

Power of We Consortium

June 18, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Present: Renee Canady, Desiree Kirkland, Cassie Larrieux, Andrea Seyka, Robin Miner-Swartz, Joseph Ortiz, John Roy Castillo, Darla Dowker Jackson, Aaron Borton, Debbie Alexander, Cathleen Edgerly, Jon Coleman, Marian Bryant, Angela Austin, Stephanie Peters, Michael Harp, Doug Hilbert, Paul Hamilton, Louise Wing, Kate Warner Steele, Marvin Cato, Judi Harris, Suzanne Eman-Jaehrig, Ken Sperber, Graham Pierce, Tiffany Leischner, Hazele Speckin, Todd Tennis, Shirin Timms, Lance Werner, Emily Thompson, Lynne Martinez, Bob Glandon, Hiram Fitzgerald, Nancy Willemin, Joan Nelson, Heather Findley, John Melcher, Paul Miller, Patricia Wheeler, Peggy Vaughn-Payne and Peggy Roberts.
Recording Secretary: Linda Yencich

I. Welcome, introductions and announcements

Co-Chair **Jon Coleman** opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance. Brief announcements were invited around the tables:

Paul Miller, Michigan Disabilities Rights Coalition announced a July 20th program, “Funding Opportunity to Promote Inclusion at Your Community Organization.” Contact Paul Miller at paul@prosynergy.org

Joan Nelson: the Summer Jazz series, posters distributed, as well as June-July newsletters for the Allen Street Neighborhood Association. Please see <http://www.allenneighborhoodcenter.org/>

Lance Werner: Capital Area Dist Library, millage renewal in November; PWC will distribute the information to members via e-mail. For more information: <http://www.cadl.org/>

Emily Thompson: AmeriCorps program on Monday, at Hawk Island Park. Reference: <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=130181780344465&ref=share>

II. Learning About Our Community

The Impact of Health Care Reform on Nonprofit Organizations

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (H.R. 3590) was signed into law on March 23, 2010. The companion bill, the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act (H.R. 4872), was signed into law on March 30, 2010. Michael Harp, MA, Papazian Smalley & Harp, will summarize the tax and benefit changes of this legislation from the perspective of a nonprofit organization. This summary presentation will include information about subsidies available to organizations and individuals, Health Insurance Exchanges and the individual mandate.

Mike Harp was introduced and provided a PowerPoint presentation. The IRS is offering tax benefits for non-profits this year relevant to health care premiums for employees; the guidelines will be published soon. Individual health care policies are on the rise; one result of unemployment.

Medicaid program will be expanded. For further reference:

<http://www.ingham.org/hd/pdf/TheImpactofHealthCareReformonNonProfit.pdf>

III. Action Items

A. Early On

One of the responsibilities of our Birth to Five Great Start Collaborative is to approve the annual grant application of the Early On Program. Early On is designed to assist families in accessing and coordinating social, health and education services that will promote the development of their young child under age three with a disability or developmental delay. On an annual basis the Early On Program re-applies for a non-competitive grant from the State Department of Education, the lead agency for the State’s Early On program.

The Birth to Five Great Start Collaborative supports the 2010-11 application and requests Consortium approval. Stephanie Peters of Early On will provide pertinent information. (See Attachment A)

Stephanie Peters attended, asking for PWC approval for the Early On grant application: \$356,0059.00 is the total amount of the budget for this year (a decrease of \$37.00). She added that due to budget cuts, the number of children being served is decreasing. They will be posting jobs (11 retiring this year); please refer candidates to their website: <http://www.greatstartforkids.org/>

Ken Sperber moved that the Consortium approve the Early On grant application, and also commended Stephanie's work. Joan Nelson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

B. Strong Families/Safe Children

The Power of We Consortium is charged with the responsibility of reviewing and approving community plans and budgets in conjunction with the Ingham County Department of Human Services (DHS) for Strong Families/Safe Children (SF/SC) and Child Protection/Community Partners (CPCP) funds. Kate Warner Steele, Contract Manager for Ingham County DHS, will lead us through a review of the 200 annual report for SF/SC, an overview of the contracting process, and the existing and proposed contracts for the 2010 fiscal year. Following discussion we will seek support from the Consortium to approve the proposed budget. (See Attachment B)

Kate Warner Steele, Contract Manager for Ingham Department of Human Services, provided a brief overview of the current budget and contracted agencies.

Renee Canady moved to approve the budget. Hi Fitzgerald and Lance Werner offered support to the motion. Motion passed.

C. Proposed Summer Recess

We will consider a recommendation by our co-chairs to cancel our July and August meetings, as has been the practice in previous years. Alternative means to conduct business will be utilized, e.g. e-mail.

John Roy Castillo moved to cancel PWC meetings in July and August, 2010. Robin Miner-Swartz seconded the motion. Motion passed.

IV. Updates and Dialogue

Transportation Committee Recommendations

At the January, 2008 meeting of the Consortium, an Ad Hoc Transportation Committee was established in response to consensus that affordable and available transportation is critical to assuring equal access to services. With staff support from the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC), the committee created and disseminated surveys to both agencies and clients regarding perceptions of service needs in order to quantify and analyze gaps in services for viable solutions. The Committee reported initial findings to the PWC membership in April, 2009. Paul Hamilton of TCRPC will present an overview of survey results and committee recommendations, based on the data, and Jon Coleman will guide small group discussion. (See PDF Attachment)

Jon Coleman shared background about this committee and provided final recommendations being proposed by the committee. Members were encouraged to consider these recommendations, and to discuss over the summer with colleagues.

Paul Hamilton from TCRPC was introduced and shared a PowerPoint presentation overviews data from the surveys of both organizations and clients conducted in 2009. For the complete presentation go to: <http://www.ingham.org/hd/pdf/TheAdHocTransportationCommittee.pdf>.

Handouts were distributed which identified current CATA bus routes. Bus route services response to demand/request for new routes is based upon available operating funds.

Following the data review, members were asked to work at their tables in small group discussion. Using written Dialogue Questions, each table addressed one of the five issue areas identified in the Recommendations, which included:

- 1) Continuous improvement of the process for creating and implementing coordinated transportation plans— Promote regional coordination.
- 2) There are existing policy barriers that limit access to transportation services --- Address gaps in transportation services.
- 3) Mobility management strategies are underutilized --- Support a broad range of services, including volunteer driver programs, taxi services, and travel training.
- 4) There are missed opportunities to bridge gaps between transportation and other community services --- Seek opportunities and funding for coordination and funding of services.
- 5) Specific recommendations and examples of increased transportation services based on survey feedback and additional information provided by participating agencies.

Notes taken from these small group discussions were gathered for further review by the Transportation Committee. Further feedback will be requested in September, once everyone has had an opportunity to ponder these recommendations.

Meeting Adjourned.

Next Power of We Consortium Meeting: Friday, Sept. 17, 2010 at 1:30 pm.

The mission of the Power of We Consortium is to improve the quality of life and self-sufficiency of all residents in Ingham County.

The vision of the Power of We Consortium is a healthy community through collaboration.