

Carbon County Partners for Progress

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Meeting Notes of March 18, 2011

Present: George Ashman, Jaime Drake, Jeanne Miller, Pat Sasserath, Elissa Thorne, Melanie Zeigler, Bernetta Frantz, Wayne Nothstein, Ron Blisard, Doug Makofka, and Barbara Franzosa

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

Treasurer's Report: no report

Acceptance of Minutes: Accepted on motion by Ron Blisard and 2nd: George Ashman with the correction that the Dental Van is currently serving 1200 children.

Correspondence: none

Leadership Carbon: Elissa reported that they are reworking the curriculum and are setting up a new web site.

Health & Human Services: Pat announced that the Interagency Council Legislative Breakfast on April 29th at 9:30AM has a new location-the Leighton Senior Citizen Bldg at 8th and Iron Sts. Cost is \$12 and sponsorships are \$25. Everyone has been invited from the Governor to Federal Representatives. RSVP to Larissa Kimmel at MHMR. Bernetta reported that Dr Jason leaves the dental van at the end of this month. Dr Smith has started. The state is considering changing the reimbursement from 2 times a year to once per year. The American Dental Society recommends 2 visits per year. CHIP has been changed to 1 visit per year. This is devastating news for children's health. Where is the shared sacrifice? Discussion on how to effectively approach legislators.

Chamber of Commerce: had a strategic planning meeting in Jan.; consultants from Executive Services Corp led discussion on organization and board issues; next Sat. the second meeting is on structure. The Chamber has been paying back loans and is in better financial shape. Combining with the Builders Assoc to host a Green Show at Memorial Hall. Barbara will send out an email blast on the event.

Business/Education: Ron reported that all school districts are involved, but there is only 1 business involved-Kovatch. Suggestion to approach businesses by phone, more direct than a letter. Any business wishing to be involved should contact Cyndi at 570-325-4140 x 2213.

Family Collaborative: Commissioner Wayne Nothstein received his award in Harrisburg last week, for being an After School Champion. Our congratulations to Wayne. Jeanne and Jaime will be attending the first task force meeting on April 14th. On April 24th Redco will show how clinical homes are working well in school districts. Jeanne will be meeting with the State Secretary of Education. Congressman Barletta is coming to see the PV SHINE program on Monday. Pat reported that the transportation committee is looking to get a \$120,000 from PennDOT to analyze existing transportation. Will look at Social Services needs which are not covered. Currently we only serve the elderly. Healthy Family Initiative meeting in April with grad student from

Duquesne. Community Engagement received funding again, works with Head Start and Right from the Start; Eva Lynn heads it; working on a new focus.

Economic & Heritage Development & Community Foundation: PA Historic Museum Commission did a survey in the Fall on heritage resources throughout the state. Carbon County's response rate was the highest in the state. The D&L is contracting with PA Rails to Trails to do a survey on the entire trail, 165 miles. Will study the southern half in 2011 and the northern in 2012, with the combined survey completed in 2013. The damage after last week's storm was surveyed and reported by the Trail Tenders to DCNR in quick time. All next week DCNR is hosting a Conservation Landscape Workshop in Jim Thorpe. Forestry and DEP to work together and Pocono CLI will show the connection between nature and commerce. Elissa will be presenting on Jim Thorpe. The stretch of trail from Lehigh County line to the boat launch at Rt 895 is under construction and is currently closed. On October 23rd, the D&L and Rodale will host a marathon and a half marathon.

Barbara reported that Dawn has scheduled a meeting between our community foundation committee and the CCEDF for April 20th. Doug and Elissa have fine-tuned the PowerPoint presentation for that meeting. She asks everyone to think about a tag line for the foundation; for example The Luzerne Foundation uses "Here for Good." She noted that the foundation will not be going after the same funding most local groups look to on an annual basis; the foundation's main focus is private individuals who are looking for a professionally run organization with which to leave their financial legacy for the good of the community. It was mentioned that we need to let bankers, lawyers, accountants, and financial planners know that we are here, as it is their clients who can use our services. Elissa asked Ron to contact Steve about working with us.

Next Meeting-April 15th at LCCC Nesquehoning Campus at 8:30AM with guest speaker from D&L Trail

Meeting adjourned at 9:30AM

Respectfully Submitted by,

Barbara Franzosa