

Allied Partners

October 18, 2022

Present: Eileen Ahearn, Erica Anderson, Rev Matt Aspin, Mary Collet, Blanca N Cruz, Wynn Davies, Eileen Dresser, Carmella Harris, Sue Hoffenberg, Molly Plunkett, Cat Walsh

Changes in Allied Partners leadership—Eileen Dresser will be resigning as chair at the end of the year. That news spawned a host of emails thanking Eileen and praising Allied Partners for their work. Eileen has been a keystone for Allied Partners and her work is deeply appreciated. Mary Collet will assume as chair in January 2023. The position of secretary will then be shared by Molly and Rev Matt. Wynn had intended to retire as treasurer at the end of the year but has decided to continue.

Strategic planning—Eileen Ahearn suggested that Allied Partners hold a strategic planning meeting to discuss “who we are” and “what do we want to become.” The meeting would address strengths, weaknesses, and how we involve people. Eileen suggested that we try to involve one person from each area of concern.

Revision of September minutes—The September minutes were approved with the following clarification. When the Wellness Center was reorganized, Gloria Farr was invited to apply for two positions; she did not do so. Gloria continues to work at the Center with support from Nehemiah.

Joining Forces for Families (JFF) (Erica)—Erica received an inquiry about a scholarship and sent the application to Wynn. She and Officer Will (the neighborhood Police Officer) are planning to distribute Trick or Treat goodies on October 27. *Upcoming holiday events:* ♦ Sign-up for Thanksgiving basket giveaway at the Goodman Center; ♦ names are being collected for the Christmas give-away.

The contact for community meals is Shanita Roach.

The Community Health Workers program is being expanded.

Erica has been working with Common Wealth Development, which prepares people for employment. Jobs pay \$13.67/hour for a duration of 100 hr. People are then given help in finding another job.

Rev Matt noted that he needs a part-time administrator.

Treasurer’s report (Wynn)

Eviction prevention— The fund was used to prevent eviction in three situations. The fund received \$263 from Midvale Lutheran and \$1,500 from Carol and Bob Clingan. The balance is currently \$9,181.

Scholarship fund—♦ An application was received from an Allied Community resident for reimbursement of fees incurred for a realtor’s license. Wynn offered the applicant \$400 if she finishes the course. ♦ Wynn circulated the application form, which was streamlined by Ryan Estrella. He noted that the scholarship fund is intended for post-secondary education for youth and for adults wishing to improve their work skills to gain stable, living-wage employment. ♦ Wynn asked Blanca if she could translate the application form into Spanish. Blanca questioned the purpose of a Spanish form if the applicant will be using English on the job. Wynn expressed interest in talking further with Blanca on how to make the scholarship fund more effective. ♦ Carmella is interested in support for attending a conference on mental health.

Special projects—No activity to date. Wynn described the fund as a “low procedure” approach to supporting community efforts, such as funding a bouncy house for the Neighborhood Association festival. Carmella asked for support in purchasing raised boxes for the community garden by her office; the boxes cost \$200 each. Blanca offered to sponsor one box. Allied Partners approved a motion to buy two boxes. The Special Projects fund is now depleted.

Discretionary fund for JFF Social Workers—Westminster Women contributed \$1,000 to the fund in September. Balance is \$2,200.

Wellness Center—Blanca noted that the Wellness Center is a nonprofit effort that provides direct people-to-people support; it is funded by grants from the City. One grant (\$25,000) is for renovating their space. Another grant (\$150,000) is being directed toward all aspects of wellness (e.g., mental health, financial wellness, etc.) Blanca would like to collaborate more with support services in the community.

Community Agency Bridging the Gap (CABG) (Carmella)— CABG partners with agencies who help with housing, etc. Carmella would like to know how CABG can support Allied Partners. She doesn’t want to duplicate services. For Christmas, she envisions that those who donate toys present them to the recipients, thus developing a relationship. Wynn asked Carmella to write a description of her project that could be distributed to congregations.

Heart Room— Wynn distributed flyers about Heart Room, a holistic service that provides families with up to three years of support. His vision is for Allied Partners to sponsor one or two families. The cost is \$7,000 per family per year. Wynn will invite a representative of Heart Room to our November meeting.

Next meeting (November 15)—Carmella invited Allied Partners to tour her office after the November meeting: 4629 W Beltline Hwy, 608-258-9625, 608-213-4948 (crisis line).

—Mary Collet, secretary