

Power of We Consortium

Meeting Agenda – March 19, 2010

Present: State Representative Joan Bauer, State Representative Paul Opsommer, Mary Clark, Peggy Vaughn-Payne, Peggy Roberts, Jon Coleman, Doak Bloss, Carly Gersch, Marion Owen, Teresa Kmetz, Bob Sheehan, Randy Bell, Olga Hernandez Patino, Anna Chester, Hi Fitzgerald, David Wiener, Marian Bryant, Marvin Cato, Nancy Oliver, Robin Miner-Swartz, Ken Sperber, Brad Patterson, Suzanne Eman-Jaehnig, Kate Narsh, Demphna Krikorian, Lynne Martinez, Jim Papparella, Jim Davis, Bill Nelton, Vincent Delgado, Joan Nelson, Pamela Elise, Darla Dowker Jackson, Doris Witherspoon, Lance Werner, Diane Pizzo, Erika Brown-Binion, Denise Paquette, Louise Wing

I. Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements

Meeting was opened by Co-Chair Peggy Vaughn-Payne. Introductions around the table.
Announcements:

- Jon Coleman announced the upcoming “Children’s Water Festival” and invited PWC members to volunteer. <http://www.h2ofest.org/>
- Doak Bloss shared the opportunities to attend a workshop on Health Equities. There are ten slots available for community members to fill. Please contact ICHD Administration at 887-4311 or Doak Bloss at DBloss@Ingham.org for the dates and application.
- Randy Bell announced the 3/25/2010 event: “Growing Our Food System, Nourishing Our People,” sponsored by the Greater Lansing Food bank. For more information see: <http://www.greaterlansingfoodbank.org/empty-plate-and-other-events/local-community-food-conference>
- Dave Weiner announced the activity relevant to the current CENSUS 2010, and added there are temporary jobs available, geared towards certain groups of people they want to assure are included in the CENSUS. <http://2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs/>
- Marian Bryant, BCFI, announced fund raising activities: an upcoming play and a silent auction; for more information see: <http://www.bcfi.org/home/>
- Renee Canady announced the success of the H1N1 vaccine campaign that Immunizations Dept from the Ingham County Health Department conducted; she reminded everyone that it is not too late to get your H1N1 vaccine.
- Jim Papparella announced that April is Child Abuse Prevention month. For more information see: http://www.michigan.gov/ctf/0,1607,7-196-26845_26845_26845-137311--,00.html
- Joan Nelson announced the March workshops sponsored by the Allen Neighborhood Center, and that the Farmer’s Market will be opening in May. <http://www.allenneighborhoodcenter.org/>
- Olga Hernandez-Patino from the Lansing Latino Health Alliance shared information about upcoming services/events; for more information: <http://www.lansinglatinohealth.org/index.php>

II. Learning About Our Community

Mid-Michigan Capitol Caucus:

The bipartisan, bicameral Mid-Michigan Capitol Caucus was created to bring together elected officials from both parties to discuss issues pertinent to our Mid-Michigan community and to seek viable solutions. The eleven member group meets approximately every 4-6 weeks with a focus on 7 priorities areas. The Consortium welcomed two members of the Caucus, Chairperson Joan Bauer (D), State Representative, District 68, and Co-Chair Paul Opsommer (R) State Representative, District 93. <http://www.thecapitolcaucus.com/>

Mary Clark, from Representative Joan Bauer's office, introduced Representative Joan Bauer and Representative Paul Opsommer. Representative Bauer summarized the current issues/projects/successes and budgetary issues, and added they are particularly focused on the reclassification in Medicare. Representative Opsommer described the Capital Caucus and the issues they face; he also provided a summary of the issues/projects/successes he has seen through his efforts, and added a brief update on Michigan's current budget status. Representative Opsommer further stated that three years ago the General Fund budget was over 9 billion dollars and this year the decrease reflects a total of a little over 8 billion dollars. That is the money they can control. The stimulus money has helped greatly, however there are still projected deficits which amount to over a billion dollars. He added that reform is a greater challenge compared to raising taxes.

Various PWC members expressed their inquiries which covered Federal Match for transportation, current Bills on budget issues, building the infrastructure, polling citizens, possible reforms and interest groups, educating the general public on these issues, and what to expect this fall. Retirement for public employees is a big issue. "A Better Michigan" has four reforms, for more information see: <http://www.abettermichiganfuture.org/>. Inquiries were made about the most effective means to communicate with Representatives and the response was that e-mails, letters, etc. are all read. Joan Nelson suggested a letter be written from the Power of We Consortium. An ad-hoc committee was created by the majority vote, and the following members volunteered: Joan Nelson, Brad Patterson, Bob Sheehan, Marion Owen, Ken Sperber, Demphna Krikorian, Lynne Martinez, Peggy Vaughn-Payne, and David Wiener. Bob Sheehan will coordinate the scheduling of their planning meeting. Hi Fitzgerald added that Power of We Consortium could also draft a letter to the editor of the LSJ, complimenting the work of the Capital Caucus.

III. Update and Dialogue

Ingham County's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness

In the fall of 2006, the Greater Lansing Homeless Resolution Network (GLHRN) and the *Power of We Consortium* created the "10 Year Plan to End Homelessness" in Ingham County. Doris Witherspoon (City of Lansing), Pam Elise (CACS), and Darla Dowker Jackson (GLHRN Coordinator), all representatives of the GLHRN, provided an overview of the objectives of that plan, progress made, as well as recommendations for the next course of action. We will also learn about coming changes to how homelessness is defined and how the focus is shifting toward trying to keep individuals from becoming homeless in the first place.

Doris described the GLHRN as a coalition of 25 organizations working collaboratively to reduce homelessness in Ingham County. Through a facilitated community-wide process in 2006, the PWC and the GLHRN crafted the 10 Year Plan To End Homelessness, as mandated at that time by MSHDA. Darla shared the many successes and partnerships that have occurred. Following this Pam described the newly implemented stimulus-funded program, the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program.

The new definition of homelessness was defined. The GLHRN is engaged in two homeless contracts, one with MSHDA and one with the City of Lansing, in addition to other various contracts for homeless prevention and rapid re-housing. Darla spoke further about the qualifications for those who might receive services from this new program which was designed for rapid re- housing services, and does not serve the chronically homeless. Pam cited the handout on case management for homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing. This program is working with the “hard to count” population for the Census.

The Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness is now close to 4 years old. The Steering Committee for the Plan, previously headed up by Ingham County DHS, has not met in over a year. Doris reported a move to re-instate the steering committee with support from the Power of We Consortium. Teresa Kmetz of Capital Area United Way strongly supported this plan, indicating that the community needs to be at the table to help drive decision making. There was consensus that there is a need to re-evaluate the Plan as it relates to the current economic status and new legislation. Hi Fitzgerald suggested that a goal to “end homelessness” is unreachable, and therefore not appropriate. He suggested redrafting shorter term goals within the identified 10 years. It was suggested that a change of title might be in order. Peggy Roberts encouraged getting the steering committee involved on this issue and reiterated that ending homelessness is not just the charge of the GLHRN, but of the entire community.

Next meeting of the *Power of We Consortium* – April 16, 2010