

Carbon County Partners for Progress

Web: www.carboncountypartners.org Email: ccpartners@ptd.net

Meeting Notes of April 16, 2010

Present: Elissa Thorne, Wayne Nothstein, Peter Kern, George Ashman, Cyndi Zimmerman, Susan Tyler, Jim Kraky, Stephen Kew-Goodale, Dawn Ferrante, Jeanne Miller, Bernetta Frantz, Chris Parker, Larissa Kimmel, Barbara Franzosa

President Elissa Thorne called the meeting to order at 8:30AM. Elissa thanked everyone for their help with Leadership Carbon and announced that the graduation would be Thursday May 13, and Representative Keith McCall would be the guest speaker at graduation. The class project this year is a Youth Leadership Camp which will be held in June. Elissa also announced that our speaker at the June meeting will be Jonathan Johnson speaking on "The Face of Carbon County," a census report.

Treasurer's Report: Joe Guardiani unable to attend.

Acceptance of Minutes: The minutes of 3/19/10 were accepted on a motion by Bernetta Frantz; 2nd: by Jeanne Miller; motion passed with the correction that Jeanne Miller had reported that they had received a \$52,000 stimulus grant and were going after a 21st century grant.

Correspondence: no correspondence

Guest Speaker: Larissa Kimmel of Family Promise: In her work at MH/MR Larissa became aware of the issue of family homelessness. She was seeing 20-30 families a month. They are the "hidden homeless," bouncing from one relative to another. Larissa showed us a dramatic short video of comments by volunteers and clients in the Family Promise program. She researched Family Promise and started to form a chapter in Carbon County. The concept involves getting 13 churches throughout the area to be hosts for 3-4 families for 1 week at a time on a rotating basis. The families stay at the existing church facilities overnight, and each day are transported by the Family Promise van to the day center, which will be located in Leighton. At the day center, the home school district will pick up the children for school and the parents will do laundry, receive mentoring, and be linked with community resources to help them get a job and a permanent place to live. There will also be a daycare and an office for use by the families. Nationally, the Family Promise success rate is 89% and the average stay for a family is 53 days. There is a screening process and rules and regulations. There are programs in Reading and Monroe County, and Williamsport is also working on setting one up. To date,

Carbon County Family Promise has 8 churches involved and they have created their 501©3. They meet at St John's Episcopal Church, Lehighton, on the 4th Thursday of every month. They hope to start up in the Fall of 2010 and the estimated budget is \$90,000. They are currently running a fundraiser called the 180 Club, named so because they are turning people's lives around 180 degrees. The cost is \$180 per year. Another fundraiser is the Cardboard Camp to be held at Jim Thorpe High School Stadium at a date to be announced. We made a motion for PFP to become a member of the Family Promise 180 Club on a motion by George Ashman, 2nd by Susan Tyler.

Health & Human Services: Susan Tyler announced the Annual Safe Kids Day will be Saturday May 1st from 10Am-3Pm in Jim Thorpe. There will be lots of fun events and giveaways and a youth speaker. Fifth St to Seventh St will be blocked off for this event.

Chamber of Commerce: Elissa reported that a Part-time director is being sought. The Business Expo is at Penn's Peak April 20th and 21st from 3-8PM, and she would appreciate volunteers.

Business/Education: Cyndi Zimmerman reported that presentations are being made in the local school districts on soft skills during the PSSA testing. There will be a Business Expo/Career Fair by Trade and Industry at Lehighton High School on April 22nd. Union Apprenticeship Leaders will be there from Lehigh Valley to Wilkes-Barre. There will be a CAD program starting at the Career Center. The Business/Ed Partnership website is on-line at www.ccbep.org

Family Collaborative: Bernetta Frantz announced that they have received 3 more years of funding from the 21st Century Grant. SHINE has received an award in Harrisburg. Teen pregnancy clients qualify for early Head Start.

Economic & Heritage Development & Community Foundation: Dawn Ferrante is coordinating a workshop on the Entrepreneurial League System(ELS) on this afternoon from 2-4PM at the new Kovatch Training Facility in Nesquehoning. The program creators, Tom Lyons and Gregg Lichtenstein will both be attending to provide an overview of this one-on-one business coaching

Leadership Carbon: The 2010 class will attend our May meeting to talk about their project. Their graduation is May 13th at the Blue Ridge Country Club at 5:30PM. We are all invited to attend.

Community Brochure: Elissa asked that groups provide their information including pictures as soon as possible.

Next Meeting-May 21st at LCCC Nesquehoning Campus at 8:30AM

Meeting adjourned at 9:30AM