

# Carbon County Partners for Progress

Web: [www.carboncountypartners.org](http://www.carboncountypartners.org) Email: [ccpartners@ptd.net](mailto:ccpartners@ptd.net)

Meeting Notes of August 21, 2009

**Present:** Elissa Thorne, Cyndi Zimmerman, Wayne Nothstein, George Ashman, Garry Miller, Ron Blisard, Caylan Chanwik, Doug Makofka, Peter Kern, Jeanne Miller, Amanda Sandlin, Debra Youngfelt, Judy Hoppes, George Wells, Dawn Ferrante, Barbara Franzosa

President Elissa Thorne welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:30AM.

**Treasurer's Report:** none while Joe Gaurdiani is recuperating; Elissa has received information from Joe that the papers have been filed for charitable organization and we received audit paperwork. We also received a \$2000 donation for CCPFP from PPL through Paul Canevari.

**Acceptance of Minutes:** The minutes were accepted with the following corrections: correction on spelling of Gnaden Huetten, and spelling of our email: [ccpartners@ptd.net](mailto:ccpartners@ptd.net)

**Economic & Heritage Development & Community Foundation:** Elissa reported that a meeting was held regarding the community foundation with Peter Kern, Elissa, Joe Guardiani, Pat Reilly, Dawn Ferrante, and Barbara Franzosa. Pat Reilly made a nice offer through Mauch Chunk Trust to help get the foundation started for the first 5 years at a reduced rate. Peter is exploring the legal side with a local lawyer.

**Education and Workforce:** Cyndi Zimmerman reported that they are moving ahead with the Carbon County Business Education Partnership. They have a mission statement and are developing their 501©3. [An executive committee and board of directors have been chosen. Members represent business/industry including manufacturing, technology, banking and healthcare. All school superintendents in Carbon County will hold a permanent seat on the board as well as representatives from LCCC, East Stroudsburg University and Penn State. The board will be meeting monthly at 9:00 a.m. on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at the Carbon County Chamber of Commerce Office in Lehighton. Anyone interested in joining a subcommittee should contact Cyndi at 570-325-4140x213.](#)

**Family Collaborative:** Jeanne Miller reported that LCCC and Carbon County Seniors worked together to create a book and a dvd titled "The SHINE Victory Garden," on the importance of quality after-school and early childhood programs. They will host a Red Carpet Premier, at no cost, to show the dvd to the public on October 22, 2009 at 5PM in the Panther Valley High

School Auditorium. Everyone is invited to come and celebrate this unique project developed in Carbon County. They are also celebrating the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual "Lights on After School" program.

SHINE received a Kellogg Planning Grant to research our SHINE After School program as a State and National model laboratory for training education majors.

**Health & Human Services:** no report

**Marketing & PR:** Elissa reported that the website and email are functioning well.

**New Business:** none

**Next Meeting is Friday September 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM at LCCC Nesquehoning Campus**

**Guest Speaker:** Dawn Ferrante, Director of Carbon County Economic Development spoke on the new program she would like to start in Carbon County to help entrepreneurs in their growth and development. She gave an overview of the history of the Carbon County Dept of Economic Development and showed how building an Entrepreneurial Community would add a strong segment of continuing small business development to the county picture.

This program was created by Thomas S Lyons, PhD, Fifth Third Bank Professor of Community Development in the School of Urban and Public Affairs and the Director of the Center for Research on Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development(CREED) at the University of Louisville. Dawn would like to invite Tom Lyons to meet with us and other local groups to discuss this initiative further. There is no cost for his visit.

She presented his results of a 2 year study of the program set up in a 9 parish region in Louisiana. Some steps in the program include building a current business database, asset mapping-understand community assets we have and where there are gaps, and creating an entrepreneurial league system-which involves good professional business coaches.

Some questions she posed:

How do we build a continuing supply of Entrepreneurs? 61% of population desires own business  
Who owns the program? Don't want the program to be perceived as government funding for business

We had a lively discussion on creating a continuing supply of entrepreneurs- topics mentioned were students shadowing business people in career-planning; Learning for Life-a Minsi Trails Boy Scout Program that currently brings students interested in the sciences into Gnadon Huetten Hospital to shadow, Junior Achievement, Junior Leadership, FBLA, making teachers aware of what is available in Carbon County. We agreed that we would like to attend a meeting when Tom Lyons comes to the area.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:30AM Notes respectfully submitted by Barbara Franzosa

