

Community Leadership and Engagement Meeting 1/8/2018 10am-12pm

Attendees: Kara Allen-Eckard, Kia Baker, Jennifer Castillo, Shemekka Coleman, Kristin Feierabend, Dexter Hebert, Dalia Place, Hannah Taylor, Chad Walker, Lorna Wesley Parker, Deanna Jackson

Focus areas of SEV and SERP. Bolded are the areas that we are focusing on directly through this initiative, but the others are also indirectly impacted through community leadership

Social and Economic Vitality

Health and Wellness
Education Attainment
Economic Opportunity
Civic Engagement

Southeast Raleigh Promise

Affordable housing
Economic Opportunity
Community Leadership
Community Wellness
Cradle to Career Education

Objectives for meeting:

- Make progress towards making something happen around opportunities for training around community leadership and determine what that “something” is so we can advertise to the community
- Determine learning outcomes for community leadership training, decide target audience and deliverables for participants

Discussion

- What groups are we targeting - youth or full family? Would they be in groups separate or together?
 - Youth have special leadership needs and should be kept separate unless strong youth leadership base already exists
 - Together has benefits as well, opportunities for intergenerational learning
 - Opportunities for parent leadership
- Deliverables – We want community members to be able to actively engage in the decision-making process
- Topic Based Community Conversations – build community around themes and then participants decide next steps and action items
- SERP community engagement efforts in 2017 – dinners, town halls, other community events
 - What did they look like? SCALE dinners – community centers in SE Raleigh, attendees were usually people who lived in the community of that center
 - Successes – valuable discussion and equip attendees with knowledge
 - Lessons Learned - people might have felt left hanging, no next steps
- What are the goals for the first community meeting?
 - Update community on the work that SERP is doing, establish a next step plan to maintain engagement
 - Building leaders to become advocates, leadership capacity building

- Develop community champions as ambassadors to engage their neighbors
- What do these meetings look like?
 - Community Café Model, Lunch and Learns, consistent and repeating
 - Tag on to groups that already exist and are successful and promote through current programming – YMCA fitness classes at Wetland Center. Challenge – not much gender diversity
 - Importance of being intentional about having a diverse group
 - need to have Spanish speakers available
 - intentionally engage with and recruit youth
 - if tagging on to other groups, tag on to a variety of groups (fitness classes, faith community, parents)
 - Who? – Who will the codesign team be?
 - Where will the community members come from? (SEV survey respondents, community champions are possible pools)
 - What? – Models and strategies to use, what kind of structure, and clarify objectives (give folks skills, tools, resources to grow in leadership).
 - Work with the group to identify skills that already exist, what they need, and what they want to become a stronger leader
- Long term versus short term
 - Something to offer NOW versus plans for the future
 - Example: Affordable housing can take a long time, results from work we do today may not be seen in our lifetimes – focusing on the next generation
 - Inform people on what is happening now, what is feasible and what is more difficult to achieve
- Major challenge of engaging people – need to compensate people and add value to people we engage with
 - Adding a financial value to interactions can impact the way we structure those interactions (sitting and talking or DOING SOMETHING!)

Takeaways

- Codesign team
- Need to engage community for feedback (what does leadership look like to them) to decide what kind of model we want to use
- Be intentional about having a diverse group of community members represented
- Need to be authentic, build relationship, and meet people where they are.
- Give real applications to the leadership skills developed (use them at home, with your family/neighbors)
- What the first meeting might look like: begin by sharing information about SERP and asking the community what kinds of leadership skills they need, as well as including activities and basic leadership training based on the models we research at our 1/26 meeting

- Codesign team needs to go through some training before implementing models with community to create a shared understanding. Fail forward behind the scenes before getting in front of community members
- Dates: when we will go through a training (3 hours) 10-1 1/26 (cater lunch need gluten free and vegetarian options) and when we might get in front of the community 10-12 Feb 12

Resources Mentioned

- Youth Empowered Solutions (YES)
- Kara and state child welfare – tiered model for youth leadership strategies
- Community of Solutions framework & toolkit – 5 Habits of the Heart, adapted from Habits of the Heart for Democracy
- Community Café Model
- Social Styles
- True Colors
- Best practices for engaging with Latinx communities- FrontLine resource tool