Summary

**Attending**

Dr. Al Alba

Joan Ayotte

Jennifer Bryant

April Brown

Jason Colonies

Melanie LaMountain

Jane May

Sharon Miles

*Brady Dunklee, facilitating*

*Amanda Clarke, note-taking*

## 2015 Adult Education Project

Working Group: Connections

**Absent**

Cameron Ennis

Kristen McKenna

June 26, 2015

8:30-11:00 a.m.

RI Adult Ed. P.D. Center

Warwick, RI 02888

At its third meeting, the Connections Working Group reviewed its work at the previous meeting, discussed the history and prospects of networked service delivery models, and had small group and combined discussions refining the priority recommendations and action steps brainstormed earlier.

**Networking:**  The group discussed the definition of networks, and an introduction to network science for social impact shared by email. They noted that networking has a range of possible depths, and that it is distinct from the partnerships discussed around the Campus Compact partnership rubric, or from platforms for information sharing. They discussed the history of network development in RI Adult Education, and reasons these efforts have faltered, including scarce resources, competition for resources among partners, and difficulty building trust. They also discussed efforts at professional development for instructors, and asked how this might fit into a Connections framework.

**Recommendations and Action Steps:** The facilitator had prepared printed versions of the action steps brainstormed the previous week. In small groups, participants discussed, edited, refined, synthesized and evaluated these steps for SMARTness. They combined these around four working headings for priority recommendations. These are transcribed in an attachment, and fall under the categories of Program Design, Resources and Leadership (2 recommendations). Program Design focused on developing stronger partnerships with systems outside of AE. Resources recommended developing a division within the PDC or other entity that can pool funds and services, such as shared case management or a mobile classroom. Leadership suggested a number of methods for raising the field’s profile, securing collaborative leadership processes, and ensuring strong representation across systems. Leadership also recommended a strategic plan for equitable and coordinated distribution of services. The group agreed that another meeting is needed to refine these recommendations before a combined 3-group meeting aligns and synthesizes them.