

Minutes

Watertown Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative

Task Force Meeting

Wednesday August 30, 2017

Urban Mission Board Room – Factory Street

12:00 – 1:30

Present: Present:

Sharon Addison, City of Watertown, Michelle Alba, Community Advocate
Heather Blair, Carthage Savings & Loan. John Bonventre, Community Advocate
Joe Butler, City of Watertown, Dawn Cole, Community Action Planning Council
Sean Courtney, Community Advocate, Tobi Darrah, United Way of NNY
Becky Draper, Community Advocate, Joseph Draper, Community Advocate
Brian Drappo, Habitat for Humanity, Melinda Gault, Community Action Planning Council
Bob Gorman, United Way of Northern NY, Kevin Hill, Community Advocate
Leslie Keefer, Community Advocate, Angie King, Community Advocate, Katy Troester-Trate, JCC
Krystin LaBarge, Community Advocate, Patti LaBarr, Watertown City School District
Mike Lawrence, Community Advocate, Diane Leonard, DH Leonard Consulting and Grantwriting
Beth Linderman, Watertown City School District, Joanna Loomis, Watertown Urban Mission
Carolyn Mantle, Community Advocate, Aileen Martin, Northern Regional Center for
Independent Living, Mary Jane Mathewson, Community Action Planning Council
Cheryl Mayforth, Workforce Development Board, Carole McCoy, Retired Jefferson Community
College, Lena Parker, Salvation Army
Sam Purington, Volunteer Transportation Center, Mike Robare, Watertown Housing Authority
Crystal Roberts, Community Advocate, James Schell, Jefferson County Department of Social
Services, Peter Schmitt, ESPRI Director
Reginald Schweitzer, Neighbors of Watertown, Kristen Semento, VISTA
Karen Smullen, Salvation Army, Jimmy Stanley, Community Advocate
Orales Stroud, Community Advocate, Steve Todd, Jefferson-Lewis BOCES, Denise Young, YMCA

Excused:

Roger Ambrose, Pam Beyor, Erika Flint, Teresa Gaffney, Cody Horbacz, Stephen Hunt,
Myron Jamerson, Addie Jenne, Steve Jennings, Kevin Jordan, Katrina McIntyre, Tammie Miller,
Steve Murray, Pam Narrigan, Stacy Neddo, Yvonne Reff, Rafael Reyes, Karen Richmond,
Tim Ruetten, Don Rutherford, Anita Seefried-Brown, Rebecca Shamey, Jeff Smith,

Welcome: Bob Gorman opened the meeting with a thank you to everyone for giving their time to this community effort.

Review Committee Recommendations: Peter Schmitt thanked everyone involved with the RFP review process and reviewed the steps the committee took in its review.

Outcomes – Peter Schmitt noted that more work needs to be done on outcomes to ensure outcomes are measurable and have a relationship to both the program goals and the ESPRI goals. It was recommended that a committee be formed to review this issue and make recommendations. Carol McCoy, John Bonaventure, Kevin Hill and Leslie Keefer volunteered to help with this process.

Programs Presentations

Presentations were made for each of the programs and questions were asked and answered after each presentation.

Bridges and Getting Ahead – Dawn Cole

Wheels to Work – Joanna Loomis

Employee Resource Network – Cheryl Mayforth

Pathway to Home Ownership – Brian Drappo and Reg Schweitzer

Program Approvals

Approval process – Peter Schmitt noted that we would be using a voice vote and anyone who was a policy volunteer or staff for the contracting organization being recommended should not participate in the vote.

It was also noted that the votes would include any proposed waivers and carry the assumption that all conditions imposed by the Review Committee would be met before they are forwarded to OTDA.

Champions for Change – Focus, Education – Contracting Organization, Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County – Request \$196,000 – Motion to approve made by Patti LaBarr, seconded by Leslie Keefer – **Carried**

Wheels To Work – Focus, Transportation – Contracting Organization, Watertown Urban Mission, Request \$150,000 – Motion to approve made by Sam Purrington, seconded by Kevin Hill – **Carried**

Employee Resource Network – Focus, Workforce Development – Contracting Organization, Jefferson county Department of Employment and Training, Request \$175,000 – Motion to approve made by Katy Troester-Trate, seconded by Heather Blair – **Carried**

Pathway to Home Ownership – Focus, Housing – Contracting Organization, Thousand Islands Area Habitat for Humanity – Request \$300,000 – Motion to approve made by Beth Linderman, seconded by John Bonaventure – **Carried**

Timelines

Peter Schmitt spoke with Liz Morrisey, OTDA about future steps. Peter noted that finalized program proposals and the Phase 2 report would be to Liz by the end of September and Liz felt that State approval could be in place by December 1 at which time an advance of 25% could be arranged.

Next Meeting

Peter will continue to update the Task Force on program developments and meetings of the Task Force will be called when needed.

Thanks were extended to everyone for their commitment to this process and to the community.