

WATERTOWN EMPIRE STATE POVERTY REDUCTION INITIATIVE
TASK FORCE MEETING
May 24, 2017, 12:00 – 1:00 PM
Watertown Urban Mission Board Room
245 Factory Street
Watertown, NY 13601

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Present:

Sharon Addison, City of Watertown
Heather Blair, Carthage Savings & Loan
Pam Beyor, Community Member
John Bonventre, Community Advocate
Sean Courtney, Community Advocate
Becky Draper, Community Advocate
Joseph Draper, Community Advocate
Erika Flint, Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization
Teresa Gaffney, Department of Social Services
Melinda Gault, Community Action Planning Council
Kevin Hill, Community Advocate
Cody Horbacz, City of Watertown
Steve Jennings, City of Watertown, Department of Public Health
Kevin Jordan, Cornell Cooperative Extension
Leslie Keefer, Community Advocate
Angie King, Community Advocate
Krystin LaBarge, Community Advocate
Patti LaBarr, Watertown City School District
Mike Lawrence, Community Advocate
Beth Linderman, Watertown City School District
Carolyn Mantle, Community Advocate
Aileen Martin, Northern Regional Center for Independent Living
Cheryl Mayforth, Workforce Development Board
Carole McCoy, Jefferson Community College
Stacy Neddo, Community Member
Barb Peck (for Karen Richmond), Children's Home of Jefferson County
Sam Purington, Volunteer Transportation Center
Charles Pytlovany, Community Advocate
Yvonne Reff, Flower Memorial Library
Mike Robare, Watertown Housing Authority
Crystal Roberts, Community Advocate
Don Rutherford, Watertown Local Development Corporation
Jeff Smith, First Baptist Church
Roberto Smith, Community Advocate
Jimmy Stanley, Community Advocate
Orales Stroud, Community Advocate
Steve Todd, Jefferson-Lewis BOCES
Kate Troester-Trate, Jefferson Community College
Kate Wehrle for Addie Jenne, NYS Assembly
Denise Young, YMCA

Peter Schmitt, Watertown ESPRI Director
Tobi Darrah, United Way of NNY
Bob Gorman, United Way of NNY
Mary Jane Mathewson, Community Action Planning Council

Excused:

- Michelle Alba, Community Advocate
- Roger Ambrose, Community Services
- Joe Butler, City of Watertown
- Dawn Cole, Watertown ESPRI
- Robin Holmes, Salvation Army
- Stephen Hunt, NC Regional Economic Development Council
- Myron Jamerson, The Rock Church
- Joanna Loomis, Watertown Urban Mission
- Katrina McIntyre, Community Advocate
- Tammie Miller, Resolution Center
- Steve Murray, Holy Family Church
- Pam Narrigan, Community Member
- Rafael Reyes, Community Advocate
- Tim Ruetten, Office for the Aging
- Anita Seefried-Brown, PIVOT / Alliance for Better Communities
- Rebecca Shamey, Community Advocate

Welcome

Peter Schmitt, ESPRI Project Director, opened the meeting. Peter welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Online Survey Results

Mr. Schmitt provided an overview of the ESPRI survey and a summary of the data gleaned from both the electronic and paper surveys.

Initiative Updates Review

Mr. Schmitt provided an overview, reviewed the initiative options and follow up information for each of the following ESPRI initiatives. Peter asked the group if there was anything else to share or any questions after he reviewed each of the initiative overviews.

-Workforce Development – Employee Resource Networks

-Transportation – Wheels to Work

-Education – Bridges out of Poverty Community-Trainers

-Education – Getting Ahead: A Collaborative Approach to resolving Poverty

-Education – Navigators, Mobility Mentors

-Housing - Homeownership

Voting on Initiatives

Mr. Schmitt reviewed the initiatives that he posted on the wall and asked the group to please place their six votes they were given on the initiatives posted on the wall by priority.

Timelines

Mr. Schmitt reviewed the following timeline:

- May 24 – Initiative Selection
- June 26 – RFP Developed
- August 30 – Look to have another Task Force Meeting
- November 1 – Ready to Go
- March 1, 2019 - Done

Next Meeting

Mr. Schmitt said there will be a Steering Committee meeting to look at logistics moving forward. He thanked everyone for their input and for their respect for all individuals involved.