

PRI Steering Committee
April 24, 2014 1:00-2:30pm

MEETING NOTES

*Bringing the power of our collective knowledge and energy together to prevent and reduce poverty by **Inspiring, Advocating, and Connecting** through convening and incubation.*

Welcome and Introductions (1:00-1:05pm)

Agenda (1:05-1:08pm)

Meeting Notes from March 27, 2014

Meeting date and time change? Going forward, meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of the month from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. The next meeting will be on May 20.

Kudos to Brandon Everest and his NMC class project to create 4 5-minute presentations about poverty. Recommendation that mini-presentations be done at PRI and the GT Collaborative meetings. Will be on YouTube after a first-run on UpNorth Media, which helped to produce the videos. Contact Brandon for links.

Project Reports (1:08-1:25 pm)

- **TCAPS Mentoring program – Jim Rowlett Minda Nyquist, TCAPS/TC Central At-Risk Coordinator:**
 - Program has roots about a year ago during poverty prevention discussions at advocacy team meeting. High school graduation rates can be a key factor in poverty. 2 key leaders; 1 to find mentor volunteers, 1 (Minda) to lead the program.
 - Locates at-risk kids (lower 30% of test scores – over 500 students; failed a class, free/reduced lunch; one or more parents didn't graduate from high school; disciplinary issues.)
 - Stoplight – Green: only risk factor is test scores. Yellow: additional 1-2 factors. Red: multiple criteria, need immediate intervention.
 - At “yellow” level, targeting sophomores only this year, 75-80 kids identified. 12 have been matched with mentors, 3 ladies and 1 gentleman are awaiting mentor matches.
 - Selected kids to whom to market the program. Can't require them to participate, so have to interest them in participating as an extra-curricular activity.
 - One-on-one interaction with students and parents on a weekly basis. Some tutoring.
 - Ultimate goal: get them to graduation.
 - Higher success in engaging female students than males.
 - Needs more female mentors to work with female students.
 - About an hour a week commitment. Trying to figure out how to continue relationship over the summer.
 - At-risk program funding for next year cut by \$35,000
 - Not a school program, so can't pull candidates out of class. Have to get them to want to stay after school, or perhaps come during lunch hour.
 - Minda's contact information: 933-3524 or nyquist.mi@tcaps.net.

MORE

Tamarack Institute – Paul Born presentation/ discussion re-cap (1:25- 1:50)

- Renee and Brandon had dinner with Paul the night before his presentation. Brandon impressed by Paul’s emphasis on getting a more thorough multi-sector approach going.
- “A year of unknowing” to get a diverse group of stakeholders from the voluntary, government, workforce/economy, key beneficiaries together. Bringing questions, but not supposed sectarian answers, to the table, to see where they go in the group setting.
- Brandon felt that Paul de-emphasized the importance of stories vs. data. He seemed to feel we need to be more thorough in our collection of detailed data.
- Jim R – struck by emphasis on really reaching the business community, not just for donations but for engagement and understanding. He heard that this is where the stories get tied to the hard data.
 - Human Resource Managers at St. John’s project. If you reach the HR managers about the value brought to the table when new workers are brought to the table....
- Jan Warren: we need to look more at the data and need in other regional counties beyond Grand Traverse
- Jim Moore: Issues are inter-related, not isolated. Reaching the people who aren’t normally included in the discussion. Importance of backbone organization that harnesses and focuses energy around 1-3 identified community priorities.
- Steve Wade: identifying 1-3 key new things to address or ways to address them doesn’t mean abandoning the existing initiatives. Build on what you have already learned. How do we take what we know about navigating, mentoring, and relationship-building and make it mobile and flexible, meeting people in need where they are?
- “Systems seek efficiency, but relationships are inherently inefficient.” But, seeking the inefficient ultimately finds the impact. People fund impact, not efficiency.
- 3 day Tamarack Program in June, Kitchener, ON with community-building giants. Reduced attendance fees if 3+ members of a collaborative group attend. An area delegation would benefit from being multi-sector. Perhaps a follow-up retreat where attendees can deeply process the experience would be beneficial. Co-leaders empowered to decide how to encourage multi-sector participation in both the seminar and the long-term process, and whether to provide tuition assistance. (Chris or Jim MacInnes, or similar?)

Convening conversations – Employment work group - Sakura (1:50- 2:10) (see handout)

- Learned about existing Job Developers’ Network
- Discussed needing to learn the language of business in order to make an impact

Poverty Data – Janie (2:10 – 2:25) (see handout)

- Additional data sources – more is always welcome!
 - New Kids Count data available within past few weeks
 - Munson site has over 100 quality of life indicators for 6 local counties (www.munsonhealthcare.org/hcna)
 - Collect what’s fairly easy to get already, digest it, and then ask what we don’t know and want to know and why (what story do we want to tell, and to whom?) Research Group to start on it – Brandon will work on it over the summer.
 - Check with Matt McCauley – he’s working on a data collection project.
 - Flightpath – engaged to design on-line data aggregation website project. Next meeting 2:00 p.m. 5/27, COG.

Meeting Wrap-up / Next steps

- Steve Wade to check with Des Moines, IA on their poverty reduction project (Paul Born example)
- Jim Rowlett pursuing Human Resources information from Paul Born
- Next meeting 5/20, 1 – 2:30. Location TBD.