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"BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS AMACHI" -- HISTORY, GROWTH AND EVALUATION

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WHY AMACHI?

- The growth of BBBS Amachi has been intentional on our part because BBBS needs to provide relevant services to connect with the community's most pressing needs.
- In the last 5 years, BBBS Amachi has become central to BBBS.



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BBBS AMACHI

- We use “BBBS Amachi” as our all-inclusive term for MCP matches, including those where Bigs come from faith organization partners.
- There are also a number of Amachi programs outside BBBS



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HISTORY/GROWTH

- John Dilulio, P/PV, Wilson Goode
- BBBS of SE Pennsylvania—over 400 matches and 45 church partners the first year. This started everything.
- Significant federal funding came and BBBS has received a significant % of this.



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HISTORY/GROWTH (cont.)

- BBBSA gave grants totaling \$1 million to 10 pilot agencies
- Amachi expanded to 121 of 416 BBBS agencies.





PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- Through the leadership of Rev. Mark Scott, we brought together agencies, gathered learnings, developed best practices, conducted trainings, used our BBBS network to learn and grow.



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EVALUATION

- Early P/PV Findings in BBBS of SE Pennsylvania.
We found that:
 - BBBS could deliver the program: the children; the Bigs; the churches.
 - Of 556 matches in the first two years, their average match length was similar to other matches.
 - 93% of Bigs and 82% of caregivers reported that the Littles had increased self-confidence.
 - About 60% of Bigs and caregivers said the child had an improved sense of the future.



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EVALUATION (cont.)

- According to an agency survey in January, 2006 we had reached 25,000 Amachi matches out of our total of 250,000 matches (10%).
- But we needed a much better system of counting and measuring results.



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EVALUATION (Cont.)

- AIM (Agency Information Management System)—This is data base and performance management system where eventually all individual files of all BBBS matches nationwide will be included.
- Now 88 of 416 agencies are covered by AIM which includes 40% of our matches for a data base of 100,000 matches including about 10,000 Amachi matches.



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EVALUATION (Cont.)

- As of 2007 we've established precise definitions and procedures for agency input of Amachi matches into AIM .



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EVALUATION (cont.)

- By late 2007 we will be using AIM to count Amachi matches precisely, and comparing Amachi matches with non-Amachi matches related to such metrics as Average Match Length, Retention Rate (% matches open at 6 months), application yield rate, and outcomes. More and more we'll also be describing qualities of Amachi and non-Amachi matches that last longer and have greater impacts as well as elements of program practice that lead to better performance.



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OUTCOMES

- With the help of Jean Rhodes, Jean Grossman, and Carla Herrera we're developing a more sophisticated and sensitive Outcomes Measure with a similar framework to Mentor's "Mentor PRO."
- We're especially interested in impacts related to Relationships, Academic Performance, and Risk Behaviors such as Violence Reduction.
- Testing of the measure will begin this summer and continue for a year.



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