

Power of We Consortium **Meeting Minutes – September 17, 2010**

Present: Jon Coleman, Randy Rauch, Bob Sheehan, Randy Bell, Nancy Oliver, Angela Waters Austin, Rina Risper, Marvin Cato, Teresa Kmetz, Darla Dowker Jackson, Tiffiany Leischner, Hazel E. Speckin, Paul Miller, Katie Ellero, Emily Thompson, Demphna Krikorian, Kathy Kelly Erica Martin, Janine Boylan, John Roy Castillo, Bill Nelson, Joan Nelson, Lauren Grevel, Erika Brown-Binion, Terry Link, Vincent Delgado, Louise Wing, Stacy Byers, Sara Aikman, Marion Owen, Peggy Vaughn-Payne, Desiree Kirkland, Ken Sperber, Cindy Anderson, Kaitlyn Sievert, Janine Boylan, Joan Nelson, Peggy Roberts, and recording secretary Linda Yencich

I. Welcome, introductions, announcements

Peggy Vaughn-Payne, NorthWest Initiative: “The Prison Poetry Project,” on Wednesday, October 20th 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.. NorthWest Initiative’s 4th annual prison poetry workshop poster was distributed. Additionally, NWI will be hosting a community-wide event on October 23, 9:15-3:30, entitled: “Neighborhood.....What? Creating Great Places.”

Bob Sheehan: Community Mental Health is hosting a Health Expo on Thursday, Oct. 28th, noon-1:00 at the main office on Jolly Road. The event will be located outside and inside the building and will host an expansive list of community-agency representatives and activities for youth on up to the elderly.

Randy Bell: circulated two articles which demonstrated work being done by the Ingham Change Initiative. Work dedicated to policy/practice/perception in the community for men of color in college and high school.

Nancy Oliver, announced job change from CAMW! to Child and Family Services Capital Area.

Tiffiany Leischner: IMPACT (<http://www.impactssystemofcare.org/>) will host support group meetings for families which is scheduled to meet Tuesday, 9/21 and 11/16, 6-8 p.m., at the N. Pennsylvania Salvation Army building

Darla D. Jackson: Project Homeless, Friday, Sept. 24th 10 am to 3 pm. This project is in conjunction with the City of Lansing. A variety of resources and services will be provided from employment/housing assistance, legal services, hair cuts, massages. <http://apps.cityoflansingmi.com/newsevents/releases/2010%20PHC%20flyer22737.pdf>

Hazel Speckin: ACMH (Association for Children’s Mental Health) in collaboration with IMPACT is hosting a conference entitled, “Systems of Care,” on 10/27-28. See <http://www.acmh-mi.org/> and www.impactssystemofcare.org.

Emily Thompson recruiting for AmeriCorps members, introduced Katie Ellero, new coordinator for PWC AmeriCorps*State Program.

Demphna Kirkorian, Child and Family Services: October 17, 2010 a “half marathon” fund raiser w/Detroit Free Press.

Joan Nelson, Allen Street Neighborhood Center: Workshop at the Garden House Sept. 18th, 11:30 a.m., also the market is will be open until the last Wednesday in October. Joan introduced their new intern, Lauren.

Terry Link, Food Bank: Fund raiser, “Berries and Bubbly 2010”, also surplus from gardens is being collected and distributed from Van Atta’s and L&L Shop Rite stores.

Louis Wing, DHS: Adult Benefits Waiver (ABW). ABW provides basic medical care to low income childless adults who do not qualify for Medicaid. There are asset and income tests. ABW medical coverage is limited

(e.g., inpatient coverage is not covered). However, pharmacy is included. Some counties have a county health plan that the person must be enrolled in to receive ABW benefits. Some services may require prior authorization from the county health plan or state (if there is no health plan in the county of residence). Contact the local MDHS office in your county to apply for this program. http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2943_4860-35199--,00.html#Adults

John Roy Castillo, Cristo Rey: 5th annual golf outing fund raiser next week, Sept. 24th. <http://www.cristo-rey.org/Site/Welcome.php>

II. Learning About Our Community

A. Ingham County's Plan for Ag Preservation

Agriculture land in Ingham County, particularly land with prime and unique soils, and natural land, need to be permanently protected from development. Such protection is essential for agriculture to exist and prosper and for natural systems to function. Ingham County residents passed a .14 millage increase to fund purchasing conservation easements on farmland and open space to protect it from future development and help maintain the rural landscape of the county. This session will discuss the strategies used to protect farmland and open space and how those strategies are implemented in Ingham County. Also learn how the county is working to strike a balance between urban and rural areas so both cities, and agriculture and natural systems can thrive. Stacy Byers, Director of the Ingham County Farmland and Open Space Preservation (FOSP) Program, will facilitate the discussion.

Stacy Byers presented a PowerPoint program demonstrating Ingham County's efforts to preserve our farmland. She provided information about new funding opportunities and gave a history of this program which originated in Pennsylvania. To date, about 20 counties participate. Conservation Easement, a voluntary program, allows farmers to accept permanent deed restrictions on their land. The farms are still farmed, and there are no developments allowed on the farmland. The land can still be sold, passed to family, mineral rights stand, etc. they just can't build on it. Agriculture is the number one economic generator in the State right now. The cash benefit to the farmer often gets re-invested back into the economy. Young farmers have an opportunity now to purchase farms, which are now affordable because of this program. Federal funding for this program is available 2009 through 2012. Grand Traverse County has acquired easements on 75-80% on their farmland and their work is essentially done. Ann Arbor has easements within four local townships. Ingham County was the first county millage passed in the State (2004). It was back on the ballot for the primary election in 2008, and passed again. By the end of 2010, nine farms will be protected in this program.

Land use policies help to protect our land and also to develop land chosen for growth through the Urban Service Boundary Effort. There are programs in eastern States, "The Farm Assist Program" for young farmers – Michigan will be looking at this. The program helps with minority and young farmers to enter into farming. The key is sustainability -- helping farms to continue farming. Extra "points" are given towards farms that sustain the health of the soil, e.g. organic farms, local food programs.

B. Ingham Department of Human Services – Self-sufficiency Resources

The Ingham County Department of Human Services (DHS) is a founding member of the Power of We Consortium. In the context of our Birth to Work Framework, we find that the work of the DHS is critical to supporting vulnerable children, adults, and families in the areas of basic needs, protection from abuse and neglect, access to health care, job training, etc. Louise Wing, Acting Cash Assistance

& Adult Services Director, will share information regarding available resources to support this population. (See Attachment A)

Louise Wing presented information regarding services available to qualified residents which are authorized by DHS Case Workers, at the discretion of the case worker. Services include: transportation, special clothing, tools for a job, physical exam for a job, family support services such as classes, seminars, counseling, calendar/clock to get them to the job on time – all to assist residents onto a path of self sufficiency. Qualified residents include people who are already receiving cash assistance for families with children. There are limited resources for adults w/out kids. Restrictions apply. Louise requests we share this information so that the resources are fully utilized. These benefits have to be employment-related. Funds are paid directly to the vendor on behalf of the client

III. Action Items

A. Ad Hoc Nominations Committee/Appointment and Charge

The Consortium traditionally appoints an ad hoc committee to nominate community representatives, community partners, and a new co-chair for the upcoming year. Consortium members will be invited to serve on the 2011 Ad Hoc Nominating Committee and will receive their charge. (See Attachment B)

Consortium members were informed that not only will we need to replace Peggy Vaughn-Payne, whose 2-year term will expire in January, but Jon Coleman will be retiring and requests a replacement for his position as well. The committee will meet once this fall and then present a slate of nominees for various positions at the January, 2011 meeting. Marion Owen and John Roy Castillo volunteered to serve on this committee.

B. Creating the 2011-2012 PWC Work Plan

At the January, 2009 meeting of the Consortium, members approved a 2-year Work Plan for calendar years 2009 and 2010. All members, coalitions, and committees are asked to review this plan and provide specific input for updates for 2011 and 2012. An updated draft plan will be distributed in November for further review, with approval action by the membership planned for the January, 2011 meeting. (See Attachment C)

Consortium members were asked to review the current PWC Work Plan and send any suggestions for updates to the 2011 & 2012 Work Plan to Peggy Roberts. Randy Bell proposed the Birth to Work framework's language be incorporated into the Work Plan.

The web portal for Birth to Work, being created by MSU's tech department, was tested and evaluated last Friday. The purpose of the portal is connect the university and the community in like-minded work. Once launched, it will be demonstrated at a future PWC meeting. There was a suggestion link the Birth to Work PowerPoint, shown at a previous PWC meeting, to the PWC website.

Next meeting of the Power of We Consortium: October 15, 2010 at Foster Community Center