



PRI Steering Committee
Tuesday, January 20, 2015
1:00-2:30 pm, 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.*

Called to Order at 1:05 p.m.

Present:

Bailee Brandt, Habitat for Humanity
Jim Rowlett, Little Collaborative/TCAPS
Mentoring Program
Tom Emling, MSUE
Pat Riconi, DHS
Jim Moore, Disability Network
Doug Leary, NMCAA
Steve Wade GTRCF

Tom White, Networks Northwest
Sharon Vreeland, GTCC & LCFCC
Tim Hamilton, Love INC
Karen Emerson, NMCAA
Sakura Raftery; Goodwill
Trina Egeler, Networks Northwest
Prisoner Re-entry Problem

Meeting Notes from 12/16/2014:

Project Reports:

- **HelpLink:** Last month Karen Fulkerson reported on some training being provided to HelpLink navigators. Sakura was interested and networked further with Karen about the training, with the result that Goodwill staff will be having the training this week.
- **Saturday Special – Report on upcoming event:** February 7 at the Career Tech Center, 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. “Invest in Yourself” is the general theme, including inspirational stories. There will be sessions on savings, career exploration and planning, dressing for success, healthcare coverage, and energy efficiency and weatherization kits. Free tax preparation will be available. Participant surveys will be collected to provide feedback for grant makers. They hope to beat the record of 54 tax returns prepared, thanks in large part to participation by the IRS and other tax preparers. Free daycare is provided for ages 4 and above only, as it is difficult to find qualified providers for infants and toddlers.
- **Neighborhood Meeting:** Meeting tonight will highlight all the programs available at NMCAA. In February HelpLink will come, and in March there may be a highlight on a particular NMCAA program.
- **Mentoring Training:** Goodwill, 9:00 a.m. Friday January 23, 40 minutes, topic is the use of social media, to be led by Joe Sanok.

- **TCAPS Mentoring program:** 35 students are looking for mentors, but there are only about half that many committed mentors. Please look for and recruit people you think would do a great job of working with high school students.

Budget: There is a small sum of money that would cover current annual PRI expenses for about 2 years. PRI does not have a budget. It may be desirable to launch more of a public awareness campaign that would need funding. There may come a point when Networks Northwest no longer feels they can provide staff support as they do now. Steve will be convening a strategic discussion about PRI goals, needs, and whether/how/where it's possible and desirable to obtain sustainability funding. Please be thinking about possible income and expenses (good expenses are a positive thing, because they promote achievement of the mission and goals). If interested in serving on the committee, please contact Steve Wade.

Framework for our Future Update: PRI has been asked to sign in support of the project result. No objections having been raised, Steve will do so.

There will be monthly public roll-outs and conversations about specific sections of the Framework, starting in February with "Talent." The Framework document is available on-line for review Tom White will help keep us posted on when and where the community conversations will occur. Link: <http://www.networksnorthwest.org/planning/planning-policy/northwest-michigan-regional-prosperity-initiative/northwest-michigan-regional-prosperity-plan/>

Housing Solutions Network and NMCAA will be working on what they can do to highlight Housing Awareness Month in June, and particularly promoting the creation of additional affordable housing in this area. Anyone who would like to participate is welcome.

Convening conversations – Employment work group Update – Sakura: Peer sharing that engages the business community is the next initiative. Sakura has secured support from the Chamber, and Janie has secured support and a desire to participate from the local HR professionals' organization. Net meeting Tuesday 1/27 from 2-3 at Goodwill's main campus (South Airport Road). Tom will create a PRI website page dedicated to the Employment work group's activities.

Convening conversations – Next issue? (2:00 – 2:30)

- **Deciding how to decide – strategy screen tool, tier model, passionate leadership:**
 - Focus first on the things we believe strongly will prevent and/or reduce Poverty and for which passionate leaders exist within the group.
 - Consider strategic alliances that will promote our message and activities and create engagement in multiple community sectors.
 - We need to be bringing our message to other community groups, similar to how the Continuum of Care has been speaking to several local planning commissions about the need for affordable housing. It could be particularly beneficial if several community groups and agencies address the same groups in a planned sequence to strengthen and multiply awareness and importance of the message. We should support other initiatives in their efforts regarding things that are important to poverty reduction.

- What are the issues that other groups are working on and perhaps we can be most effective pitching in with them, and what are the issues that only we seem to be addressing (such as workforce issues)?
- Rollouts of the chapters of the Framework may be an excellent time to engage the broader community and see where PRI fits in to sustaining the conversation and making progress on the issues.
- We can add value by disseminating information, even just the knowledge about where conversations are happening so that the right people can be connected to the right discussions, and so that the right discussions can be connected to one another.
- We can add value by adding new life to valuable conversations that are losing steam.
- **Additional Emerging Topics:**
 - Food Security/Insecurity in the 5 County Area
 - Kris Thomas, Benzie Sunrise Rotary Club recently completed and is presenting.
 - NW MI Food Network/MLUI Food & Farming Network is planning annual conference in March
 - New report by Bill Palladino with ambitious goals for increases in nutritious local food production.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.