

Homeless Reduction Task Force of NWF
Faith Based Organizations/Food/Mentoring/Transportation

Subcommittee Minutes

Wednesday, June 7, 2023

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Hagler Auditorium, City Hall and Zoom

IN ATTENDANCE: Rev. Ashley Wilkinson-Meyer, Michael King, Kay Quarles, Elizabeth Kissel, Yvonne Baboi, Connie Bookman, Linda Finkelstein, Blair Castro, Melissa Sidoti, Pete King, Melissa Johnson, Bobby Phillips, Melissa Johnson, Terri Merrick, Serene Keiek, Debra Vinchi, Nicole Gizler, Dr. Joseph Sessa, Katherine Lavoy, Dottie Gilbreath, Angela Walden, Sylvia Tisdale, Agustin Rodriguez, Deborah, Nicole

12:00 – Welcome, Introductions, Prayer

Transportation

Bobby Phillips is the new President of the Ad-Hoc Transportation Committee! He has about 4 dealerships he has scheduled. Bobby Phillips reaching out to Sandy Sansing (needs connection with Stephanie), Bubba Watson, Allen Turner (may need a connection)

Looking for strategies to connect with dealerships to obtain cars

Ashley updated overall vision. Ashley gave an update on the “Next Step Vehicle” program that is set to launch soon!

Dr. Sessa Dr. Sessa spoke about his involvement in automotive industries. He has an ongoing vehicle ministry – auto collision and repair. He’s been doing this since 1979; has experience in teaching automotive repair as well. Has a building by airport to do collision work and auto repair, has diagnostic equipment. Just him, so he does not really advertise. Also has liability concerns.

WE NEED TO GET A LAWYER CONNECTED WITH ALL OF THIS –

Connie is suggesting Judge Goodman might be able to help with this liability item. Melissa suggests a simple liability fault contract. Bobby said he also has a detailer who will clean 1 car each month for up to 6 months. Bobby also got information from the Pensacola Bay Association. Also have plans to recruit more repair shops into this.

Michael King says there is an opportunity for education on car maintenance for many young car owners. He shared about his story and why he is passionate about car repair and education for people to keep cars in good operating order; opportunity to educate people on how to take care of and maintain a car; feels he could recruit some colleagues to help with education as well.

Bobby mentioned a wholesalers tag and working with car dealerships to help transport cars without cost of tags. Angela will look into this. Bobby will also reach out to tv stations for news reports.

Dr. Sessna mentioned Gordon ?? who is in Gulf Breeze and might want to get involved – email information to Dr. Sessna for him to pass along. Reach out to towing companies to get involved as well.

Darlene Matchett has a towing company – Dr. Sessna will connect with her and other towing companies or perhaps one of us on the Task Force could reach out to see if there is a way to partner with towing companies that buy junk cars for \$300.00.

What about a policy through Triple A – Melissa Johnson did this with Fearless Community – CHECK WITH HER AS WELL

Aligning with the All-In Plan

Elizabeth Kissel gave an update on the meeting between local city, county and CoC to focus on the three solutions and three foundations provided in the plan. 3 Foundations: Equity, Data and Evidence, and Collaboration. 3 Solutions: Housing and Support, Prevention, Crisis and Response. They are trying to set themselves up for success. UWF Haas Center also spoke about how they are trying to help with food insecurity in conjunction with the food service providers.

Engage Faith-Based Organization and Congregations in our work

All In plan overviewed

This area has 3 local plans – CoC, County Commission and City.

Step 1 – Look at what was submitted in local plans, review the All In plan and make sure the foundations of equity, data and evidence and collaboration are in place.

Housing and support, crisis response, prevention of homelessness.

Plans are not due until August.

Next meeting in July.

Looking to come up with SMART goals and treat local plans as living documents.

Laura and Martika will focus on HMIS.

Discussion around being more transparent; maybe some kind of educational campaign – leverage CMR at county to get marketing out; really important to get good news out into the community Mention of Equity training.

Deborah and Nicole

Every 3-5 years the health department is required to do a community health needs assessment – develops a community health improvement plan; then an action plan comes.

They are part of the food insecurity team.

AHER does not want to reinvent the wheel.

Melissa with regards to Faith Based Organizations

Melissa Johnson mentioned that we should consider helping churches and organizations on how to apply for grants and funding letters. We should educate the churches on funding opportunities and not so much the partners.

July 15 – National Serve Day

- Dream Center is going to help build a playground for the children at REAP Respite Center. Playground for REAP and Maxwell – they will be constructing the fence and there will be a party with water slide and face painting, etc.

Serene – There is a new NOFO for CV3 CoVid funding – information can be found on Opening Doors website – homeless prevention, rapid rehousing, etc.