

## **Allied Partners**

### **January 19, 2021**

**Note:** The list of attendees follows the minutes.

Rhea Schultz opened the meeting with a prayer. The December 2020 minutes were approved. The next part of the meeting was facilitated by Wynn Davies. Wynn called upon several guest community leaders to respond to the following questions:

1. What are the most significant challenges facing the Allied Drive community?
2. What is being done to address these challenges?
3. How well is it being done? How might it be done better?
4. The Allied community is divided among two municipal governments, four school districts, and one city government. Does this cause significant problems? What are they? What might be done better to address these problems?

**Satya Rhodes-Conway, Madison Mayor** —Challenges: disparate effect of COVID on people of color; housing stability, security, safety, and affordability; violence prevention; racial equality; transportation. Actions: major financial investment in affordable housing; realignment of rapid transit (improvement to the north-south corridors); violence prevention: police reform, public health approach, mobile response team (fire dept); stress placed on collaboration.

**Cecely Castillo, Alder**—Challenge: affordable housing. Action: affordable housing project.

**Dorothy Krause, Dane County Board**—Challenge: need for a community center; action: proposal by City and County to buy Wellness Center building. Challenges: lack of representation for Chalet Gardens neighborhood, ways to bring Blacks and Latinos together, involving the Bel Mar community.

**Joe Maldonado, Alder**—Challenges: infrastructure that invests in people; investment in youth (community center). Actions: schools are serving as food sites; polling site was moved to a more accessible location.

**Dean Caruthers, Community Development Specialist**—Challenges: lack of resources, unhealthy living conditions, special needs of older population. Allied Drive neighborhood is often overlooked in community discussions; need to build strong relationships and access to funding.

**Ryan Estrella, Joining Forces for Families**—Challenges: divisions within the community—need to bring people together; mental health needs; lack of a community center.

**Leslie McAllister, President Allied Wellness Center**—Challenges: chronic health problems, buy-in from health care system, food desert.

**Janice Ferguson**—Challenge: Need for fresh food. Comment: community health workers are integral to the neighborhood.

**Several residents** spoke of the need for a community center, especially for teens; need to reach out to the Latinex community; transportation needs.

## **Reports on Allied Partners activities** (facilitated by Rhea)

### **Year-End Treasurer's report (Wynn)**

*Eviction prevention*—Fund balance is \$9,634, boosted by contributions from Westminster Presbyterian, Midvale Community Lutheran, and three individuals. The fund was used to prevent eviction in five situations in December. Total expenditure for 2020 was \$14,411, which prevented eviction for 52 households.

*Scholarships*—Only one scholarship was awarded in 2020. We hope to have more success in advertising the availability of scholarships for improving employment prospects; e.g., work-related training. Joe Maldonado reported that he has given scholarship applications to high school counsellors, the Urban League, and the Latino Academy of Workforce and Development.

*Special projects*—In December, \$2,900 was contributed toward Christmas gift cards for children and families, distributed by Ryan Estrella. A total of \$4,800 was expended from this fund in 2020.

*Wellness center*—Total of \$6,000 was contributed through Allied Partners. Additional amounts were given directly to the center by Allied Partner congregations.

*Food pantry*—The pantry is managed by the Good Shepherd congregation and does not receive financial support from Allied Partners. A number of Allied Partners congregations serve as volunteers. Wynn asked, How can Allied Partners be of greater help to the pantry?

**Eviction prevention (Ryan)**—Since the moratorium on eviction is still in place, the situation is stable though some families have fallen behind on their rent due to COVID. Once the moratorium lifts at the end of January, Ryan will need to rely on Allied Partners for support since COVID-related support is no longer available. The number of calls for financial assistance has risen. One scholarship was awarded in 2020. Su Timmerman volunteered to follow up on an incomplete application.

### **Wellness Center (Gloria)**

*Transportation support*—Fountain of Life congregation will provide transportation cards in January and February. Other commitments to date are for May (Bethany Methodist), August (Glenwood Moravian), November (Westminster Presbyterian), and December (Prairie Unitarian). Wynn will invite other congregations to participate.

*Community health workers*—Community health workers are in their 11<sup>th</sup> week of “awesome” training. An information session is planned on implementing the COVID vaccine. Workers have been actively engaged in outreach, distributing transportation and food cards door to door.

**Food Pantry (Carol Rushmore)**—The pantry serves about 25 households/week; 980 households (3,500 individuals) were served in 2020. The pantry is open every Wednesday morning and the first and third Saturdays of the month. Wednesday evening hours were discontinued because of lack of participation. Registration has been streamlined; people can shop as often as they like and there are no geographic limitations. Gloria would be willing to distribute a flyer to increase participation. Canned and dry goods are plentiful; fresh produce varies since there isn't a steady source.

**Present:** Rhea Schultz (president), Mary Collet (secretary), Wynn Davies (treasurer), Deb Annen, Ryan Estrella, Flora Flygt, Janice Ferguson (Allied Wellness Center Board), Chaplain Todd Marcotte (MAJM), Jacqueline Stevens, Molly Plunkett, Su Timmerman, Gloria Manadier-Farr, Joe Maldonado (Fitchburg

District 1 Alder), Diana Jost (RSVP), Jim Jenkins (RSVP), Dorothy Krause (Dane County Supervisor), Tim Schaefer, Cecely Castillo (Dane County Supervisor), Margaret Zutter (RSVP), Carol Rushmore (Allied Food Pantry), Dr Mara Eisch (Candidate Madison City Council District 10), Deborah Speckmann (RSVP), James Costello, Dean Caruthers, Leslie McAllister (President, Allied Wellness Center), Dina Herman (Property Mgr Revival Ridge), Yannette Figueroa Cole (Candidate Madison City Council District 10), Ron Wroblevsky, Katy Farrens, Sandi Park, Satya Rhodes-Conway (City of Madison Mayor), Sue Hoffenberg (32 attendees)