



Steering Committee Meeting
May 22, 2019
Human Services

Present: Owen Cardwell, Lindsey Cawood, Keith Cook, MaryJane Dolan, Shawne Farmer, John Hughes, Debra Jefferson, Joan Phelps, Ruth Talian, and Veronica Washington

Absent: Joan Foster

April Minutes: April meeting minutes were reviewed. Debra motioned to approve minutes with a second from Veronica. April minutes were approved.

90 Day Meeting Recap: The general consensus was the meeting was good. Some would have liked to have more consumers (folks who need our help) attend. Others felt that not enough of the right people are helping—the professionals who can enact change in policies. There is definitely an inconsistency about who attends. Every meeting seems to have different folks which is something we have encountered before. There is usually a core group that makes every meeting. A discussion was held about whether the attendance and composition of the meeting would improve if it was held during the day. **Ruth will send out a doodle poll to the listserv asking about preferred meeting times (morning, afternoon, evening).**

Grant Discussion: The CDAC (Community Development Advisory Committee) is the group that will look over B2P taskforce grant proposals and make recommendations. CDAC is also the group that reviews proposals and decides the distribution of the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) and HOME Programs. Although CDAC usually only meets once a year when CDBG and HOME grant money is being allocated, they can be called together to review B2P grant proposals. John provided a template used for last year's grant process. **John and Lindsey will update the language to make it current for the steering committee to review.** The group doesn't want to delay this process so that the taskforces can apply for grants as soon as possible. This is a link to the CDAC page on the city website: <http://www.lynchburgva.gov/community-development-advisory-committee-cdac>. Melva Walker, the city liaison, said that Councilman Randy Nelson is Chair and Councilman Beau Wright is Vice Chair.

Taskforce Updates:

- **Childcare** taskforce is discussing with the Education Pre-K workgroup the possibility of merging and calling themselves the Early Childhood Taskforce. MaryJane would continue to be the Steering Committee liaison for this group.
- **Community** taskforce is experiencing some difficulty with interest and participation from the current group and so she will be the facilitator as well as the liaison for the time being. She discussed changing the direction and focus of

the taskforce to supporting Getting Ahead graduates with mentoring. Lindsey is considering some different ideas to propose and will be working in this direction. Lindsey was contacted by Margaret Schmitt regarding the feedback from the Thriving Communities discussion groups (a Poverty to Progress goal). Margaret sent it to Lindsey, and the information is being shared with the taskforces to see if any of the ideas can be incorporated in their goals.

- **Education** taskforce liaison, Owen Cardwell, is in support of the Pre-K workgroup moving to another taskforce. He is also suggesting that the trauma informed workgroup should consider merging with the Health/Mental Health taskforce. **Ruth is to provide Debra with contact information for Ashley Graham the trauma informed workgroup facilitator.** This would leave the K-12 workgroup which is currently working on providing training to Parks & Rec staff and volunteers with social and emotional training as the only group under Education. Lindsey expressed interest in getting more details about the training and who would be eligible to attend. Owen also talked about training that he feels needs to be provided to the community members to build capacity. Here is the Wikipedia definition of **capacity building**: *Capacity building (or capacity development) is the process by which individuals and organizations obtain, improve, and retain the skills, knowledge, tools, equipment and other resources needed to do their jobs competently.*
- **Faith** taskforce had their Poverty Data report out with John Abell, they are still working on the community dinner idea and have booked the Director of Human Services, Tamara Rosser, to be the September speaker for their speaker series.
- **Food Disparity** taskforce has two foci. The Oasis Project is working on market research (gathering data about what the non-profit grocery store should stock based on observations of what is bought by consumers currently in stores). The other goal is to support the Red Truck Ministry, a local food pantry.
- **Housing** taskforce is reviewing the housing studies and gathering data about programs.
- **Legal** taskforce is focusing on a re-entry clinic and completing the backpack pilot program.
- **Health/Mental Health** taskforce will be working on getting out in the community and communicating what resources are available. They are focusing on collaborating with the other taskforces.
- **Transportation** taskforce liaison, Joan Foster, was absent. No report.
- **Workforce** taskforce is currently working on a resource fair for a local employer who provides jobs for folks with criminal history. The company owner is concerned about the rate of turnover due to employees encountering difficulties with the usual barriers. The resource fair will be on site at the company with food provided and all sort of folks with information about services (including Social Services benefits) so that the employees can get all the support available to help them keep their job.

All of the committee members were in agreement that the taskforces really need to work together collaboratively on joint goals.

Next meeting: June 26, 2019 at 2 PM at Human Services.

