

CARBON COUNTY PARTNERS FOR PROGRESS

Minutes—March 20, 2009



Those in attendance: Raine Neal, Pat Sasserath, Sharon Kendig, Doug Makofka, Cyndi Zimmerman, George Ashman, Anthony Taibi, Pat Reilly, Wayne Nothstein, Susan Tyler, Peter Kern, Jeanne Miller, Elissa Thorne, Michael Heery, Ron Blisard, and Kristin Simmons.

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

Treasurer's Report: No report.

Acceptance of Minutes:

MOTION: A motion to accept the minutes for February 13, 2009 was made by Ron Blisard and seconded by Cyndi Zimmerman. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Foundation

Peter Kern stated an informational meeting has been set up with Charles Barber of the Luzerne Foundation at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, March 25th. The Luzerne Foundation started with \$700,000 and has grown to over two million dollars. It would be a mechanism to help fund local projects. Peter would like to be involved in how it's structured to help ensure the maximum amount of funds collected are distributed. Joe Guardiani, Wayne Nothstein, and Pat Reilly will be assisting Peter. Currently, there is an existing \$2,000 Carbon County Foundation. However, it has been dormant for a few years. Originally it was set up to accommodate a transfer of property or donation. The charter could be refined or consolidated to avoid confusion with having two Carbon County Foundations. Dawn Ferrante is doing more research. From a visioning standpoint we have to be careful to maintain our 501 (c) 3 status.

Marketing

The Community Needs Assessment results will be reported to the public. Elissa contacted Matt Cordese. He will create a nice report and cover at a cost of \$300. A limited number of hard copies (300) will be published to be distributed to key people. A "pdf" file of the report will be created and it will be available on the website.

MOTION: Pat Reilly made a motion to have Matt Cordese create a Community Needs Assessment report at a cost of \$300. Jeanne Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Relations

Elissa met with PenTeleData. She received a \$2,000 cost proposal to setup a website. When speaking with Jaime Mendes, the proposal was reduced by 50%. The content management will be an ongoing basis. The goal is to have the website ready by June. Elissa recommended that we register the following two domain names: CarbonCountyPartners.org and CarbonCountyPartners.com. The cost is \$35 for five years per domain.

MOTION: Ron Blisard made a motion to continue with the project and to register both domain names: carboncountypartners.org and carboncountypartners.com. Pat Reilly seconded the motion. Motion carried. A press release campaign will be used to launch the website. All the media will be contacted.

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Carbon County Child & Family Collaborative

Jeanne Miller requested permission to use Carbon County Partners for Progress as a pass through for the following Right From the Start grants: The Blue Ribbon Foundation and the First Federal Foundation.

MOTION: Pat Reilly made a motion to accept the funding from the Blue Ribbon Foundation and the First Federal Foundation for the Right From the Start program. Susan Tyler seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Wayne made a correction about the 3-1-1 program. The U. S. Congress is being lobbied for financial support of the 2-1-1 system. There is a similar program in place in the Lehigh Valley called “Valley Wide Help” and is run by the American Red Cross. It is hoped we would be able to turn this into a true 2-1-1 system statewide.

Education Task Force

Cyndi Zimmerman reported she is working with Joe Sebelin to form a sustainable Business Education Partnership. An informal group of employers have been participating in various programs in all of the Carbon County school districts for the past few years; however, some funding has become available through the WIRED Initiative to develop a fully established program. Dr. Ed Lyba from Partners in Education (PIE) in Luzerne has been very helpful in assisting with the process. Bill Allison, Chair of the Education Task Force and Mike Heary, Carbon County Chamber has also been involved in the planning stages. The next step is to investigate if the PFP 501(c)3 could be used or if the Business Education Partnership would need to develop their own.

Loraine Neal, Community Services for Children

She gave a presentation about Community Services for Children and provided a handout with more details. The Northeast Key is one of six regions in the state and it serves 15 counties. The Northeast Key has the following to offer:

- Keystone STARS program
- Professional Development
- School Age Child Care Project
- Grants and Awards
- Early Childhood Mental Health
- Community Engagement

A \$50,000 grant is available for a Community Engagement group through the Office of Child Development and Early Learning. Currently there is no Community Engagement group in Carbon County. The program would require four meetings per year with stakeholders. They would be charge with developing an outreach plan; and a report card needs to be distributed to the community. The Community Engagement is a group of people within the community (or county) who are engaged around and committed to promoting and educating about quality Early Childhood education. They would be composed of representatives of Head Start, business leaders, legislator or legislative aide, early learning program staff, family members, and school district personnel, etc. The funding would support the Community Engagement Coordinator position. This program would be compatible with the Carbon County Child & Family Collaborative. Jeanne Miller, Wayne Nothstein, Bernetta Frantz, Mindy Graver, and Susan Tyler will meet with Loraine to discuss the details and to see how it can fit in with the CCCFC. The

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deadline for the grant proposal is April 17, 2009. However, Loraine will try to get “planning” funds by July.

Other Items:

- Doug Makofka spoke about the group project for the Leadership Carbon Class of 2009. They are working with PenTeleData to create a website for 20 organizations & recreational activities in Carbon County. It would also give these organizations an opportunity to recruit volunteers. They are planning a launch party on Friday, May 1st at Jim Thorpe Memorial Hall. There will be food, a Chinese Auction, and a band or DJ. The organizations will be invited to have displays and promote their activities.
- The graduation program for the Leadership Carbon Class of 2009 will be held on Thursday, May 16th at Blue Ridge Country Club. Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. dinner at 6:30 p.m.
- The Carbon Chamber of Commerce (CCCC) will be hosting their Business Expo on April 15th and 16th from 3 to 8 p.m. at Penn’s Peak. Vendor space is available. The next mixer will be on Wednesday, April 1st at Heritage Hill Senior Community, Weatherly from 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- Work is being done for the 2009-2010 CCCC Membership Directory.
- Elissa will make arrangements for a speaker at the next meeting.

Carbon County Partners for Progress will meet on Friday, April 17, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. for a general meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by: *Kristin Simmons*