

## **FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATION MEETING 4.5.23**

12:00 NOON- 1:30 PM City Hall and Zoom

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Pastor Ashley Wilkinson-Meyer, Terri Merrick, Dottie (Dream Center), Pastor Sylvia Tisdale, Katherine (Legacy House) Agustin Rodriguez, Connie Bookman, Blair Castro, Kay Quarrels (90 Works), Bobby Phillips, Kim Fisher (Achieve Healthy Escarosa), Avalon “Mal” Mallory, Kyle Schoolar

**DISCUSSION:** Pastor Ashley Wilkinson-Meyer called the meeting to order and started the meeting with a prayer.

**FOOD DASHBOARD:** How are members using this currently? Do you have any feedback? Casandra said she texts the direct link to parents, it can be very helpful as its available all over the county. She wanted to know if there are any organizations that can do food delivery- Terri says yes, you can text Dream Center at (850) 607-0453 with number in household and address and they can help set up a delivery of food boxes. Last week they have 30 Easter boxes go out to navigator families. It may be good to incorporate access to this delivery on the dashboard or by referrals, depending on their capacity. Casandra said that they don't have navigators in all of the schools, and they will bring up in conversation if it comes up to parents when needed.

We may want to engage congregations to help with food delivery in some capacity. Many organizations lack volunteers to deliver food, such as Epps. It would be great to get these organization volunteers to delivery food. Right now, school navigators do come pick up deliveries from E-Comfort, but unless these deliveries are from navigators, they don't really have capacity to deliver.

If organization gets calls, they should collect name, address, and household size. Possibly everyone could ordinate to delivery on Thursday afternoons? Also, where should they deliver extra food so it won't go to waste?

Bobby mentioned there might be a comprehensive list of name, address, and contact person (not the front desk) for organizations that may need extra food. Pastor Tisdale says they do about 400 meals a week, Terri said they should set up a meeting with Bobby and see what they got, and how to help or work together.

**THINGS TO CONSIDER:** Who is getting information from the dashboard and how do we distribute this to the public? Casandra said she will share and so will Terri with her pastors. Bobby also mentioned having school groups like SGAs or youth groups volunteer to help with food. They group may form an ad-hoc committee to delve deeper into this.

**TRANSPORTATION UPDATES:** As a recap, we have had ECAT come in to speak to the current state of transportation in Escambia County. We hope to have a SIM on transportation very soon so map resources. Another thing we are working to do is to find connections such as dealership or people getting rid of cars or donating them to nonprofits. We've talked to George Stone to connect on basic transportation-related classes and mechanics who may donate skills or services to fix or repair vehicles. Pastor Ashley and Rocky Harrison and Connie have come together to provide "VEHICLES FOR VETS AND VETS" which will be able to send out a vulnerability index to be able to send ratings to those who may need it. Clients will be able to apply soon via United Ministries who will vet the families, but Task Force will be asked to lead in connecting with obtaining the vehicles. Dealerships will be able to donate to three different organizations and the organizations will make sure the family or person is capable for maintaining the car. Bobby also mentioned possibly having a partnership with Locklin Votek to do initial assessments. He also suggested also talking to tow companies to see how they can coordinate. Agustin also mentioned possibly meeting with Scott Lunsford to discuss taxes or ways they can help. Kim also said she has a PowerPoint on census tracts on where bus lines are in relation to food access.

**NEXT MEETING:** May 3<sup>rd</sup>, but there will also be a May 10<sup>th</sup> event. June 7<sup>th</sup> will also be Advisory Committee meeting as well as this subcommittee's meeting from 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM. This will also be a two-year mark as a Task Force and we will be honoring co-chairs who are rolling off as well.