

Community Leadership Action Team Meeting

July 25, 2018



Present: Melvin Jackson, Dalia Place, Clif Lavenhouse, Kristin Feierabend, Deidre McCullers, Kia Baker, Hannah Taylor, Tamisha Thomas, Jennifer Castillo

Overarching Goal: Equip Southeast Raleigh residents with the knowledge and skills to lead positive community change.

Today's Objectives:

- Determine how this team will move forward

Notes

The meeting started at 12:00pm.

Review of June 27th minutes

The June 27th minutes were approved with the following changes:

- Change time of the Racial Equity & Social Justice Action Team from “12:30-2:00pm” to “12:30-1:30pm”
- Change the word “group” to “team” throughout the minutes
- In future minutes, instead of saying “a group member suggested...” use the name of the individual making the comment

The caterer arrived late, so the group took a short break to get lunch.

Updates

- Dalia shared that Southeast Raleigh Promise was selected to host an AJ Fletcher Foundation Fellow for one year. The Fellow starts in August and will be able to support our Action Team's work.
- Hannah noted that the Racial Equity and Social Justice Action Team recently had a conversation about parents advocating for their children in school. This overlaps with some of the ideas we've discussed in this Action Team. The two teams could consider working together in the future if both teams are interested in pursuing the same idea.

Why We're Here

Southeast Raleigh Promise (SERP) and Social & Economic Vitality (SEV) Collaboration

- Kristin shared background info on Social & Economic Vitality (SEV). In 2015, the Wake County Board of Commissioners established a [Social & Economic Vitality goal](#). In 2017, the County hired Verna Best to manage the SEV initiative with the goal of engaging residents and partners in developing strategies to improve quality of life for residents of

Southeast Raleigh and Eastern Wake County (Knightdale, Wendell, Zebulon). Focus areas include community leadership development, health/wellness, educational advancement and economic opportunity. The Crosby-Garfield Center is the hub for many SEV activities in Southeast Raleigh. We are working with partners to provide programming (like job training, mental health services, etc.) that community members have identified as a need. The Action Teams provide an opportunity for residents to take a leadership role in developing solutions to community challenges. While the SEV initiative started with a focus on the “East Central” Wake County Human Services Zone, SEV staff recognize that community members do not identify with these boundaries; instead, we have chosen to focus primarily on zip codes 27601, 27603, and 27610.

- Kia provided background information about [Southeast Raleigh Promise](#) (SERP). SERP started in 2015. The focus is the Rock Quarry Road corridor, which has the highest level of poverty and lowest levels of educational attainment in the Southeast Raleigh area. SERP is the “backbone” agency coordinating the development of the elementary school, housing, and YMCA at the Beacon site. There is overlap in the geographies of SEV and SERP. SERP and SEV didn’t want to duplicate efforts/action teams, so we decided to collaborate. SERP does have some additional action teams.

Review Earlier Goals of Action Team

- Kristin read a list of goals that were brainstormed (not finalized) at the January 26, 2018, Action Team meeting:
 - Build the capacity of *grassroots nonprofits & 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 be *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
 - Multi-level leadership strategies / different ways to engage at personal, professional, and community levels
- Kristin noted that, up to this point, the Action Team has discussed ideas for building leadership capacity among Southeast Raleigh residents, rather than nonprofits. This is because SEV is working with NC State University’s Institute for Nonprofits to develop a capacity-building program for grassroots nonprofits in Southeast Raleigh. There may be ways the Action Team can inform the development of that program if that is of interest.
- Tamisha suggested that the Action Team minutes/documents be made available electronically so that people who are interested in joining the team could review background information in advance. This would minimize the amount of time we spend at each meeting reviewing background and purpose.

- Hannah: We will post all of the minutes/background documents to the Crosby Advocacy Group website and let you know when they're up:
<http://www.wakegov.com/humanservices/locations/crosby/Pages/Crosby-Garfield-CAG.aspx>
- Kristin: We will include this link in all future agendas and minutes so that everyone knows where to find the information

Determine Next Steps to Moving Forward

The team discussed whether the Action Team should be open (members can come and go), or if there needs to be a consistent member list.

- There was general agreement that we do not want to be exclusive but that we also don't want to have to bring new members up to speed at every meeting.
- Tamisha suggested that new members review any background information and minutes online before coming to a meeting.
- A suggestion was made to provide a conference call number so that team members can call in if they are unable to attend in person.
- Clif noted that more people show up when good things happen. Attendance is based on people who really want to be here. The more you define the tasks, the more you'll see the people who want to do the work. It's up to us to provide the tools so that people are more prepared to contribute when they show up.
- Tamisha suggested that there might be specific roles that team members take on, like co-chair, volunteer, liaison, etc. It was noted that Dalia and Kristin have served as de facto co-chairs up to this point, but the team agreed that going forward, co-chairs should not be SEV or SERP staff. Instead, staff can serve in a supporting role to community co-chairs. Another team member suggested that instead of co-chairs, we could rotate who prepares for and leads each meeting. These items will be discussed in more detail at the August meeting.
- The team did not take a vote, but there was general agreement that the group should remain open so that individuals can join when they feel they have something to contribute.

The team discussed action steps between now and August 22nd:

- SEV staff will post all of the Action Team minutes to the Crosby Advocacy Group website and let team members know when everything has been posted
- Action Team members will review all past minutes in advance of the August meeting and come prepared to talk about action team goals and team member roles
- SEV staff will work with the County to get a conference line set up for the meeting
- Clif volunteered Melvin to facilitate, so Melvin will work with SEV/SERP staff to prepare the agenda

Focus of the August 22nd meeting

- Define our Action Team's Purpose/Goals
- Define our Action Team structure and team member roles
- Incorporate an optional reflection activity

Future meeting: Define the action(s) we want to take to make progress toward our goals

The meeting adjourned at 1:09pm.

Minutes submitted by Kristin Feierabend

Future meeting dates: 4th Wednesdays of the month from 12:00-1:30pm (Crosby Garfield Center). Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Kristin_feierabend@ncsu.edu so that we make sure to have lunch for you.

- August 22nd
- September 26th
- October 24th
- November 28th