



Attendees: 31 attendees via Zoom Conferencing

Welcome, Review Agenda and Meeting Minutes: Amanda Salami, Program Assistant

- The group welcomed Amanda Salami to the SEV team. She will facilitate the meeting.
- Preliminary instructions were shared that the meeting will be recorded.

Executive Committee Report: Clif Lavenhouse, co-chair

- The Executive Team is focusing on aligning goals and strategies starting the new fiscal year on July 1. They are looking for candidates that would like to be on the executive team. Community representative positions are available.
- Clif Lavenhouse would like the executive team to meet later this week to discuss community representative positions. If you have any information you'd like to add, please email [Amanda Salami](mailto:Amanda.Salami).

Information Presentation Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month- Kelli McNeillWilhelm

- Prevent Child Abuse NC is a conglomerate of Prevent Child Abuse. Visit this link for their digital toolkit to find training and activities offered during the COVID-19 crisis: <https://www.preventchildabusenc.org/recognize-child-abuse-prevention-month/>
- Many local non-profits and service provider partners are included in the Wake County Child Abuse Prevention Plan (WakeCAPP).
- The theme for this year for Child Abuse Prevention Month is "be a connection".
- Pinwheels symbolize the carefree nature of childhood that every child should have. We plant pinwheels to raise awareness and encourage prevention.
- Protective factors are tools given to parents that help them cope and take care of themselves and ultimately, their children.
- Kelli has shared the 5 protective factors invitation with the group. [Call 919-857-9145 to participate in a teleconference training on the 5 Protective Factors led by SafeChild staff. Visit ctfalliance.org/protective-factors for more information.](https://ctfalliance.org/protective-factors)

Social & Economic Vitality Update Amanda Salami, Program Assistant

Hiring

- The second candidate for the full-time program assistant in East Wake County is moving forward. They will begin the onboarding process likely in July.

Crisis Response

- SEV's plan for the COVID-19 crisis response will be ongoing and it may include:

-Community Coaching will provide families with trauma-informed life coaching and informational links to services.

-Community Covers will provide direct linkage to housing resources for residents seeking safe shelter.

-Crosby Connects will facilitate resource acquisition and distribution for basic unmet needs.

-Crosby Convenes will host virtual community conversations with community advocates and residents to support strategic planning.

Please contact Amanda Salami for more information.

- Geraldine Alshamy added that she is concerned with bureaucracy. It will be difficult to navigate these systems without policy changes. There is a large new wave of homelessness populations of “couch surfers” who are being pushed out, women who are in domestic violence situations and women who are concerned that since they are not working they are not complying with their Child Protective Service adjudication terms. These are just a few situations in which support is critical.
- Kristin adds that she agrees and thinks the conversation will include how to plug people into existing resources. Also, if resources are running out and if policy is a barrier for people receiving services, then we want to change those and make those more accessible. The policy and availability of resources affect if people get help. This is a conversation that Verna and Kristin will have with Commissioner West.
- Clif Lavenhouse asks if community members can sit in on the conversation with Dr. West? Also, is there a sponsor in the City of Raleigh towards the crisis response with Wake County?
- Geraldine adds that she has already spoken with local government officials. Grant money was dispersed for families in hotels. The problem is still access. These people don’t have work, they don’t have phones that allow them to join these conversations. The process by which the City refers people to non-profit organizations is not working.
- Kristin adds that Verna is working to set up a direct link through SEV to make these connections to these services rather than the overwhelming process of referral. The City usually says they don’t do human services type work- rather they do this through nonprofits.
- Cathey Ector adds that even though it is disturbing there is no health and human services department so the City must refer people to nonprofits. Perhaps the City needs to examine who is getting the money and if they provide a sufficient level of access to these services. They need to be more intentional about where grant money is being dispersed and how it is being used.
- Derrick Byrd asks if there has been a convening of Passage Home and Triangle Family Services executives to have these conversations? Cathey adds that likely not due to the COVID-19 response, especially with the vast need right now. Geraldine says the disconnect is between grassroot communities and service providers. If the city is not listening and not acting and if there is no City department for health and human services in crises like now, perhaps now is the time to make one. We need more collaborations rather than playing the blame game.
- Cathey adds that COVID-19 has shined a light on the large gaps in services.
- Vielka adds that in rural areas access is not readily available like in the City. These gaps have been here prior to the virus, the only change is how it is being handled. Vielka wants to be intentional about dispersing services to avoid a level of dependency. How are we empowering families to be able to do for themselves? Overdoing services can put families further back in the process of getting back on their feet.
- Geraldine Alshamy adds that perhaps this is some people, but this is not everyone. Before this pandemic, mental health problems that were not dealt with are now more prevalent. It’s certainly not easy to “catch up” when these individuals are working minimum wage jobs. Now is the best time to reach people, the entire community is traumatized.
- Kristin will take all these ideas to Verna about convening Triangle Family Services and Passage Home. Also, its important to take this time to address these barriers and make it sustainable. There is a lot that can be done simultaneously so long as we are working together.

Coworking Conference Call Follow Up

- This was a virtual conversation about coworking and collaboration beyond this crisis with [ReCity](#), a nonprofit co working space. Another focus was bringing local non-profits together to network and support each other.
- Kristin will send out recording from the session. If anyone is interested in having a deeper conversation, please be on the lookout for more information. Clif adds there is more interest in nonprofits in the East to join the conversation.
- Francis Bisby encourages everyone to visit ReCity site to learn more. Kristin wants SEV to tour ReCity after this crisis has ended.

EEASI-Empowering Entrepreneurs and Seeding Innovation

- There is adult and youth sub-committee meetings. Please email [Dynasty Winters](#) to join. This program will follow the [Icehouse Model](#).

Community Day

- This year it will be tentatively on October 17. If we can continue planning community day internally, please be on the lookout for the Save-the-Date by the end of May.

Action Team Updates

Training for Upward Mobility:

- Cathey updated the group on the April 20th meeting. Lesley B from SE Raleigh HS shared updates about Wake County Public schools. Students are doing virtual learning. She shared the need for SEV to continue sharing information about available resources.
- Raleigh Summer Youth Employment and WakeWorks is continuing to hire students for the summer and fall.
- Nikki Williams shared information on the reentry crisis that is emerging as early releases are carried out to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In September TUM would like to highlight Workforce Development month. This year's focus will be on defining small businesses and diversification to continue revenue in times of uncertainty. We also want to focus on living wages in Wake County.

Racial Equity and Social Justice:

- The meeting was rescheduled. Please stay tuned for a reschedule date.
- Michael Ballen spoke with the chief of police about the concern of hotels issuing trespassing warrants to work around the current eviction moratorium. He will update the group at the next meeting.
- Vielka Gabriel added that some property owners wanted people to leave due to disorderly conduct. We can educate families on hotel behavior conduct to help limit trespassing charges.

Community Leadership:

- This year they have been working to identify focuses for 2020. One of this year's focuses are incentive grants and to create a community engagement toolkit. This action team will meet tomorrow. Email [Kristin F](#) to RSVP.

Joint Action Team

- There will be a joint action team meeting sometime later this year. We will explore dates to virtually meet and update the group.

Community Partner Updates

- Lonnie Ervin wants to connect the CAG with Mary Phillips HS Business Alliance. Kristin invited Lonnie to present at the next CAG meeting to discuss areas of need and areas of collaboration.

- Middle Class Express has continued to meet virtually. Partner organizations will present to participants virtually to continue to help them move forward.
- Priscilla Awkard shared that if anyone has a Fanny Mae Loan, they can call and ask for a 6-month forbearance due to COVID-19 if they are experiencing financial hardship. Institutions are not allowed to ask for proof or documentation. Visit <http://www.coastal24.com/learn/resources/community-resources> for more information and resources that Coastal Federal Union is partnered with.
- Now is not the time to avoid your creditors- please call and work things out with them now.
- Also, some institutions are offering personal paycheck loans. Find more information on these loans and tips here: <https://www.lendio.com/ppp/coastal-federal-credit-union/>
- Small Business loans will be offered again to those who did not receive any the first time. It is important that these businesses complete the application now before the money is dispersed as it will go quickly.
- Richard Moore added that it is important for non-profits to have their paperwork and documentation in order. It is important to call ahead of time for late payments on loans before the payment is late.
- Kristin shared information on statewide hotlines to address mental health. Find more information [online](#).

Adjourn.

Next CAG meeting: May 19, 2020