

Unite Escambia Poverty Solutions Team
Board of Directors Minutes
June 11, 2009

Present: David Alexander, Carolyn Appleyard, John Clark, Denise Dean, Ross Goodman, Peggy Groves, Estella Lee, Linda Moultrie, Donna Potts, Haley Richards, Don Suarez, Sophia Young, Jean Norman, recorder

Draft: 2009-2010 Goals

Goal 1: Reduce the number of people living below the federal poverty level in Escambia County by 50% , from 42,935 (15.8%-2006), including 16,918 children, to 21,467 (7.9%), including 8,459 children, by 2020.

By June 30, 2010 will:

- a. Identify and train 48 Circle Leaders and 150 allies
- b. Financial Stability Coalition to complete 1200 tax returns for low income
- c. Establish an IDA (Individual Development Account) with 10 participants
- d. Coordinate advocacy efforts addressing minimum of two barriers to self-sufficiency as identified by Circle Leaders
- e. Implement Bay Area Works
- f. Develop a sustainability plan
- g. Keep the Community Sustainability Grid and barriers to self-sufficiency as a focus
- h. Develop communications process so the Board of Directors is informed of work being done by the PST

Goal 2: Confirm 200 Poverty Solutions Team partners by communicating the Team's work and Bridges Out of Poverty concepts and language to the community by June 30, 2010.

Discussion:

- partner agreement form is not clear – need to simplify
- have entered about 45 partners; haven't captured the ones we have; more groups will be identified as partners; as expand partners, will expand resources
- it is important to keep recruiting and posting partners to see who is involved and makes sense to "count heads"
- Sustainability: consider getting loaned executives from business to assist with PST; could use an intern or apply for VISTA volunteer
- Confirm leadership of each support team; each support team to identify a goal for the year
- Each support team to be represented for the Big View discussion with Circle Leaders on the 4th Tuesday, 5:30-7:30, Sacred Heart Cathedral
- Need to separate speaking engagements on Circles from overall work of PST: Janet Westlake speaking focus is to recruit allies; Poverty Information Group to develop a speaker's bureau for overall PST

presentations with Haley's assistance; Haley to develop database of potential speaking engagements

- Training: full day of Bridges training scheduled June 25, 3:30-7:30, Olive Baptist, conducted by Marcia Nowlin; Tim to schedule a 2nd full day Bridges training in July; must have the full day to be eligible for the certification training
- Bridges and Frameworks certification training: July 29- August 1; Marcia Nowlin coordinating with Aha!Process and UWF.
- Tim Evans is available to do Bridges orientation for groups – ranging from 20 minutes to full day
- Peggy Groves, Volunteers, is taking pictures of volunteers for website
- John Clark, Exploitation, working with Rep. Ford on state legislation; taped one BLAB program, will schedule Bridges orientation for his team
- David Alexander, Faith Based, would like to invite ministers to attend existing events and streamline information for them
- Carolyn Appleyard, Poverty Information Group, planning to redo TV series and work with David Craig (Sheriff's Dept) to tape; suggested they may want to use Circle Leaders to expand communications to include media that connects with the poor such as northescambia.com and select radio stations
- Jean Norman, Bay Area Works, Workforce Escarosa engaged Listener Group to conduct employer survey of about 225 employers employing 50+; to begin by end of June
- All encouraged to advocate for \$.03 local option gas tax with county commissioners before the final vote is taken at the June 18, 5:30 meeting. Attend and speak in support if you.

Next Meeting: Thursday, July, 9, 3:30-5:00, Dorrie Miller Community Center, 2819 N. Miller Street