

ALLIED PARTNERS MEETING

Oct. 19, 2021

Attending: Eileen Dresser, Janice Ferguson, Sue Hoffenberg, Ryan Estrella, Rhea Schultz, Alice Howard, Gloria Manadier Farr, Molly Plunkett, and Leslie McAllister,

Minutes of Prior Meeting: Approved as written (Moved for approval by Molly/2nd Alice)

Reports:

Joining Forces for Families (JFF):

Ryan Estrella reports he is busy with Core Point 20 applications for rental assistance being distributed by new agencies, Urban Triage and Community Action Coalition. Funds source remains the same; forms require less verification but process more complicated. Form is harder to do on line - causing some problems. Ryan is getting ton of phone calls. Forms can now be used towards utilities. Residents try to use their phones to apply and the form layout gets messed up and there are also problems switching language. There is a button to press which is not clearly marked. CHWs and Jackie Hunt have been helping people sign up online. No calls for utilities recently and he thinks its because MG & E is working well with folks; utility moratorium starts Nov. 1

Xmas Toy program again; three organizations committed to supply 70 gifts but one donor pulled out and so now only 110 committed with those two organizations are definite. A little worried about donations. Families sign and indicate preferences - churches can adopt a family. 3 churches committed and 2 pending.

Jim and Jaunita Bushard buildings have been sold - all 15 buildings. Change in landlords can mean change for tenants. SN Investments bought some buildings - Nistreen(sp?) is person Ryan has spoken with by phone; she may be a phone receptionist. Jim and Jaunita catered to hispanic population.

Scholarship Program: one application Ryan will forward to committee Wynn, Sue T, etc.

Janice asks if CNW could include information about scholarship on text list for deliveries and on Facebook page.

Allied Wellness Center:

Gloria/AWC. Sept. has been busy; 6 residents have become certified Community Health Workers over summer and have participated in several trainings, among them is mental health. The AWC served 97 persons in Sept. including 14 Spanish speakers. People do show up at office for supplies; challenge has been to keep paper towels and tissue on hand in building. Gloria is trying to space out what is provided. There may be as many as 30-40 residents asking for everything available: gas cards, bus passes, food cards. Gloria is starting outreach on East side with Nehemiah supplying resources. CHW and Jacky Hunt ;have been helping with rent assistance applications. Bus tickets are getting used more. Outreach of supplies in Allied neighborhood is accomplished by Carmella Harris, Donna Waller, Annika Green, and Bresha also distribute stuff.

Westminister Presbyterian to donate AWC next month.

AWC looking for more volunteers - unclear audio and she puts in chat

Allied Dunn's Marsh Neighborhood Association.

Alice Howard states that ADMNA has helped out families with deaths; no banquet this year; two new members coming onto the board; COOP met with Matt Wachtler and Dan Johns re Community HUB; city will go back to CDA for different configuration of building and some feasibility studies from Carrie Norwood who is part of planning group; Paula Hawkins died and another seriously sick partner; block party went well at Red Arrow; well attended and Alice met some new people; Joe Maldonado. thanks everyone who helped who included Rhea.

Carmella Harris: asking for support for Crisis Support Center. Letter written by Rhea.

Queen of Peace and Good Shepherd have withdrawn from Allied Partners; Good Shepherd to become more active in Meadowwood area. Good Shepherd said they never heard from Allied. Ryan says Good Shepherd has been gradually doing more in Meadowwood neighborhood and helping with rent assistance and JFF office there. He suspected that they would withdraw and Ryan also thought that Queen of Peace seemed less active in attending meetings and pulling away from organization.

Gloria; Queen of Peace not coming to meetings but giving a lot for school supplies

Rhea: She has heard in neighborhood that there are other organizations in neighborhood that we should collaborate with more.

Janice/Leslie. It appears that communication is a problem in neighborhood. Is there a need for better communication with churches? They note that there is much collaboration with AWC and CHWers with other organizations in the neighborhood around weekly delivery of food and essentials (monthly) with The Grow program (UW) and 2nd Harvest Food Bank and Allied Food Pantry and ReachDane.

Vaccination clinics have been held with ReachDane and Fitchburg Family Pharmacies and Dane County/City of Madison Public Health Dept. Ryan came to some clinics. CHWs are looking to help with mental health needs in addition to physical health needs. They attended a NAMI training on suicide prevention and other mental health training. The CHWers are working with CHW network for mental health resources. CHWers reached out to Rainbow Project for help to offer parents with their children and may offer group. They have gotten active in housing problems, such as bedbugs and other pests.

Eileen wonders if Allied Partners can contribute to church newsletters about what we are doing; Rhea asks if Janice can submit an article for churches

Janice - some kind of summary is possible to be prepared and sent out about work of CHW - for resending to churches. Website created by Sue Hoffenberg a good place to put information and notices. Monthly highlights of activities is possible - monthly report

Leslie - communication to churches? Missionary Minutes - can have representatives from our organizations to attend services and tell stories of our work -

Adjourn - Molly/Ryan