

Power of We Consortium
Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2010

Present: Peggy Vaughn-Payne, Peggy Roberts, Micki Fuhrman, Kathy Kelly, Debbie Edokpolo, Marvin Cato, Terry Link, Paul Miller, John Castillo, Joan Nelson, Bill Nelton, Brad Patterson, Darla Dowker Jackson, Suzanne Eman-Jaehnig, Ivan Love, Olga Hernandez-Patino, Louise Wing, Angela Waters Austin, David Wiener, Todd Tennis, David Bullock, Derrell Slaughter, Marion Owns, Bob Sheehan, Jessica Barnes, Michelle Nicholson, Paul Miller and Ken Sperber

I. Welcome, introductions and announcements: The meeting was opened by Co-Chair Peggy Vaughn-Payne. Introductions around the table were made and brief announcements were invited:

Announcements:

Disability Coalition: There will be a training session on 7/31/2010

Allen Neighborhood Center: Farmer's Market Season has begun; World Refugee Day and the Hunter Park music festival is set for June 5th; Hunter Park pool is open.

T.C.O.A.: 2010 charity golf outing on Tuesday, June 15, 2010 (brochure distributed).

Great Start Collaborative: meeting tomorrow at Gone Wired.

Early On: Program presentation at the June Power of We Consortium meeting

Adalante Magazine: Newest edition was distributed.

Greater Lansing Food Bank: Moving to 919 Filley St. in Lansing; phone: 853-7800.

"Breaking the Cycle of Incarceration": LCC's Dart Auditorium on May 27th. Register 492-5574.

Malcolm X Presentation: MSU Museum, Saturday, May 22nd, 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Concepts for Change for Lansing: Foster Community Center on Sat, May 22nd, 9:00 am to 3:30 p.m..

Better Planning for Streets, Better Transportation: Gathering at the Capital on Tuesday, May 25th.

U.S. Social Justice Forum: Set for June 22-26th, additionally there is a planning meeting for the forum, every Monday at NorthWest Initiative. Invitation to attend for those interested in this issue.

Greenation: Representatives from Greenation visited the PWC meeting this date, and shared that PWC is inspiring, outstanding, organized, and friendly. They are planning a Greenation Summit on October 23rd with two priorities: community inspiration to engage citizens in the language of green and to incubate organizations.

II. Learning About Our Community

Birth-to-Work Framework

The Capital Area Birth-to-Work seeks the goal that by 2020 children, youth, and young adults in the Capital Area will grow up with the skills and abilities to actively participate in the global knowledge economy.

Today's meeting will focus on that goal.

*Over the past two years, Power of We Consortium and Michigan State University have been constructing the Birth-to-Work Framework. Today is the next in a series of presentations and dialogues to keep Consortium members informed and engaged in this systems change framework. **Jessica Barnes, PhD, will focus on youth development and the types of support needed for youth to transition into adulthood successfully.** Following the presentation will be small group discussions to identify specific actions that can be employed to support youth.*

Angela Austin, Coordinator of the Community Coalition for Youth, re-introduced the Birth to Work framework to the membership and then introduced Jessica Barnes, PhD, who presented information about the brain development and physical maturation of the adolescent age group. Currently the Capital Area Birth to Work Framework is developing broad support from coalitions, organizations and community groups. Support for the infant and young children transition period is being provided through the Birth to Five Great Start Coalition -- contact: Michelle Nicholson, mnichols@inghamisd.org to offer support. The middle/adolescent transition period is being provided by the Community Coalition for Youth -- contact Angela Austin: Austin@ingham.org to offer support. LEAP's Emerging Talent Initiative is also organizing to develop broad support for the young adult transition period. Contact Pam Jodway, jodwayp@leaping.biz to offer support.

Suggestions from PWC members that came from this discussion:

- Engage "new blood" to help out, i.e. cultivate the next generation of youth leaders. The Health Dept. is developing a slot for an intern to develop services.
- Work and think globally; use examples from other countries, as our kids have to compete globally.
- Afterschool programs are not filled; kids and parents don't see the value; need to look for another layer-resource to be used.
- Youth providing mentoring.

III. Dialogue and Action:

A. PWC Sustainability –

The current economic climate and subsequent budget constraints call for an organized sustainability effort for the Power of We Consortium. A work-group formed by the Investors' Steering Committee (Brad Patterson, Bob Sheehan, Randy Bell, Peggy Roberts, Renee Canady, Teresa Kmetz, John Melcher, Randy Rauch) has been charged with providing sustainability options/plans – for the 2011 fiscal year (starting October 1, 2010) to the Investors Steering Committee and to be reviewed for approval by the full Power of We Consortium. The plan is based on a number of goals: to maintain the current level of collaborative engagement and capacity of the Power of We Consortium; to avoid the operation of the Consortium at a lower level of community engagement than currently exists. Brad Patterson and Bob Sheehan, from the workgroup, will discuss the proposal with the Power of We Consortium and request the modification and/or approval of the proposal.

Brad Patterson opened this portion of the meeting by introducing members to key elements of the Power of We Consortium (staffing needs). Bob Sheehan followed-up with an overview of the benefits to the community that the Power of We Consortium provides. PWC began around 1997, and has been involved with initiatives such as Community Voices; has held summits on neighborhood revitalization; guided the creation of the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness; and supported school readiness, the Social Justice Initiative, Capacity Building Initiative, AmeriCorps/Vista, and the Birth to Work Framework. Traditionally, the founding entities have funded the PWC; now additional revenue sources are being sought. A memo was distributed which demonstrated the funding goals. The proposal includes PWC members providing funding and volunteer help in a fund raising campaign.

Ivan Love moved that a structured budget be developed for distribution to PWC members, demonstrating costs and needs. Motion supported by Olga Hernandez-Patino; All in favor, motion carried.

Suggestions and comments from this discussion included:

- The Power of We Consortium serves as a central clearinghouse for community activities; the hub of networking; an ideal starting point for collaboration towards grant funding.
- Staff personalities are important to the success of the Power of We Consortium.
- The PWC does not have by-laws, but it still works.
- PWC is the door to services and agency partnerships; models collaboration; supports social justice.
- PWC is a huge networking opportunity –the connective tissue amongst layers and layers of community resources.
- PWC maintains the “big picture” and actively looks at the community needs, applies for grants (i.e. AmeriCorps/Vista, and the CCF Grant).
- PWC conducts survey work.
- Founding members and representatives from all 12 coalitions should be encouraged to attend the PWC meetings. Consider who has the vision, and hold ourselves accountable to serve in the specific area that we are gifted in.
- PWC should continue to lobby and act as a voice for resource generation for organizations (this is a piece that needs to grow).
- Develop media tools that would promote PWC, and shine the light on the work of its member organizations. Perhaps a PWC cable tv spot? Create more of an internet presence.
- Ensure that we do not lose the community voice as an equal partner.
- Advocacy, networking and capacity building as a group.

B. Tri-County Work Group for a Stable, Modern, and Fair State Tax System

As a response to a dialogue with members of the Capital Caucus at the March Power of We Consortium meeting, an ad hoc committee was formed to consider appropriate action to influence a sound state revenue system. The purpose of the Tri-County Work Group for a Stable, Modern, and Fair State Tax System is to foster decision making, by the state’s policy makers, that ensures a stable, modern, and fair tax system – sufficient to support the state’s and local communities’ public infrastructure. Bob Sheehan will provide an update on the group’s activities.

Due to limited time remaining, Bob Sheehan made a brief presentation regarding the current status of the Tri- County Work Group for a Stable, Modern, and Fair State Tax System, which has been meeting monthly since its inception at the March PWC meeting. The focus is to look at a progressive tax system for Michigan. The group requests support and endorsements from those that may be inclined to do so. The next meeting is June 2nd at the National Association of Social Workers building on North Cedar. Bob Sheehan requested permission to share ongoing updates with PWC members, with the understanding that members will respond according to their stand on the issue.

Meeting Adjourned

**The next *Power of We Consortium* meeting will be held on June 18, 1:30 pm,
at the Human Services Building, Conf. Rm. A.**