

**PRI Steering Committee  
Tuesday, May 19, 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 1:00 p.m.**

**Present:**

Pat Riconi, DHHS	Tom White, Networks Northwest
Jim Moore, Disability Network	Stephanie Amos, Goodwill/Father Fred Intern
Doug Leary, NMCAA	Tim Hamilton, Love, INC
Steve Wade GTRCF	Joe Bagby, DHHS
Sharon Vreeland, GTCC & LCFCC	Trina Egeler, Prisoner Reentry
Brandon Everest, NMC Sociology	Tom Emling, MSU Extension
Sakura Raftery; Goodwill	
Jennifer Hamilton, Salvation Army	
Janie McNabb, Networks Northwest	

**Project Reports:**

- **Neighborhood Meeting** – 15-18 attendees mo. on average. Last month was Deb Haase, Father Fred. June 9 is Street Cleanup Program.
- **June 10 4-6 pm Little Collaborative Open House to recruit and recognize volunteers and mentors for each of the three member programs.**
- **Mentoring Training:** 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Mentoring Breakfast. Lisa Bottomley, MSU Extension Officer of the Year will be the speaker. 6/17, Wed evening, Faith Reformed Church 6:30 – 8 round table discussion for current and potential mentors to talk about racial, age, and other gaps between mentors and those they seek to serve. 6/18 9-4 Faith Reformed Church: Recruitment and Retention of Volunteers. All events are at no charge.
- **Love, INC golf raffle \$100/ticket x 100 tickets. 1<sup>st</sup> prize Golf for 4 at LochenHeath, caddies, lunch on course, sleeve of golf balls, and lesson for the foursome from the pro. 2<sup>nd</sup> prize is brunch for 4 at the LochenHeath restaurant. 3<sup>rd</sup> prize is golf balls. All raffle tickets are good for \$10 discount on golf. Golf there is \$130/person. Prizes are totally donated, so all proceeds support programs.**

**Convening conversations – Employment work group Update – Sakura & Janie:**

- **Supportive Workplace Award Update:** 6 nominations received representing solid best practices. There will be a meeting next week to review the applications and

move forward with the award process, which should be wrapped up in June. Should be a great opportunity to spread the word about worker support in the community.

### **Convening conversations – Next issue?**

- **How can we approach Poverty Prevention? Jim Rowlett (see handout):**
  - Prevention is a part of the PRI mission statement and 2012-14 3-year plan.
  - Pilot mentoring program at Traverse City Central High School to increase graduation rates is a poverty prevention program
  - “A successful community is all about the kids.” Cradle to career concept is for the community to support youth and families with young children through early childhood development programs (well-developed in this area), communities in schools (the CIS national program is in use in Mancelona schools) and NMC to help youth develop into successful adults and employees.
  - Handout contains a grid of age groups, developmental needs, and opportunities meeting those needs.
  - What messages do our youth need? What is the curriculum to deliver them? Where can they be delivered?
  - If we could successfully engage every child, we could reach zero poverty.
  - At the Fall 2013 Opportunity Conference there was an enthusiastic discussion about education.
  - Launch Manistee is a new “cradle to career” initiative. Their coordinator is a TC resident and could be invited to a future PRI meeting to share. 96% of their college seniors filled out a college application. They are part of the state Local College Access Network (LCAN). Antrim-Kalkaska has a new ICAN with coordinator as well. [www.launchmanistee.org](http://www.launchmanistee.org).
  - Love, INC Crib Ministry: engages parents before their child is born. Families in need receive a crib and a coupon for a layette from Faith Reformed Church. “Powerful Parenting” course with meal and childcare – all at no cost – also offered. Benefits of pre-natal education have been seen.
  - Breaking the cycle of poverty and/or addressing current poverty? Focusing closely on the children to assure their basic needs are met, including through supporting their families.
  - Salvation Army offers the program “Pathway of Hope,” nationally and now in Traverse City.
  - What’s’ next? Maybe....
    - Learn more from Launch Manistee and CIS in Mancelona
    - Talk to Mike Hill at TBAISD and others whose organizations may have a role to play to explain the opportunity and gauge interest in participating.
    - Based on interest expressed, decide whether to convene around a larger initiative or continue to nurture existing programs.
    - See if any small, natural groupings of entities come together to address portions of the need.
    - Educating groups working with youth about poverty and its impacts.
    - Mapping clusters of community connections and looking for ways to increase and strengthen them.
    - Is there another organization that already does this, in TC or elsewhere nearby? If not, should PRI or another organization play this role?
    - Would it make sense to select a particular youth population to work with to start, and to measure impact/success against a “control” group?
    - Is total poverty elimination a vision statement vs. a mission statement? What’s the best scope/scale given available resources.

- There are many programs with different foci already engaged. We may not know about everything that's already happening. We don't have to do their work, and perhaps we can support their work more effectively. Like piranhas, one may not kill a subject alone, but a whole swarm can. Perhaps we need to partner with the existing programs to incorporate the story of the effects of poverty and to help connect the various existing initiatives to one another through the poverty lens.
- Different kids can fall through different cracks at different ages and points in time. How do we impact them early enough so that they don't arrive at high school age in crisis and with a low level of skills for success?
- Use the Supportive Workplace Award model to recognize and support those doing good work in the community and spread the message effectively.
  - Munson quarterly Community Health Hero Award. Winners include Oryana and The Children's House, the latter for bringing awareness to the immunization issue. Have Poverty Prevention Heroes?
  - The Kalamazoo Promise, and the Northport Promise. Incentivizing programs to work in collaboration towards an overarching, longer-term goal.
  - Perhaps the job is to focus or amplify the proverbial "thousand points of light."
  - Suggestion to add substance abuse prevention at the 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade level in poverty prevention grid.
  - Thanks to Jim for a thought-provoking and creative discussion!

**Communication – PRI Report to the Community – Tom White:**

- PRI Participation summary is on website, and works well with December 2014 meeting notes regarding annual program updates.
- **Every committee: please update/amplify on the December 2014 meeting notes to bring us current and compile into final document. Outcome anecdotes and statistics (such as total tax dollar refunds filed for during February Saturday Special) are always welcome. Due date: a few days before next meeting so information can be compiled for discussion at next meeting.**

**Summer Meeting Schedule:** Regularly schedule meeting in June. Consider whether to have meetings in July and/or August at June meeting.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:21 p.m.**