



Bridges Out of Poverty Champions for Change Steering Committee
FDRHPO Conference Room
March 1, 2019 2:00 - 3:30 PM

Present: Brandy Burnett, Getting Ahead Graduate
Dawn Cole, Watertown Urban Mission
Tracy Leonard, Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization
Aileen Martin, Northern Center for Independent Living
Cheryl Mayforth, Jefferson-Lewis Workforce Development Board
Cindy Nelson, River Hospital
Irene Parobii, Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization
Courtnie Toms, Maximizing Independent Living Choices
Sarah Yerdon, Getting Ahead Graduate

Excused: Max DelSignore, Northern NY Community Foundation
Joanna Loomis, North Country Initiative
Stephen Todd, Jefferson-Lewis BOCES

Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Irene welcomed the group and presented the minutes from the previous meeting (January 11, 2019). In reviewing the minutes, Tracy suggested that the group not lose sight of action items, specifically to connect Getting Ahead graduates with the Points North Housing Coalition. Aileen reported that NRCIL handed out socks at their table as part of the Point in Time Survey, at the advice of John Bonventre, GA grad.

Minutes from the January 11, 2019 meeting were approved on a motion from Tracy Leonard; seconded by Aileen Martin.

Interview Closet

Sarah reported that the Agape Shoppe Board of Directors is considering making space available on the third floor for the Interview Closet for GA grads, pending permission from their insurance carrier. Sarah will follow up and report back.

TASC / Vocational Education Support through BOCES

Sarah indicated that one graduate was planning to participate in the WIOA Literacy and Workforce Development program at BOCES. She explained that there is limited interest from grads, given the substantial time commitment. Dawn reported that she is working with a GA investigator who is interested in attending, pending the availability of transportation. Sarah still plans to invite Georgia Dusckas to an upcoming Staying Ahead session to promote the opportunity.

Central New York Innovation Fund Update

Aileen is awaiting word on a grant submitted to CNY Innovation Fund to expand Bridges training and establish the basis for a Bridges community in Lewis County.

Tracy shared that expansion of Bridges work in Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties was included in the Population Health Improvement Program (PHIP) work plan. However, the governor eliminated PHIP from the budget. If not restored, PHIP is due to end on March 31.

Data Tracking for GA Programs / Other Counties

It was suggested that the topic of data collection be tabled until our next meeting to allow the committee adequate time to review the member survey results.

Poverty Forum Suggestions

Tracy encouraged committee members to consider ideas for speakers / presentations for the Poverty Forum in July, coordinated by Don Mesibov. Sarah suggested a panel discussion hosted by GA grads. Irene agreed to connect Sarah and Brandy with Don to explore the idea. Social determinants of health and health outcomes was also discussed as a possible topic, and it was suggested that this might take the form of a poster session with visual representation of the data.

Steering Committee Member Survey

Those present thoroughly reviewed the member survey and made suggestions for additional members, ensuring representation from all three counties. Cindy suggested terms of one year for membership. Invitations will be extended to the prospective members via email along with the charter once finalized.

Getting Ahead / Staying Ahead Updates

Sarah distributed an invitation to a graduation for the seventh Getting Ahead cohort to graduate in Jefferson County. The graduation is scheduled for the evening of March 8 at Watertown Urban Mission.

Charter Review

Irene presented a draft charter; those present shared ideas for tweaking the language. It was suggested that the document include descriptions of Bridges out of Poverty, Getting Ahead and Staying Ahead as appendices. Discussion ensued around responsibilities and participation. It was agreed that members would be encouraged to participate in all six meetings yearly but that attendance at all meetings would not be mandatory. Those present agreed to one-year terms for membership with no limit on recurring terms with renewal based on level of participation. Irene agreed to email an updated version of the charter to the current members for further review and edits prior to extending the invitation to prospective new members.

Updates

Upcoming Trainings – March 5 & 6 for PPS Partners (rescheduled from January), April 23 & 24 in Lewis County in partnership with DSS.

Race Against Poverty – May 18

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Bridges Steering Committee will take place on May 10, 2 – 3:30 PM at Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization.