

EMPIRE STATE POVERTY REDUCTION INITIATIVE
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
January 11, 2017
City Hall, 3rd Floor, Council Chamber
Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601

MINUTES

Attending: Sharon Addison; Roger Ambrose; Assemblywoman Addie Jenne, Joe Butler; Erika Flint; Teresa Gaffney; Bob Gorman; Melinda Gault; Steve Jennings; Kevin Jordan, Patti LaBarr; Peter Schmitt; Jeff Smith; Megan Stadler (for Carole McCoy)

Excused: Karen Richmond

Staff assistance: Tobi Darrah, United Way

Approval of Minutes

Peter Schmitt, ESPRI Project Director, opened the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

A motion was made by Teresa Gaffney to accept the minutes of the December 21, 2016 Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative Steering Committee (ESPRI) meeting and seconded by Jeff Smith. The motion carried.

Introduction of Guests

Bob Gorman, United Way CEO, introduced two guests, Diane Leonard, DH Leonard Consulting, and Tammy Miller, Director of Youth Court.

Review Poverty Guidelines

Mr. Schmitt reviewed the Poverty Thresholds for 2015 by size of family and number of related children under 18 years and the City of Watertown poverty profile.

Approve Task Force Population Plan

Mr. Schmitt reviewed the ESPRI Leadership list with the committee. The committee approved the list of names and Peter will now move forward with the plan.

Review and Finalize Areas of Concentration

Mr. Schmitt reviewed the nine areas of concentration categories that he had posted on the wall and asked the committee members to each pick five categories that they feel should be the main areas of concentration. Peter will later ask the task force and work groups to do the same.

The committee had much discussion about the nine topics and if there is a need for an overview of finance for each category.

Work Group

Mr. Schmitt reviewed the ESPRI Work Plan.

The committee decided that it would be beneficial to have facilitators in each of the work group.

Community Engagement Plan

Mr. Gorman discussed the plan on how he wants to invite all areas of the community and give them the opportunity to attend open forums throughout the city of Watertown at local not-for-profits. The committee needs to get the not-for-profits to invest first, which then they will invite the public in to the open discussions. Everyone has a voice and we want to give everyone the opportunity and encourage them to talk and be involved which will lead to better investment in our community.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 25, 2017, 12:00 p.m., Community Action Planning Council, lunch provided.

UPDATE: The next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 25, 2017, 12:00 p.m., Watertown Urban Mission, lunch provided.

The Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative Steering Committee will meet every second Wednesday, every month at 4:00 p.m.