

CARBON COUNTY PARTNERS FOR PROGRESS

Minutes—January 16, 2009



Those in attendance: Pat Reilly, Joe Guardiani, Pat Sasserath, George Ashman, Bernetta Frantz, Bill Allison, Wayne Nothstein, Susan Tyler, Judy Hoppes, Cyndi Zimmerman, Jamie Drake, Sharon Kendig, Barbara Franzosa, Dawn Ferrante, Micah Gursky, Caylan Chanwik, Ron Gower, Peter Kern, Jeanne Miller, and Kristin Simmons.

President Pat Reilly welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Treasurer's Report:

Joe stated the report contained transactions only for November 2008. He does not have the December bank statement and is requesting a copy from the bank. The December statement will be included in the next report at the February meeting.

MOTION: A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Bernetta Frantz and seconded by Susan Tyler. Motion carried.

Acceptance of Minutes:

MOTION: A motion to accept the minutes for November 21, 2008 was made by Joe Guardiani and seconded by Bernetta Frantz. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Pat Reilly thanked everyone for their support, dedicated services, and commitment to Carbon County Partners for Progress.

Officers

Joe Guardini advised the group of all nominations for officer previously made at the November meeting. The following slate of officers for 2009 was presented:

President—Elissa Thorne
Vice President—Peter Kern
Treasurer—Joe Guardiani
Secretary—Kristin Simmons

Further nominations were invited. There being none. **MOTION:** Wayne Nothstein made a motion to closed nominations. It was seconded by Bernetta Frantz. Motion carried.

MOTION: Wayne Nothstein made a motion for the secretary to cast an affirmative ballot for the slate of officers. It was seconded by Bernetta Frantz. Motion carried.

The following members were elected to their respective offices for 2009:

President—Elissa Thorne
Vice President—Peter Kern
Treasurer—Joe Guardiani
Secretary—Kristin Simmons

New Business:

Vice President Peter Kern conducted the remainder of the meeting. Peter reviewed the Carbon County Partner for Progress mission. Several years ago CCPFP was organized as a visioning organization. One example is the Healthy Smiles program. CCPFP created it; however Blue Mountain Health System is running it. Another example is the Carbon County Chamber of Commerce that was formed by combining all the individual chambers in the Carbon County. CCPFP saw a need for more community leaders. Leadership Carbon was formed and is now

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in its fifth year. The first four years it was being administered by Lehigh Carbon Community College and CCPFP. This past year the program has been transferred to the Carbon County Chamber of Commerce. The program is open to any resident of the county who wants to develop leadership skills.

Discussion:

Issues Identified at November 21st meeting

During the November 21st meeting, twenty (20) goals had been identified by the Economic Development, Health and Human Services, and Education task forces. The list did not contain the Family Collaborative's issues. They will be discussed at the next meeting.

2009 Objectives, Intended Outcomes, Future Project Examples

The group worked as whole to narrow the list to the following four specific goals or projects that would have measurable outcomes and would have some impact in the next two-three years.

Economic Development

Increase Community Awareness of Carbon County Partners for Progress

The community needs survey revealed that many Carbon County residents have never heard of CCPFP. There was discussion on how the group can be better recognized. Barbara Franzosa updated the group on the Class of 2009's group project, its relationship to community awareness, and expands public information. The class chose their project after reading through the survey. They are developing and creating a comprehensive website for the county listing facilities for education and recreation; and to promote volunteer and community resources to residents of Carbon County. They are developing flyers & brochures to promote the website. They will be featuring a Carbon County day to launch the website so residents know about and take pride in the resources, attractions, and volunteer opportunities available. They are looking for an organization to "man" the site after they launch it. The feeling of the group was this may be a chamber function not a CCPFP function. She mentioned that we need to approach issues mindful of our charter.

Community Foundation

Discussion was held about creating a Community Foundation for Carbon County. The purpose of a foundation would be a means for individuals and families, businesses, clubs, civic group and other charitable organizations to make and preserve gifts and bequests to benefit the community forever. This could be established for future improvements and be funded by senior dollars. An example of a community foundation is the Luzerne Foundation. We could contact them to get a bullet list of steps needed to set up a foundation and to gain a better understanding of a foundation.

Health and Human Services

Access to Mental Health Services & the Use of Illegal Drugs

CCPFP will need to define the issues for mental health services, i.e. children and seniors. Then develop solutions making sure to be an advocacy group. The Health and Human task force feel there is a greater need for Mental Health services for the very young. They emphasized that they need "sustainable" funding on a yearly basis. The needs will need to

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come from the both the hospital and CCPFP. For example: Blue Mountain Health System recently opened an Adult Behavior Health unit. The patient is treated for one week and then is released. There are no follow-up/outpatient services available within Carbon County.

Education

Family Center, “Clearing House” or “311” for Social Services

Sited was the lack of coordination among agencies including Educational, Health, and Human Services in Carbon County. One suggestion is the county can create an office of Human Services Director (call 311) or a family center to be utilized as a county-wide clearing house for all social services available. Philadelphia recently set one up. The goal would be to match people to the agency that they are trying to find. Joe referred to the Harrisburg Tap logic model.

In addition, the following three goals were discussed

- Affordable/Accessible Quality Child Care.
- There is a high percent of senior citizens in Carbon County and how to leverage their experience.
- Sited in the survey was the lack of knowledge or capacity of local government personnel, council members, and supervisors.

Other Items:

We need to convey the results of the Community Needs assessment survey. Later this year, we owe it to the county residents to publish or release a report of the accomplishments and goals for each task force. It would be something similar to the *Carbon County Partners for Progress Report to the Community 2006* report that we did a few years ago.

Carbon County Partners for Progress will meet on Friday, February 20, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by: *Kristin Simmons*