

Meeting Notes

Date: 6-22-2010, 9 a.m.

Location: Room D/E, Rock County Job Center

RE: CORD Steering Committee Meeting

The following CORD Steering Team members and others were present: Bob Borremans (presiding), Gail Graham, Russ Podzilni, Eric Kuznacic, Katie Kuznacic, Vic Grassman, Helen Forbeck, James Otterstein, Sue Conley, Yuri Rashkin, Darcy Luoma, Katie Crawley, Michele Erickson, Steve Huth, Gregg Bosak (recording) and Linda Fowler and Brad Lichtenstein via teleconference.

Linda Fowler provided a follow-up report after the Ed Montgomery visit, as she had met with the federal team the following Tuesday to discuss feasibility of the initiatives. The feds will be looking for clusters—it can be companies, non-profits, education, governmental agencies, etc. but working together. Bob mentioned that Ed Montgomery told him following the Forum that Ed would share his notes with Bob. It may not yet be for another 7-10 days. Linda thought we may hear something this week, indicating we're going after a portfolio of federal funds and the timing is good. Vic mentioned he had already had some contact, and Michele mentioned she had contact with Larry Molnar and CEAP.

Bob mentioned we needed to determine the next steps, proposing a champion and team to work on each proposal. Linda mentioned that Teno Villareal would be looking for natural 'fits' within an agency's focus, as each agency has a different method and set of criteria for accepting proposals.

Helen mentioned that the EDA had announced Rock County had just received a State of Ingenuity grant. James provided an overview of the grant. Bob mentioned our initiatives we presented to the federal agencies was not an 'end all' list, that others would also be entered into the mix. He indicated UW-Rock County has one that wasn't included in our packet but should be submitted. He also mentioned that Gail and Larry had been working the schools to develop a 'green' project.

Each project and its status and potential 'champions' was reviewed. They include:

1. **The Phoenix Fund**—James indicated it had come 'full circle' from the start, and now Larry is leading efforts to get it to the proper personnel
2. **Back to Work**—this group is still meeting regularly via teleconference, and Larry has also expressed an interest in this initiative. They are trying to work through DOL. The MacArthur Foundation has donated funds and the project continues to move forward.
3. **Financial Stress Crisis Response**—Gail will follow up with Lisa and ask John Pfeleiderer to join in moving this initiative forward.
4. **Building the Pipeline for College Readiness & Literacy**—Steve indicated he had met with Sharon Kennedy and they're looking at expanding certain sections, especially the literacy component. Steve also mentioned he's working with all county School Superintendents to ensure they're included. It was mentioned this might be a good place to see if UW-Rock County's proposal may have a fit.
5. **Comprehensive Mental Health**—Gail will try to develop a group, including Phil Boutwell, that can follow up on this. Steve felt Karen Schulte should be included in the group.
6. **Urban Agriculture/Food Security**—There has been quite a bit of activity, but this initiative needs to be a bit more comprehensive, including a more global perspective addressing all of Rock County's needs, both urban and rural. Sue had provided Steve with an excellent grant opportunity that would help get this project moving forward. Linda also has some USDA possibilities she'll forward to Steve, including a good personal contact. She indicated it would be good to pursue both rural and urban agriculture. "One Economy" may also

be another possibility to pursue. Steve felt the agriculture component will be an emphasis with Superintendents.

7. **Rock County Transitional Jobs**—Bob felt this may be a ‘stretch’, since federal agencies have not been big supporters of subsidized employment as in past years. The initiative may need to be re-worked. However, transferring new job skills into jobs would seem to be a good fit. DOL seems to have an interest on On-The-Job-Training (OJT). Depending upon the company size, there may be up to 90% reimbursement for OJT training if it opens employment resources. Bob will talk to Lisa about this initiative.
8. **Construction TOOLS**—this was originally submitted by Lisa under the Pathways Out of Poverty grant but was not funded. Larry feels that under the energy savings, and retro-fitting creating ‘green’ jobs that this may now be a fundable initiative. Bob will also talk to Lisa about this initiative.

Katie Crawley read a letter that Senator Feingold, with all Senators/Representatives’ signatures, will be sent to Dr. Montgomery indicating support for moving forward and having a plan to continue efforts in light of Dr. Montgomery’s new position.

After Linda left the meeting, Bob re-iterated how effective she has been in assisting us. If she is to stay involved, which he highly recommends, we will need to come up with some additional funds to support her as we move forward. The group is being asked to consider where those funds may come from.

The group decided go back to the once-a-month (first Tuesday of each month) meeting schedule. However, the July meeting will be skipped. Thus the next meeting will be Tuesday, August 3, 2010 at 9 a.m. A notice and agenda will be sent prior to that meeting.

There being no further business, the session concluded at 9:55 a.m.