

## Meeting Notes

**Date:** 5-19-09, 9 a.m.

**Location:** Rock County Job Center Annex

**RE:** CORD Steering Committee Meeting

The following CORD Steering Team members and others were present: Bob Borremans (presiding), Mary Fanning-Penny, Josh Smith, Carrie Hermanson, Jim Stickels, Lisa Furseth, Gail Graham, Sue Conley, Carrie Swanson, Rich Gruber, Doris Mulder, Verlene Orr, Heidi Carvin, Jean Yeomans, and Gregg Bosak (recording)

Following introductions, Bob gave an overview of what CORD was and had done so far in its existence. He welcomed those who appeared at the meeting to provide input into needs and concerns in the areas of health care and education.

In health care, Doris Mulder, V.P. Beloit Memorial Hospital, indicated she's seen increased numbers of those coming through emergency not having insurance. They have been working closely with the Community Health Care Center (which doesn't accept non-insured clients) to help to provide a health care continuum. They (Beloit Memorial) also have been receiving many Illinois patients. Convenient care is a new drop-in care program they've recently implemented. She said they would be glad to partner with others, but given the unknown state of unemployment insurance, the path to take is not clear.

Bob said one of the goals of CORD is to bring together the health care organizations to look at collaborative services and possibly developing a grant request.

Rich Gruber, V.P. Mercy Health Systems, said they're experiencing many of the same things. Charity Care is a program they have implemented. He said they've seen increases in domestic violence, child abuse, etc. and we may have only seen the 'tip of the iceberg,' as more could come shortly. The June 1 bankruptcy decision by GM will play a large role in what ensues. He also said the private, not-for-profits are reeling with the economic downturn and income losses.

Josh mentioned he's spoken with Karen Cain regarding coordinating preventive programs. He felt perhaps the best way to proceed would be for himself, Karen Cain (Rock County Health Care Officer), Tracy Rogers, and Richard Berry to convene to discuss ways to move forward. Mary/Gregg will work with Josh to set up a meeting/process.

Jean Yeomans told of the services the Hedberg Library /Arrowhead libraries can offer. Some literacy concerns have surfaced and Ed Martinez/Molly Polk's contact info at the Annex will be included as a resource she will help promote. Sue added JATV should be a resource to utilize.

Verlene Orr, Janesville School District's Project Success Leader, spoke of what she's seeing in the Janesville School System. Suicide prevention needs to be stepped up. They have followed the QPR system—Question, Persuade, Refer. Education and program cuts along with summer school cuts have caused an increase in 'less-structured' activities and chances for kids to get into trouble. She said while they haven't seen a large homeless increase yet (315 last year to 320 now), she anticipates that to increase shortly. She said they have applied for several grants (Safe Schools, Healthy Student grant with Beloit) and others dealing with drugs, gangs, etc. However, most of those are through the Department of Education—perhaps that can be expanded to other departments.

Heidi Carvin, Evansville School District Superintendent, said lack of transportation was big problem in her area. Evansville's low-income population has increased from 10% to 30% over the past seven years. Also lack of a summer lunch program, families doubling up (rather than homeless), and changing to a breakfast program to get more kids involved are

concerns to be addressed. She addressed a concern as to what the kids will be doing over the summer, indicating innovative resources, such as a mobile mental health clinic, might be possible grant opportunities.

Next the grant proposal status was reviewed. Lisa Furseth reviewed the financial grant status, responding to areas such as consumer credit, bankruptcy, increased credit availability, mortgage payment concerns, foreclosure mediation and the need for longer-term service provisions as opposed to the short-term "fix." They are continuing to seek additional funding sources.

Sue Conley gave an overview of the project the Community Foundation is coordinating, gathering all non-profits' information, telling positive stories, and seeking volunteers. That group is working with Scott Angus, Editor of the Janesville Gazette to promote the positive outcomes and stories six months after the closing of GM. The *Back Yard* document was shared along with the roadmap on how to access services, with CORD being the hub.

It was again mentioned that much of what needs to be done has to occur at the committee level, with CORD being the "clearinghouse" and organizer/coordinator, through an overall comprehensive plan. The On-Line Community document was discussed, and the need for all community resources to be included in one main document under one umbrella. This would consolidate all of the documents such as the SWWDB's recently-completed Community Resource Guide, the On-Line Community, Rock County's Backyard, Tools for Hard Times, etc.

Tomorrow's unveiling of the ***Hire a Neighbor*** program was discussed, with all present being invited.

Bob returned to our goal of completing the *Blueprint for Transition: Action Matrix* with appropriate assignments. He said it needs to be completed within a month to six weeks, as the need for action will be coming quickly over the next month or so.

Josh mentioned there is a county group/committee reviewing transportation issues, which we may want to become involved with.

The meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.