

PRI Steering Committee
Tuesday, October 21, 2014
1:00-2:30pm, MI Works
MEETING NOTES

NOTE MEETING DATE CHANGE to 3rd Tuesday of the Month

*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

Project Reports

- Saturday Special. Usually 60-140 attendees; this time only 25 but they were very engaged. MIWorks! and Goodwill presentations were inspiring. Two surveys were distributed. One constituted an entry into a drawing so we have contact information; most of those respondents found the session very helpful and half would like additional contact and help. The second survey was anonymous and responses are being compiled by NMCAA. There is also a desire to administer the second survey at various sessions at other groups within a short timeframe to obtain a better snapshot of the audience.
 - February Saturday Special usually offers assistance with taxes. Could consider continuing the conversation about employments and jobs at that time also.
 - Prepare a 1-pager that can be distributed to area agencies regarding the October Saturday Special.
- Love INC has experienced strong enthusiasm for their Healthy Cooking class, both from participants of the session that just ended and from people at Saturday Special. A session will begin in February, and another will be held later in the spring.
- Poverty Simulation on September 19 was at maximum enrollment. Many were NMC social work students. 23 Leland High School students who brought an interesting perspective and expressed strong reactions to the experience. It was great to have those folks, but there is some disappointment that there was not stronger engagement by a broad section of community leaders.
 - How can we focus simulation participant engagement after sessions are over?
 - Lessons learned:
 - It may be more effective to schedule a session once there is a critical mass of demand than to schedule a session and then develop demand.
 - Best way to recruit participants from broad sectors remains elusive.
 - Add participants to the PRI newsletter email list as a follow-up engagement.
- Conference at TBAISD in November – expressed interest in Poverty Simulation. One of their tracks will be about childhood trauma and poverty. Group of secondary and post-secondary teachers working with special populations. Brandon will be attending.
- Neighborhood Meeting – MIWorks! presented and was well-received. Participants now have a better sense of available employment resources. Will try to track whether they have greater ongoing engagement with MIWorks! Participants here and at

Saturday Special were given VIP cards that will result in fast-tracked service for them when they visit MIWorks!

- Central High School Mentoring Program: 37 students came to a speed dating-style mixer last week where they could meet potential mentors. Genders were equally balanced, and the interactions were interesting. It was speed-dating style.
- Rotary is planning a career day at Traverse City High School, and would also like to engage with the Central mentoring program.

Employment Work Group – Sakura Raftery:

Talking about connecting MIWorks! and local HR departments. Otherwise, we are engaged in preparations for Saturday Special

Framework for our Future – Janie McNabb:

- 10 counties
- Identified 20 key commercial corridors of significance.
- Gathered data about housing costs, inventory, and target housing markets
- Gathered data about seasonal populations
- There will be a website called Live, Work, Play to promote the area
- 9 targeted chapters include background data, new research, areas of opportunity, goals, strategies, actions
- Executive summary is included
- Available for public review and comment until December 1 at www.networksnorthwest.org/framework. After comments are compiled and analyzed and document is finalized, there will be monthly themed roll-outs and outreach. Educational materials, events, and network dialogues will be promoted.
- The Framework is intended as a resource for community entities to individually implement as appropriate. It is not intended to be run or managed by one particular entity.
- The Grand Vision was the “what.” The Framework was originally intended to be the “how.” The Framework has grown to cover 10 counties where the Grand Vision covers 6. The Framework does not specifically refer to the Grand Vision.
- Chapters on Talent, Housing, and Transportation may bear particularly strongly on poverty issues. All chapters should have something that speaks to poverty.
- Benchmarks Northwest will be a final component to the project – a data repository website, categorized like the Framework, updated and maintained constantly, and available to the public.

Ideas for the Group:

- As we look at the new regional data, PRI should think about where to focus efforts, and plan for how to be effective.
- Should PRI commit to preparing an annual report to help focus and discipline our activities? Do we need a template for such a report?

Action Steps:

- Review the Talent, Housing, and Transportation chapters and Executive Summary, and be prepared to comment at the November PRI meeting.

Adjourned at 2:30 p.m.