



Together We Achieve More

Poverty Solutions Team Board Minutes May 20, 2010

Attended by: David Alexander, Tina Carpenter, Denise Dean, Mark Dufva, Brunie Emmanuel, Tim Evans, Elizabeth Fayard, Frank Giammaria, Peggy Groves, Linda Moultrie, Jean Norman, Haley Richards, Susan Senkarik, Ty Steele for Carla Thompson, and Janice Thomas

I. Introductions and Welcome Guest

Janice Thomas

Haley Richards introduced Tina Carpenter as the new Poverty Solutions/Bridges to Circles VISTA until May 2011.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes

Janice Thomas

III. Bylaws and Guideline Review

Janice Thomas

The board members present reviewed the existing bylaws and the Unite Escambia Guidelines. The board then discussed the position of Secretary and would the bylaws change to accommodate an ex-officio position of Bridges to Circles community organizer to serve as an officer. After much discussion, the board decided to not amend the bylaws.

Jean Norman nominated Peggy Groves to be the Secretary in name only; Janice Thomas seconded, approved.

Elizabeth Fayard motioned to leave the bylaws as is as long as they coordinated with the Unite Escambia Guidelines; David Alexander seconded, approved.

IV. Cycling for Change & Poverty Proclamation

Mark Dufva/Elizabeth Fayard

Mark reported that the Cycling for Change event will raise awareness about poverty for Unite Escambia's Poverty Solutions Team and Bridges to Circles. Elizabeth provided the board with examples of the promotional materials to be used including a flyer and brochure. Mark explained the events to be scheduled for August 17 & 18, 2010: City council proclamation, segment rides for public to participate, attend Bridges to Circles weekly meeting, breakfast send-off, etc. The board discussed logistics, permits, liability, and groups who may be involved. City Councilman Sam Hall has championed this event and we are on the schedule for June 24th city council meeting. Others already involved include Rick Outzen, Pat Crawford, Bikes Plus. More details will follow as they become available.

V. Impact 100

Elizabeth Fayard/Mark Dufva

Elizabeth/Mark reported that this would be the third year to apply for this grant and funds would be supporting Bridges to Circles. We have been working on trying to figure out which is the best way to write the grant (agency vs. collaboration). Tim Evans and Brunie Emmanuel both agreed to participate in a brainstorming sessions for the grant.

VI. Support Team Updates

Training

Tim Evans

Tim reported he will be meeting with David Powell the following Thursday to ensure a smooth transition.

Volunteer Coordination

Peggy Groves

Peggy reported that she is still not inundated with emails from the website. Her presentation to the Democratic Women was very well received and they were very interested. Peggy followed up with an email but no firm commitment from the group yet.

Circles Leadership Team

Brunie Emmanuel

Brunie reported on the activities of the 5 sub-teams (Getting Ahead, Ally, Youth, Resources, Weekly Meeting). The Circles™ initiative is going through a developmental stage with Circle Leaders reaching the 18 month mark. We are in the process of formalizing the transition of Circle leaders becoming allies. Getting Ahead graduation celebration has added some rituals to Weekly Meeting. There is still the challenge of allies which is resulting in multiple Circle Leaders in a circle. Some things that have been added are Support Night, instill collective experiences, hidden rules, African American parenting class, transportation support. The board discussed replicating our model in Santa Rosa County and what that would look like. The next Getting Ahead class will start in September with the Orientation session in late August. Lastly, Patricia Parker is now the chair of the Youth Development team.

Education

Angela McCorvey

No Report

Exploitation

John Clark

No Report

Faith Based

David Alexander

David reported that the team met on the 29th and is continuing to follow-up with attendees who wanted training and presentations. The list of names was divided up among team members. Also reported was the status on the Getting Ahead fair specifically the food as incentive for attending and collaboration with another event. The board discussed the collaboration idea deciding to reach out to Linda English, ReImagine Brownsville. This made lead to recruiting allies from the faith-based groups attending the event.

Human Social Capital

Kathy Kerr

Janice reported for Kathy that transportation is the topic this action team will be focusing on for now. Kathy is working with Marilyn Wesley & ECAT as well as attending the Mass Transit Advisory Committee. The project pilot will be to gather true stories from people including Circle Leaders. The board also suggested that Kathy contact Tonya Ellis and Rhonda Grice.

Political/Economic Structures

Susan Nelms

Jean Norman reported on the success of the Bay Area Works CEO breakfast. 35 businesses leaders were in attendance and a few expressed an interest in partnering. The business case has been developed. The next step is fundraising (need \$300,000-\$350,000 per year for 3 years upfront).

Poverty Information Group

Kathleen Logan & Tim Evans

Tim reported that the radio spots are 6 weeks in and a couple will be swapped out for the remaining time. In order to have higher awareness, Tim will be contacting Cox media about airing the PSA video spot, "Poverty is Unacceptable", on Cox Cable channels. Also plans are in the works to help promote Cycling for Change, hosting community meetings, and Poverty Simulation for Candidates in the fall.

Resources

Randy Fleming

Mark started a discussion about who in the community has their eye on funding. Numerous local institutions were named; School District, UWF, PJC. The issue was brought about by the release of information regarding the Promise Neighborhoods. The idea of the local education agencies initiating a meeting of key grant writers when this type of information is sent out was discussed by the board.

Housing

Susan Senkarik

There are 100 new Section 8 housing units and 30 VASH vouchers for VETS available. Also Susan is taking the Financial Literacy workshops into the business community.

The board also decided to compile the Getting Ahead Community Assessment data in order to take to local leadership. David Alexander brought up the 2 year Delinquency Plan done by DJJ (approved by Tallahassee) also included a community assessment and tools. There is a town hall meeting scheduled for mid-September 2010.

Next Meeting June 17, 2010 at 3:30pm Chappie James Building