

Community Leadership Meeting Notes

January 26, 2018

Present: Dalia Place, Jennifer Castillo, Chad Walker, Lorna Parker, DeAnna Jackson, Shemekka Coleman, Hannah Taylor, Kara Allen-Eckard, Verna Best, Kristin Feierabend

Why is investing in community leadership important?

- Decisions will be made regardless of community participation so we should give community members the tools they need to participate in the decision-making process
- If you want to see change, BE change
- We want to live in a healthy, safe community and have our children live in one, too
- “Nothing about us, without us”
- Engage with youth and seniors and create spaces for intergenerational learning and leadership
- It’s fun!
- This is *our* “why.” We’ll want to find out what the “why” is for other community members

Community Leadership Goals (*“Who” in italics*)

- Build the capacity of *grassroots nonprofits and churches* to lead community change
- Equip *parents* with the leadership skills to support their kids in addressing needs
- Equip a small group of leaders to become *community champions* (deep leadership development) and provide more general tools/training to a broader group
- Equip *residents* to lead/make change in their community
 - Residents are equipped with skills/information to participate in action teams/lead change
 - Residents access city/state/national resources to create change
 - Residents have knowledge and can get that knowledge out to others – they are relationship-builders who can connect people to resources
- Clarify *our/the community’s* definition of community leadership
 - Values, abilities, and behaviors – what are the **shared** competencies we can measure?
- Multi-level leadership strategies / different ways to engage at personal, professional, and community levels
- Incorporate an online component to leadership to increase accessibility to different generational groups and address barriers to participation
- Share **all** the good things going on – community bulletin boards, car stickers/magnets, training on how to talk about our work with others

Guiding principles for our work

- Relationships and trust are key
- Build personal connections
- Make sure we provide a value-added for people’s time
- Connect with groups we already know and get them to bring friends who already trust them
- Leverage the knowledge and skills of existing community leaders
- Awareness of the variety in levels of engagement – not all leaders look the same and not all community members are in the same place. Meet people where they are.
 - Leadership will look different to different people. Not everyone will be a community advocate. Advocacy can be for self, family, and community
- Break down barriers and be genuinely open to others (Habits of the Heart, Touchstones)

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Presentations: Community leadership models and tools

- Community of Solutions / Habits of the Heart (Shemekka)
- True Colors (Jennifer)
- Social Styles (Kara)

Next meeting: February 12, 10:00-12:00