

Unite Escambia Poverty Solutions Team  
Board of Directors  
Minutes, August 13, 2009

Present: David Alexander, Carolyn Appleyard, Denise Dean, Mark Dufva, Randy Fleming (facilitator), Flack Logan, Kathleen Logan, Jean Norman, Haley Richards, Don Suarez, Brenda Trimble, Marilyn Wesley, Janet Westlake

Note: CEII will soon have a new Executive Director; invite him to PST meetings

Discussion/reports:

Carla Thompson, new Director of Pensacola Junior College Educational Opportunity Center, was approved as a member of the board of directors  
Circles Team (Janet Westlake)

Circles Site Visit was conducted by Michelle Clark, feedback:

Ground work by community has helped achieve early success  
Need to have more consistency in matches and increase resources;  
need to balance flow of new Getting Ahead graduates with  
availability of allies

Participants benefit from the Getting Ahead workshops

Three GA workshops planned for fall: Title 1, Pathways for Change,

~~Families County~~ (foster children)

*Families 1st Network*

Exploitation Team (Janet Westlake)

- Considering two initiatives: partnering with United Way of Florida on exploitation legislation and working with school district on financial literacy education for k-12.

Training Team (Janet Westlake)

- Marcia Nowlin is finalizing the 3.5 day national certification training with Aha!Process. It is believed to be in November.

Faith Based Team (David Alexander)

- GA Fair: focus group for participants Aug. 17; key question is would they come without the incentive of receiving food and prizes; are we perpetuating dependency practices and habits through the incentives?
- National Night Out; Circles participated; 2000 attendees
- Faith Based Team, meeting Aug. 20, 4 pm, Pensacola Police Department; goal is to identify how churches can become involved with PST; 400 churches in the area and are a respected segment of community

Political/Economic Structures Team (Jean Norman)

- Business surveys for Bay Area Works initiative are being completed

- Janice Thomas & Randy Fleming are working on barriers and will survey about 400 people from Workforce Escarosa, DCF, Families County, Community Action to identify barriers to self-sufficiency

Poverty Information Group (Carolyn Appleyard)

- Newsletter items are due now
- WUWF continues to re-run past Bridges programs
- PST was recently represented on a BLAB program by David Alexander

Resources Team (Mark Dufva)

- Will know if a finalist with Impact 100 in mid-Sept; recipients determined in October; Concept submitted was Circles C Street Café to be a coffee shop at C and Garden with consignment of handmade items by Circle Leaders, fair trade items from around the world; to be a hub for social justice discussion and social entrepreneurship.

Weed and Seed (David Alexander)

- Funding is available; if the organization that drives it continues, the Weed and Seed activity is likely to continue after the funding ends; it is best led by a grass roots organization; perhaps it would bring the GA workshops to neighborhoods; need an advisory team and fiscal agent with a revenue stream that can handle the cash flow because it is cost reimbursement; last W&S program had a site coordinator and 2 clerical support; deadline for intent to apply is Dec. 1; Mark Dufva to research.

Open Door Community House, Columbus, GA. (Janet Westlake)

- PST members are invited to share our experience with them on Aug. 25, 2 pm, United Way. They learned about PST through Aha!Process website and coming for a site visit; especially interested in Circles; but also overall work of PST

Next Meeting: 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month, Sept. 24, 3:30-5:00 pm, Dorrie Miller Community Center