

Meeting Notes

Date: 7-28-09, 9 a.m.

Location: Room H, Rock County Job Center

RE: CORD Steering Committee Meeting

The following CORD Steering Team members and others were present: Bob Borremans (presiding), Gail Graham, Janine Peterson, Jim Stickels, Lisa Furseth, Amy Loudenbeck, Bud Gayhart, Eric Kuznacic, Sue Conley, Kerri Parker, Kerry Swanson, Carrie Hermanson, Nick Fitzgerald, Yuri Rashkin, Josh Smith, and Gregg Bosak (recording) along with Michael Rorabeck

Michael Rorabeck spoke about the John Doe Movement, which he and others are organizing to help prevent foreclosure prevention. They are hosting the unveiling of "The Rescue America Project" through a 'kickoff' event set for Tuesday, August 4 at 7 p.m. at the Eclipse Center in Beloit. Founded in April, 2009, to this point, their efforts have centered around the southern Rock County area, but he would like to include all of Rock County. Their theme is "What have you done today to help your neighbor?" The efforts of the John Doe movement include ceasing all foreclosures, stabilizing the local housing market and home values in Rock County, and assisting those facing foreclosure while creating a template/program for all other counties to follow. They have worked closely with Beloit's Neighborhood Housing Service (NHS) and Disabilities Day Care, they plan on working in the school system, and they plan to get churches involved. They also hope to get local lenders to assist and make adjustments to help those facing foreclosure. He said that 85-90% facing foreclosure want to stay in their homes. He also wants to work closely with the financial group that has been meeting through CORD.

Eric K. has been working with Lisa Brown of HospiceCare to develop a series of free workshops to address community needs, each to be one to one-and-a-half hours in length. They are targeted to dislocated workers living in or around Rock County and surrounding areas. Topics may include Loss and Grief, Words That Comfort, How To Help Children and Teens with Loss, Caregiver Support, The Heart of Volunteering, Medicare Hospice Benefits, How To Care for Your Aging Parents, and Advanced Directive Planning.

Bob mentioned that he had been unsuccessfully trying to contact Larry Molnar for the past six weeks, but because of the increase in needs for his services, it appears that changes have occurred whereby Kristen Cunningham from his CEAP organization is now responsible for Wisconsin services. Apparently they are overwhelmed with very limited resources, which has necessitated these changes. Bob will continue to maintain contact with them to ascertain the next initiatives that can be implemented.

Bob reported that through Danyell Tremmell and Representative Ryan's office, a letter has been sent to Ed Montgomery, inviting him to Rock County. Any response we receive will be shared with CORD Committee members. Sue also mentioned that through the University of Wisconsin studios, she had been contacted by Andy Moore to participate in an interview with Ed Montgomery over their TV system. Sue reported that Ed did not participate so she is not sure if he'll be involved in a future broadcast/program, but Sue was interviewed for seven minutes.

Bud reported that he had spoken with Mark Burwell (E-Hub) last week and they are finalizing a regional grant. If successful, the federal government is looking at moving it from a regional program to a national initiative.

Discussion ensued on whether meeting every two weeks is still necessary and prudent, or meeting less frequently. Josh mentioned that the real action should take place at the sub-committee level. Following pros and cons of each, it was decided to continue to meet every two weeks for now to maintain inertia, and revisit this issue in the near

future. Gail mentioned that we really need to connect with workers' who are moving from this area and their families who are staying here.

Given that there was time, the Matrix Plan was reviewed. Some of the suggestions included:

- Lisa suggested adding the development of a strategy (perhaps face-to-face) to maintain communication with our legislators to inform them of the work we are doing and our accomplishments
- Development of the North Rock County United Way's Youth Project in having them teach adults how to use Facebook, Twitter and other social network sites (maybe having them at Java & Jobs) should be implemented
- Janine will work with Gregg to update the Community Resource Guide so there can be one, comprehensive document
- Janine will attempt to resurrect the community group that United Way convened to discuss gaps in services in the community. Others on planning that included Kristin Fillhouer, Marc Perry, and Kris Koeffler. Perhaps CORD could be involved in this initiative.

Sue wondered if the Matrix could be converted to a date-sensitive document to be better able to track deadlines. Bob mentioned is a Word document so it isn't possible, but he will try to see if can be converted into an Excel document. Sue also mentioned we may want to consider inviting legislators or their aides to our August 11 meeting. Due to the heat in the room, Carrie volunteered UW-Rock County for hosting the next meeting, which is August 11. Meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.