

Community Leadership Action Team Meeting

June 27, 2018

12:00-1:30pm



social +
economic
vitality

Present: Melvin Jackson, Dalia Place, Chad Walker, Ursula, Tamisha Thomas, Clif Lavenhouse, Dexter Hebert, Kristin Feierabend, Verna Best, Deidre McCullers, Kara Allen-Eckard, Lorna Parker, Hannah Taylor, Shemekka Ebony, Michael

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

Today's Objectives:

- Determine next steps for “pilot program” & Roadmap

Notes

The meeting started promptly at 12:00pm.

Review of May 23rd Minutes

The May 23rd minutes were approved with the following changes:

- Page 1, under *Action Team Recap*, change “The group welcomed several new people...” to “The group welcomed several new members...”
- Page 4: Add “Minutes submitted by Kristin Feierabend”

All future minutes will include the start/end time of the meeting and the name of the person submitting the minutes.

Recommendations for Team Process

The following recommendation was made by a team member and approved by the team:

- If a person joins the meeting after introductions have been made, the team will not reintroduce themselves. The person who is late can introduce him/herself.

A draft set of Ground Rules were shared as potential guidelines for future meetings. These will be distributed with the minutes and can be discussed at a future meeting.

Updates

Kristin shared that she met with several individuals from City of Raleigh, Wake County Public Schools, Wake County PTA, and others to learn about leadership programs targeted to the Latinx community. The team was interested in finding ways to strengthen collaboration and

leadership development efforts and will meet again in the next month or so. Kristin will keep the Community Leadership Action Team posted as the two groups share similar interests.

Dalia shared that Southeast Raleigh Promise (SERP) has applied for an AJ Fletcher Foundation Fellow that could support our team's community leadership efforts, and that SERP is a finalist for receiving that position. The Fellow is conducting interviews with all of the finalist organizations to decide where she would like to work. She previously completed a year-long internship at the Justice Center and is interested in doing more community-based work. The Fellow will be selecting the organization she would like to work with by Friday, June 29.

Recap of how this Action Team came about

In spring 2017, Social and Economic Vitality (SEV) staff from Wake County Human Services and NC Cooperative Extension worked in partnership with Social Work faculty members at NC State University to apply for a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). Funding would have supported a process for residents and community partners to come together to identify and address root causes that prevent Southeast Raleigh children and families from thriving. As part of the RWJF application process, SEV convened a small group of residents and partners to identify community needs and assets and prioritize areas of focus. Through that process, community leadership development, training for upward mobility, and racial equity/social justice were identified as priority areas of focus for the grant. SEV did not end up getting the RWJF grant, but they felt there was momentum for moving forward without the funding. Late summer 2017, SEV invited the group that participated in the grant process and others to launch three action teams: Community Leadership, Training for Upward Mobility and Labor Market Value, and Racial Equity and Social Justice.

SEV and Southeast Raleigh Promise convened the first Community Leadership Action Team meeting in December 2017. The main focus of the action team early on was developing a community leadership "roadmap" that outlines various entry points to leadership and that lists organizations that provide leadership training and/or leadership opportunities for Southeast Raleigh residents. The goal would be to eventually turn this into an online tool that residents could use to connect with opportunities of interest to them. More recently, the team has also discussed the idea of piloting a leadership development opportunity (to be defined) at a school or with a nonprofit partner.

Action Team Meeting Schedules:

- The Community Leadership Action Team meets the fourth Wednesdays of the month from 12:00-1:30pm
- The Racial Equity & Social Justice Action Team meets the second Wednesday of each month from 12:30-1:30pm.
- The Training for Upward Mobility Action Team meets the second Tuesday of each month from 11:30-1:30.

All Action Team meetings are held at the Crosby-Garfield Center, 568 E. Lenoir Street.

Discuss potential pilot project

At the previous Action Team meeting, the team expressed interest in piloting leadership efforts at a school in Southeast Raleigh that enrolls a large number of students from the local community and has a high free/reduced lunch rate.

Southeast Raleigh Promise (SERP) presented the team with data on free/reduced lunch for six elementary and three middle schools in SE Raleigh. The percent of students from SE Raleigh was not available. See below.

Percent Free & Reduced Lunch

- Barwell Elem 76.2%
- Bugg Elem 76.6%
- Hunter Elem 36.4
- Poe Elem 66%
- Rogers Lane Elem 82%
- Walnut Creek Elem 71.2%
- Carnage Middle 38.9%
- Ligon Middle 31%
- Moore Sq Middle 30 %

Deidre said that she has data that she could share on the race and zip code for the elementary schools on the list.

A comment was made that the schools can be very difficult to work with and that the team might want to consider working with grassroots nonprofits, like [Single Women with Children](#), an organization working to connect women in the community with resources and life skills trainings. This spurred a deeper conversation about how systemic racism perpetuates the challenges that families face in our community and that our team needs to move quickly because the community is changing so rapidly.

Much of the discussion centered around whether we should focus our efforts within a school, a grassroots nonprofit, or both. Some individuals around the table have existing relationships with schools, so it may be easier to work with them than we think. However, schools might slow down our process. Many grassroots nonprofits already have goals and programming that align with our team, so it might be easier to partner with them. The team did not make a formal decision, but there seemed to be interest in piloting efforts at both a school and with a grassroots organization. We also discussed the idea of inviting Single Women with Children and/or other nonprofits to future Action Team meetings to better understand how we might support them, but the team did not make a formal decision about whether to do this.

There was also discussion about the Community Leadership Roadmap that our action team has started. Some team members expressed interest in building out that tool which would help us connect residents to leadership opportunities and training.

Several people indicated that we need to clarify what our team can pilot or provide before we ask a school or nonprofit to partner with us. A team member suggested that we hold a longer meeting or retreat in order to clearly define our team's goals and what we want to work on together. Several people seemed interested in this, but we did not make a formal decision.

The meeting adjourned at 1:42pm.

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.

- July 25th
- August 22nd
- September 26th
- October 24th
- November 28th

Minutes submitted by Kristin Feierabend