

Waukesha County Nutrition Coalition Minutes

March 22, 2016

Attendees: Zoltan Eszes- St. Vincent de Paul Waukesha County; Peggy Brown- St. Joseph Medical Clinic; Melinda Stuart- Smart Moves; Karen Cumblad, Irene Kay- James Place; Mary Jo Hamman- Waukesha County WIC; Cindy Eggleston- Mukwonago Food Pantry and Resource Center; Regina Estrada- Blessings in a Backpack; Pam Cesarec- Food Pantry of Waukesha County; Michelle Montez-Waukesha County HHS Independent Living Program; Rachel Zuniga- Hispanic Health Resource Center & Community Outreach-ProHealth Care; Jill Herz, Jen Whitty-UWEX.

Introductions-Regina Estrada and Rachel Zuniga

Presenter: Ed Olson, Chris Menden- Thriving Waukesha co-chairs. In 2011, the United Way leadership group began discussing the need for Waukesha's increased demand for services in spite of decreased resources. Waukesha is a community with rapidly changing demographics and changing socioeconomic status of its citizens. Lead agencies involved in this workgroup include the United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County, Waukesha County Community Foundation, Greater Milwaukee Foundation, and Waukesha County Government. The group developed a task force including county leadership, nonprofits, and large donor agencies. The task force gathered information and data via surveys, including a survey of 80 nonprofit agencies. The Taskforce's ultimate vision was to "build a thriving and sustainable nonprofit community that effectively mobilizes community resources and meets the health and human service needs of all who call Waukesha County home." The Thriving Waukesha County Alliance (TWCA) was formed, consisting of representatives from health care, public health, nonprofit agencies and businesses. Thriving Waukesha is focusing on strategic collaborations that will have long term sustainability and capacity and align community resources to collectively address complex social issues. The first key priorities Thriving Waukesha aims to address are homelessness and transportation. Thriving Waukesha will help to support efficient, effective, and strategic management of organizations, recognizing that ineffective, inefficient agencies won't be sustainable in the long run. One such management policy includes financial management, ensuring that an agency has a reserve budget to weather storms and sustain itself. Thriving Waukesha is currently working on developing performance measures for their work that will accurately measure impact.

Homelessness Affinity Group: Included a group of 40+ nonprofit providers, political leaders, funders, community members. The short term goal was to address crisis and overflow issues during the winter months. Long term goals include implementing a strategic plan for the Housing Action Coalition to conform to HUD requirements, increase capacity, and respond to demand for housing. This month, the new Housing Action Coalition will be meeting for the first time, which includes the county executive, mayor, sheriff's department, and several nonprofit agencies. The team will focus on long-term impact, putting in place a system that will prevent a homelessness/housing crisis in the future.

Transportation Affinity Group: Included a group of 53 individuals representing 31 nonprofit providers, political leaders, funders, community advocacy members. Seniors and adults with disabilities are unable to access transportation for high priority needs, especially health care services. The demand for transportation among seniors is rapidly rising. The transportation system in Waukesha County is complex and includes the Interfaith Mobility Manager, Senior taxi in individual communities, bus line, and many more. There is no public transportation beyond the city of Waukesha in spite of the fact that there are needs. The current system is fragmented, with agencies differing in prioritization of services, management systems, communication with other agencies, etc. The ultimate goal is to make the "non-system" a system that can respond to needs. Interfaith Senior Programs along with the TAG secured a competitive federal grant of \$22,000 to test potential county-wide solutions. The group is anticipating implementation of the funding in 2016.

Outcomes of Thriving Waukesha in 2015 include: serving as a catalyst for strategic collaborations (Safe Babies Healthy Families/Easter Seals, convening key agencies to address adult dental services). Conducted a successful Capacity Building education through a Collaboration Training (30 Nonprofit agency executives and board leaders attended), 6-part Financial Learning series (11 Waukesha County Nonprofit agency executives, staff and board leaders attended), and a Dynamic Partnerships community event .

To learn more about Thriving Waukesha, visit the website here: www.unitedwaygmwc.org/TWCA

Agency Updates:

Rachel Zuniga- Hispanic Health Resource Center—ProHealthy Community Fair will be held on Saturday, April 9th. The fair includes screenings, education, healthy food samples, bike helmets, and other resources. Contact ProHealth to register. You will need to be registered to participate in screenings.

Food Pantry of Waukesha County, Pam Cesarec—Boy Scout Food Drive was on Saturday, March 19th. Pounds of food was down from last year.

Peggy Brown, St. Joseph Medical Clinic— Able to expand nurse case management through a grant. Receiving many walk-ins; feeling the effects of decrease of community outreach nurses in community.

Melinda Stuart-Smart Moves—Smart Moves is a for-profit organization, moving seniors who are downsizing. Seniors have many items to get rid of—let Melinda know if you are in need of items such as dishes, clothes, utensils, or other household items.

Jill Herz- UWEX Nutrition Education- Working on annual nutrition education SNAP-Ed grant for FY17, due in mid April. Wrapping up programming in schools.

Jen Whitty- UWEX Family Living- Will be starting Strong Seniors program at the Berkshire Kensington in Waukesha. Strong Seniors is a strength training program designed to maintain and strengthen bone mineral density.

Mukwonago Food Pantry and Resource Center, Cindy Eggleston— Boy Scout Food Drive donations were down from last year. There was a considerable amount of expired items. Currently planning to work with local church youth groups to do garden plots. Groups will grow ingredients for salsa and give the produce to the pantry. Will be hosting a canning and preserving classes. Hosting a shred event on Saturday April 9th- 5 dollars per box. Nine office spaces are available for rental at the Mukwonago Resource Center site.

Waukesha Co HHS Independent Living Program, Michelle Montez—Started first cooking lesson with youth aging out of foster care. Received donation from Mukwonago Food Pantry for youth including dishes, food, towels, potholders, etc. Will be having another cooking lesson in April.

James Place, Karen Cumblad—Will be hiring a part time outreach nurse soon to address gap in services.

St. Vincent De Paul, Zoltan Eszes- Planning an event “Voice of the Poor- Restorative Justice” event at St. Luke’s Church in Brookfield on April 16th. Register online at: <http://stvincentwaukeshacounty.org/>

Blessings in a Backpack, Regina Estrada —Currently feeding 900 kids at 4 schools. Would like to serve the rest of Waukesha county in the future. May partner with volunteers in Oconomowoc to reach 297 kids in Oconomowoc that are eligible.

Next Meeting: April 26, 2016 Topic: Food Pantry of Waukesha County Speaker: Kostyn Tyksinski