

MEETING NOTES



Date: March 10, 2009
9 – 11 a.m.
Room H

RE: Collaborative Organizations Responding to Dislocation (CORD) Team Meeting

Present: Bob Borremans, Mary Fanning-Penny, Gail Graham, Janine Peterson, Lisa Furseth, Mary Frederick, Andy Richardson, Kent Kleiva, Josh Smith, Sue Conley, Steve Ullrick and Carrie Hermanson

Bob called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

The group discussed plans and logistics for the upcoming Rock County Regional meeting on March 16, 2009 at BTC. Bob addressed the fact that collateral materials for the event were created by the CEAP group, and unfortunately – SWWDB did not have a chance to review items in advance. Thus, materials indicate the community meeting on March 16 is for the Janesville/ Regional community as opposed to Rock County or Rock region. Constituents in Beloit have felt uninvolved or uninvited for this reason. In an attempt to be inclusive, Bob will caution Larry Molnar as well as the state and Federal representatives to please be cognizant of the sensitivity between Janesville and Beloit and refer to the group as the Rock County region.

As of Monday, March 9 the RSVP count for the event was 75 confirmed participants. Bob and Mary encouraged CORD members (and those with whom they interact) to please be sure to RSVP for the event, as the number of RSVPs determines the amount of packets / materials prepared. RSVPs may be sent to Stacy Faber at stfaber@umich.edu or by calling (734) 998-6730. Along those lines, the CORD team was curious as to who all had RSVP's thus far, so SWWDB has requested the list from CEAP. Additionally, the group inquired as to which state and Federal agencies would be in attendance / presenting – this information has also been requested from CEAP.

One item of concern with regard to the 3/16 meeting was the issue of “next steps.” The committee agreed that it would be important for the core, Steering Committee to continue meeting and facilitating progress of attendants as proposal ideas and applications are formulated. Specifically, the committee is hoping to meet with Larry Molnar after the conclusion of the event on Monday and speak candidly about “next steps” and the committee’s involvement.

Bob discussed our desire for identifying potential community resources for the purpose of constructing and facilitating subsequent proposals after 3/16; those identified included: Mary Swenson, Ann Forbeck, Voluntary Action Center, Lisa Furseth / Community Action Program and Kent Kleiva recommended utilizing the Tom Miller Group (professional grant writers on retainer for Monster). Kent will inquire on the Tom Miller Group’s availability and potential for partnership. Andy raised the idea of inquiring with BTC with regard to utilizing grant writers; Bob will follow-up with BTC.

Reports were given on subgroup / organization activities:

Mental Health provider meeting notes were sent in an earlier correspondence to the group.

Janine reported out on the UWNRC Partner Agency meeting; members of the partner agencies questioned whether or not their presence was necessary / beneficial on 3/16 – as a direct relationship or correlation wasn't obvious with regard to dislocations and/or the economic situation of the region. As the group discussed this, members felt that Rock County is facing unprecedented challenges and now more than ever may be a time for unconventional thinking and partnerships. So, when possible – it's important that all constituents have a spot at the table in hopes of creative collaboration and ultimately, securing additional funding for much needed service and assistance in our community.

Janine also informed everyone of an upcoming sub-group meeting for housing / homelessness and emergency services on Thursday, March 12 at the UWNRC building at 11:30 a.m. The intent for this meeting is the same as the others: inquire about community needs, gaps in services and brainstorm possible proposal ideas or needs in preparation of 3/16. CORD representatives will also attend an AODA provider meeting on Wednesday, March 11 at 2 p.m.

Gail summarized the financial subcommittee's progress thus far and informed CORD that she'll probably cancel a previously scheduled meeting for Friday, due to lack of availability. However, she indicated that a strong representation of this industry would be in attendance on 3/16.

Andy and Mary informed the group of the upcoming UAW membership meeting on Saturday, March 14 and offered CORD a chance to recap activities / promote the 3/16 event. SWWDB will most likely send a representative to keep the channels of communication open. Also, Mary and Andy commented on GM's current situation, the possibility of a corporate bankruptcy and the frustrations over the UAW/GM joint funded equipment and state-funded equipment sitting idle and unallocated in the plant.

Lisa Furseth discussed the upcoming Weatherization project through Community Action and the prevailing wage positions it will create. Similarly, Steve Ullrick mentioned that the University of Rock County is in the process of hiring additional staff to meet the increased community need (and heightened enrollment of dislocated workers). Sue Conley believed this raised a valid point and potential community need that hasn't been discussed thus far – the issue of youth employment / teen unemployment. As the situation in the community worsens, the likelihood of teens (at any privilege level) obtaining jobs will become increasingly challenging.

Lastly, the group discussed their aspirations for continued communication and involvement with the Economic Development group, especially after the 3/16 event.

Action Items:

- SWWDB has requested the RSVP list and agency presenter list from CEAP
- SWWDB has asked Larry Molnar to consider staying later on 3/16 to further discuss next steps
- CORD members are having conversations with local grant writers to prepare for subsequent proposals
- Kent Kleiva will inquire with the Tom Miller Group on grant writer detainment / availability
- Subgroup meetings continue