. I am here tonight to address the reported reduction of Neighborhood Place Administrators.

Today a council member was quoted as saying something like “if we do not learn from our history we will likely relive it.”

History;

I was the JCPS representative in the development and evolution of NP. in 1990 when education reform passed which included FYRC's there was one sentence in the new law that said in effect all Health, and human resource providers were to collaborate with these newly formed FRYC's.

In many counties that would not have been a significant challenge because of the limited services available. In Jefferson County, we had significant coordination issues. At that time we had a City and County Government that struggled to work cooperatively. Three minutes does not allow me to describe all of the challenges it was for a family in need of community support to try to access State Social Services out of the L and N building, Seven County mental health services, City Department of health services, County social services out of Barret Ave., School system family support services and non-profit organization support services. It was a full time job for a family to obtain minimum level of support.

After months of discussion, the aforementioned agencies, decided we there were several principals we needed to pursue to meet the goals collaboration.

- 1) Providing coordinated services to families was the best avenue to maximize positive outcomes for families.**
- 2) Co-location was essential to building relationships between agency staffs so that coordinated family services could be maximized.**
- 3) Locating services in neighborhoods near schools was desirable to provide family friendly services.**

needed families.
allows the City to be described as a "compassionate community" for our
I have a very difficult time understanding how abandoning this important role

by.
partner organizations will slip back to their finger pointing silos of years gone
Administrator. Without the on-site facilitation/coordination, I believe the
continuing to provide the coordinating role of the Neighborhood Place
In my opinion, the mission of NP cannot be continued without the City

community.
had maximum opportunity to achieve success in life, in school and in the
and costs effectively provide coordinated services to families so that the family
agencies more money or to build large fiefdoms. It was created to efficiently
administrator position (thus no new staff). NP was not created to cost the
As we added each NP a County/City Social Worker position was converted to the
could redefine and designate for the position with no additional staff.

offered in Jeff. City. They also had a vacant Social Worker position that they
argument that it was their responsibility to facilitate/coordinate family services
place Administrator. The representative of the County made a very persuasive
So why did the County (at the time) now the City designate the Neighborhood
of the advisory council, and coordinate work with the surrounding community.
relationships among the various staff, manage the facility, coordinate the work
We quickly discovered to make it work we needed a person to build the

to facilitate a family focused service model.
model with volunteer staff from each organization and a lot of training on how
We started our first pilot at Thomas Jefferson Middle School. We started our
principals without added costs or added staff

- 5) All organizations who were collaborating pledged to meet the above profit service providers in the region.
- 4) Community Councils were essential to help design services for the designated community and would serve as an important link to the non-