



PRI Steering Committee
Tuesday, December 16, 2014
1:00-2:30 pm, MI Works
MEETING NOTES – Project Reports Year in Review

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.*

Called to Order at 1:05 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions: Jim Rowlett, Little Collaborative/TCAPS Mentoring Program; Dana Tuller, Progress Village, Jan Warren, Progress Village/Networks Northwest; Karen Fulkerson, Little Collaborative; Diane Emling, NMC; Tom Emling, MSUE; Brandon Everest, NMC; Pat Riconi, DHS; Jim Moore, Disability Network; Doug Leary, NMCAA, Steve Wade GTRCF, Jamie McNabb, Networks Northwest; Tom White, Networks Northwest; Sharon Vreeland, GTCC & LCFCC; Christy Nowak, Munson Community Health; Tim Hamilton, Love INC; Karen Emerson, NMCAA; Joe Povolo, Leelanau Family Court; Sakura Raftery

Meeting Notes from 11/18/2014:

Project Reports – Year in Review:

- **HelpLink:** Karen started as Executive Director in May, has been networking, and is prepared to move into the future. Staff training and better integration with Family Partnerships and Agape Financial into the Little Collaborative is enabling them to better provide more comprehensive services to neighbors. Gave example of neighbor who was living in her car and had lost custody of her children who has retained her job, regained her children, left behind a stifling romantic relationship, and is in an apartment thanks to help from various resources and working with a Family Partnership mentor.
 - Monthly mentor support group over lunch, with various agencies coming in to present information about their programs
 - Bill Paxton will be providing training regarding motivation for change and motivational interviewing
 - Looking for people at various local agencies to serve as Navigator Advisors to support the navigators in their work, particularly as to medical needs. Trying to set up particular navigators as experts in particular arenas, such as utility assistance.
 - Implemented and refining monthly statistical tracking (source of referrals, where referred to, total client contacts, etc.) Between August and the beginning of December, 2,429 minutes were spent in neighbor contact, and number of contacts are trending up at the end of the year.

- One of biggest draws for neighbors is Goodwill vouchers. Trying to engage those neighbors into broader conversations. Second biggest draw is for housing needs, followed by utilities assistance.
- Has not yet been tracking employment status, but will consider.
- **Saturday Special:** 2014 was the 10th anniversary of the program
 - February “Super” Saturday Special: focus on finances. 140 neighbors attended, half of whom were unemployed. 54 had their tax returns completed at the event. Consumers Energy was a key funder. Nic Welty, who saved up through NMCAA programs, and obtained assistance from SCORE and MLUI, and is now the owner of 9 Bean Rows, was a keynote speaker. Neighbor John McAllister presented on composting and canning. 18 community agency/program booths. Neighbor feedback listed the financial planning presentation and the booths as the most favored.
 - October Saturday Special: 40 people registered and about 25 actually attended, so there is a desire to increase attendance next fall. Focus was on jobs and employment, helping people identify their skills and strengths, and peer advice on resources for finding jobs. There were about 11 agency booths along with a “dress for success” area stocked with appropriate interview clothing from Goodwill. Approximately 11 people were assisted with an outfit or a voucher to Goodwill along with basic advice on interviewing skills. Attendance numbers may have been low, but the level of attendee engagement was one of the highest ever.
- **Neighborhood Meeting:** See attached 2014 Neighborhood Meeting Summary Report
 - New logo and new sense of identity, thanks to assistance from Tom White
 - Program exceeded expectations for the year. Best attendance level since 2009, particularly during the last few months. Doug is a new – and entirely volunteer – coordinator, following someone who ran the program for the prior 9 years.
 - 6 goals for 2015 enumerated in report. Cross-promotion will be critical to success.
 - 2015 meeting dates (3rd Tuesday monthly except December from 5-8 p.m., NMCAA) on last page of report. All are welcome to attend, and agencies are welcome to contact Doug about presenting on their resources.
- **Progress Village:** Took a break over the summer and regrouped in the fall. Advocacy and education have traditionally been focal points. Contributed to the social equity discussion in the Framework for our Future.
 - “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” approach.
 - Seeking new alliances that will advance their original mission, and provide an equal partnership in decision-making, and align more closely with their focus.
 - Seeking to expand their scope and networking beyond Grand Traverse County. Grateful for their start with PRI, and feeling ready to move out more independently to engage with the Framework for our Future/Regional Prosperity Initiative across the entire 10-county Prosperity Region.
 - Jan Warren and Ranae McCauley will remain engaged as mentors, as they have been (along with the late Fred Schaafsma) from the beginning.
- **Opportunity Conferences:** Not held this year

- **Mentoring:** Based in premise that relationships are what ultimately help people move through and out of poverty. Centralized voice for the very important mentoring function.
 - Annual breakfast held in June this year. Approximately 60 attendees. People appreciate the personal connecting along with information from other mentoring resources.
 - New monthly meetings to discuss mentoring issues, including subject expert presentations. First session was about the “care and feeding” of volunteers. Social media, cultural poverty, and community resources are some of the planned topics.
 - Approached by Street Outreach mentoring program. They do monthly Mentoring 101 trainings, and have asked this mentoring group to take them over, which is under discussion.
 - Could this become the venue for people from nearly anywhere to learn about mentoring in general, receiving program-specific training in addition? Having a significant mentoring corps could have a significant community impact.

- **TCAPS Mentoring Program:** conceptualized several years ago, based in PRI goals of helping people through and out of poverty coupled with poverty prevention. Building from Joe Povolò’s experience with juveniles in the court system, high-school drop-out prevention was identified as a place to make a big impact.
 - Pilot program started at TC Central High in Fall 2013 with a small number of matches between female students and volunteers.
 - Fall 2014: expanded program to all four high school grades, and rather than matching people arbitrarily there was an event similar to “speed dating” where students and potential mentors could meet and form natural pairings. Currently there are about 30 students awaiting mentors and 25 active mentors. Interested students are now coming from both genders.
 - Looking for a “brand name” for the program; hoping it will be student-suggested.
 - Hoping that eventually the program will spread throughout TCAPS and then the region.
 - Please consider being a mentor, and look around at the people you know for likely mentor candidates. Folks from all ages, stages, and life experiences are needed.

- **Poverty Simulations:** Five inquiries about simulations were received, leading to one session in September where participants try to survive a month of 15-minute weeks in “poverty.” Participant level is usually 80-90, plus the volunteers who play roles at community “agencies.” Cost is usually \$600/session to rent space and provide snacks. This year’s participants included primarily NMC students and Leland High School students. A video was made and broadcast that focused on one participant’s experience. This year publicity and registration was managed through NMC’s Extended Education program.
 - Run as part of a mentoring breakfast?
 - Encourage agency and community organization board members and workers to participate?
 - Modern Social Problems course at NMC: this year they created a video about food insecurity in the region. Link: <http://youtu.be/inYhtU823JU>
 - Food Security Study by Chris Thomas through Benzie Sunrise Rotary Club: includes interviews with 421 neighbors at food pantries and community meals

about their experiences. Has led to follow-up discussion about a regional Food Council.

Strategic Direction 1

Convening conversations – Employment Work Group – Sakura Raftery:

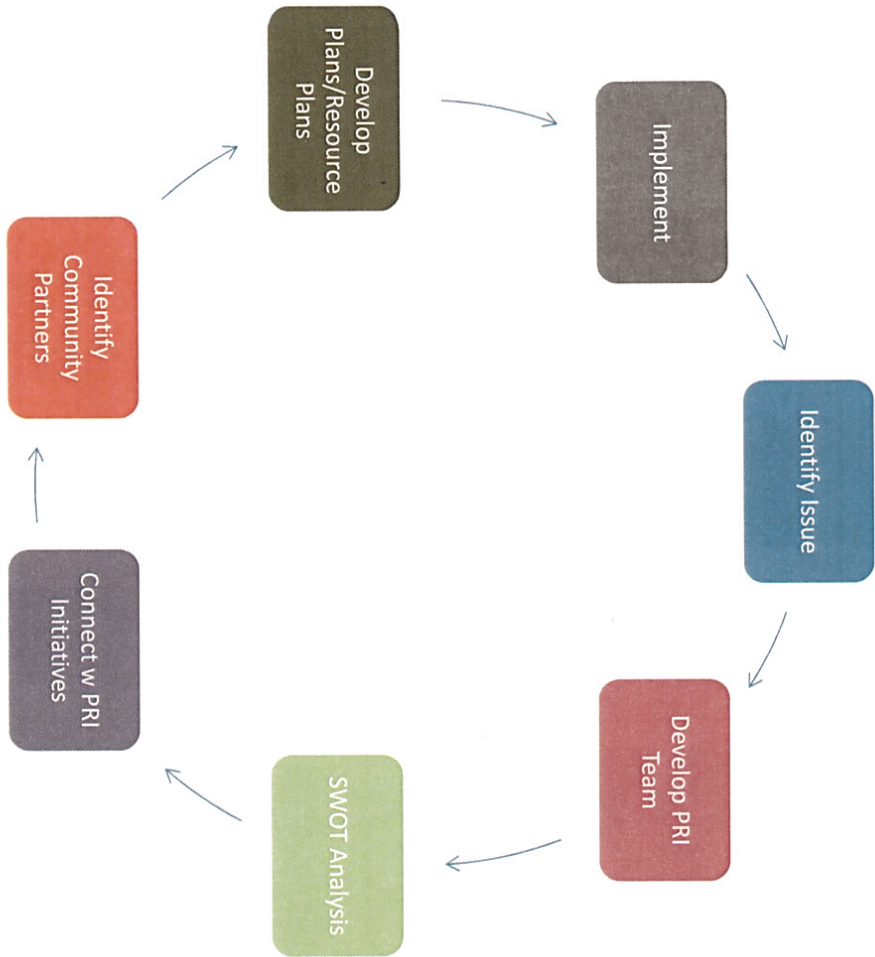
- April 2014 – present.
- What about employment and PRI impact?
 - A common language with neighbors leading to empowerment and understanding employment resources.
 - Saturday Special in October focused on employment
 - Engagement with the business community: where are they mis-informed and where do they lack resources for effectively working with our population?
 - Meeting with employers, including discussion by Chris Mohrhardt of Incredible Mo's about the practices he employs to attract and retain employees and work with them effectively
 - Looking for positive way to recognize business owners in the community who are strong as employers, and ways to disseminate their best practices through the business community along with the business case behind them (low turnover, being an “employer of choice”).
 - Examples: picking up an employee whose car broke down on the way to work; changing a person's scheduled shift if they have a childcare or other issue; having an open door policy where employees are confident that they can openly discuss their personal issues with management without risking their jobs – and in fact finding creative supports to help them remain successfully employed.
 - Project will be ongoing
- **Convening Conversations – Next Issue**
 - **Deciding how to decide**
 - **Issue Process Diagram**
 - **Strategic Screening Matrix Tool**
 - **Passionate Leadership for the Next Issue**
 - **Tier Model?**
 - Tier 1: PRI Takes the lead
 - Tier 2: it's important, there's already an initiative in the lead, it's important to us – how do we partner and engage and support the effort?
 - Tier 3: Emerging issue to which PRI may wish to respond and/or attract awareness (affordable housing, other poverty-related issues)
 - Who is already working in these subject areas, and who can come in and better inform us about what's already going on, what the issues are, and where PRI can fit in?

Meeting Wrap-up/Next Steps:

- **Deciding how to decide issue will be discussed in greater detail at January meeting**

Meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

Poverty Reduction Initiative
Issue Group Process



- Education
- Employment
- Food
- Health Care
- Housing
- Mentoring
- Prevention
- Transportation
- Other