

Power of We Consortium
October 15, 2010

Present: Randy Bell, Brad Patterson, Terry Link, Nancy Oliver, Louise Wing, Darla Dowker Jackson, Hiram Fitzgerald, Graham Pierce, Debbie Edokpolo, Renee Canady, Angela Austin, Keyarron Murphy, Rina Risper, Alex Bryan, Vincent Delgado, Ken Sperer, Desiree Kirkland, Tifiany Leischner, Hazel Spedin, Jessica Yorke, Joan Nelson, John Melcher, Justin Sheehan, Bill Nelton, Olga Hernandez Patino, Paul Miller, Micki Fuhrman,

I. Welcome, Introductions and Announcements

- Jon Coleman called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, and announced his retirement date of December, 2010 which will mark more than 35 years of service in the community. He commended the Power of We Consortium for their community work, and noted how much he's learned through his affiliation with the Power of We Consortium.
- Joan Nelson: Allen St. Farmer's Market continues 2:30-6:30, and Harvest Festival at the end of October,
- Jessica Yorke: running for Lansing City Council.
- Tiffiany Lieschner from Children's Mental Health Association announced an October 28th event and shared information about "safe space," as a means to help prevent suicides due to bullying. She distributed stickers which read, "you are a safe person to talk to".
- Renee Canady announced that ICHD will be posting a new position entitled, Environmental Justice Coordinator. This position will coordinate social justice work and over-all wellness within public health.
- Debbie Edokpolo reminded everyone to, "get your flu shot!"
- Justin Sheehan announced that Community Legal Resources now has a Lansing office located in Old Town and will be taking referrals for non profits who need legal service.
- Hi Fitzgerald, MSU, shared that he recently facilitated public forums (community campus partnerships) in Iowa City where he discussed PWC, Birth to Work, and CAUW.
- Brad Patterson reported a Michigan College Access Planning grant was received for this community, which will help the Lansing School District in their 6-9 month planning process. They have a facilitator, and are seeking a capacity building grant from the Kresge Foundation with a goal to increase college graduates from 34% to 60% by the year 2030.

II. Learning About Our Community

Ingham Change Initiative

Data collected in Ingham County reveals significant disparity in opportunity and outcomes for youth across systems, particularly for young men of color. The systems examined are: Health and Child Welfare, Education, Employment and Economic Development, Juvenile and Criminal Justice and Media. The Ingham Change Initiative (ICI) was established by the Community Coalition for Youth in July 2008. Its mission is to promote policies and practices that will assure all youth in Ingham County have successful life outcomes. Jim Davis of the Lansing School District and Randy Bell of Ingham MSU Extension co-chair the ICI Education Workgroup. The workgroup has recently created its first set of policy recommendations. Jim and Randy will present an overview of the ICI, the education policy recommendations and lead

a discussion about ways these can be disseminated into the community for the purpose of positive discussion and action.

Randy Bell (MSUE) and Jim Davis (Lansing School District Superintendent) presented. Randy shared a power point presentation and an Ingham Change Initiative flyer. The data being evaluated is from 2006. This forum began two years ago to look at the data relevant to the Coalition for Youth. From the analysis of the data, Ingham Change Initiative was created.

Jim Davis presented the distributed document, "Ingham Change Initiative Education Policy Recommendations: April 2010." He pointed out that high school drop out prevention begins with preschoolers. Young men at risk are being utilized as mentors for the young children, with mentoring training being provided to them by MSU college student/mentors. The MSU mentors will be mentored by men their senior. This program started with four districts in the State of Michigan; only two are remaining – Lansing is one of them.

III. 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 created a plan based on the goal to maintain the current level of collaborative engagement and capacity of the Power of We Consortium. At the May, 2010, PWC meeting the membership was asked to support a plan to include the collection of voluntary Investment Dues from member organizations on an annual basis. The membership overwhelming approved the plan. Brad Patterson, Capital Region Community Foundation, will present a letter to the membership and answer questions regarding the campaign.

This issue was brought to the table in May, and the PWC membership supported the plan. At today's meeting Brad Patterson and Randy Bell provided an update, and distributed the proposed letter which will be utilized to solicit voluntary funding for PWC. The letter demonstrates the decreased funding to the PWC which has taken place over recent years. The plan is to raise support from foundations, institutions and organizations to cover a FTE Coordinator, a FTE support staff and contractual staff consultant. The letter accompanied a pledge form. Today's presentation on Ingham Change Initiative is a good example of the leveraging work that the PWC does for this community.

B. PWC Work Plan for 2011 & 2012

The 2011 & 2012 Work Plan for the Power of We Consortium is undergoing a Consortium-wide updating process. Members, coalitions, and committees are being asked to scrutinize the Plan and provide all suggestions for updates to the PWC office as soon as possible. A draft will be presented in November, with plans for final approval at the January, 2011, PWC meeting.

The PWC Work Plan document for 2011 & 2012 was distributed, and feedback was invited. Please submit comments/suggestions to Peggy before the next PWC meeting.

IV. Dialogue

“We’re All In This Together”: Tools for Building a Common Future

Terry Link will facilitate a directed dialogue about possible tools that may “create the conditions to enable” a healthy, sustainable community. A broad overview with taste tests for several types of approaches will be provided. Handouts and readings will also be available. Terry Link is executive director of the Greater Lansing Food Bank (a PWC member organization) and previously founding director of MSU’s Office of Campus Sustainability. He has also served a term as a Clinton County commissioner. He has been trained in several facilitation approaches, trained as a mediator, and is a student of deliberative and group communication work.

Terry Link presented a power point program and distributed documents. All information will be sent out electronically for PWC members to review. The central theme was to promote effective communication and meeting dialogue.

V. Meeting Adjourned.

Next meeting of the Power of We Consortium – November 19, 2010 – at HSB