

Allied Partners Monthly Meeting May 19, 2020

Note: The May meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

Present: Phyllis (facilitator), Wynn Davies, Mary Collet (recorder), James Costello, Ryan Estrella, Sue Hoffenberg, Ann Moffat, Molly Plunkett, Rhea Schultz, Deb Annen.

Treasury: Wynn reported a balance of \$3,300.

Food pantry—Deb described current practices in response to COVID-19. Only volunteers are allowed in the food pantry. Volunteers fill bags with canned & dry goods according to family size. Customers also receive fresh produce, meat, and dairy products. Customers register outside and their groceries are brought to them. Registration requires a photo ID and residence in the zip code areas, but no one is turned away. People can shop more than once a month. Three UW medical students continue to handle registration and food delivery.

Joining Forces for Families (Ryan)— All offices have been closed since March 16 and Ryan has been working at home. The office will partially reopen in the last week of May. There has been a sharp rise in requests for financial assistance. Ryan is challenged by a lack of time and funding. He has been focusing on aid to those who do not have access to other help, drawing upon County funds and assistance from Allied Partners. Nine families/month can receive assistance through a new County fund.

Wellness Center—(Gloria not present) Gloria has been working from home; people who need supplies, such as diapers, make an appointment to meet her at the office. Contact information is posted on the door to the Wellness Center and the kiosk.

New alderman (Joe Maldonado)—Joe introduced himself and described his priorities. He lives in the Allied Drive neighborhood. His district includes the Allied Drive-Dunns Marsh neighborhood and the Chalet apartments. His priority is economic development for families. He uses many media (radio, Fit TV, Facebook, Instagram), as well as a quarterly newsletter, to post resources. He intends to meet regularly with school principals in his district.

Needs of Latino population—Luna grocery store is serving as a hub for information. Molly has translated a fact sheet on available resources, such as food pantries. Joe feels that the neighborhood needs an ambassador to act as a voice for Latinos. One possibility is a representative from a Latino church. He suggested Marcio Sierra, the pastor of the Lighthouse Church. Molly will follow up.

Newsletter—Molly's fact sheet will be posted in the newsletter and the kiosk.

Next meeting: June 16.