



Bridges Out of Poverty Champions for Change Steering Committee
FDRHPO Conference Room
May 10, 2019 2:00 - 3:30 PM

Present: Dawn Cole, Urban Mission
Cindy Nelson, River Hospital
Irene Parobii, Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization
Stephen Todd, Jefferson-Lewis BOCES

Excused: Brandy Burnett, Getting Ahead Graduate
Max DelSignore, Northern NY Community Foundation
Tracy Leonard, Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization
Joanna Loomis, North Country Initiative
Aileen Martin, Northern Center for Independent Living
Cheryl Mayforth, Jefferson-Lewis Workforce Development Board
Courtne Toms, Maximizing Independent Living Choices
Sarah Yerdon, Getting Ahead Graduate

Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting (March 1, 2019) were not approved due to lack of quorum.

Poverty Forum

In Sarah's absence, Dawn reported that Sarah connected with Don Mesibov regarding the possibility of conducting a panel discussion with GA graduates as part of upcoming poverty conferences (May 22 at North Country Community College in Saranac Lake and July 16 – 18 at St. Lawrence University in Canton). Dawn explained that her understanding is that a panel discussion is not a good fit for the conference format but that Don and Sarah left the door open for exploring options to engage GA grads in the future.

Points North Housing Coalition

Irene reported that she connected Brandy and Sarah with Maureen Cean of Points North Housing Coalition. Those present discussed opportunities to engage more graduates in community-level work. Cindy suggested promoting such opportunities through Staying Ahead. Dawn agreed to seek input from graduates in developing a list of areas of interest to match up to engagement opportunities as they arise.

Data Tracking for Getting Ahead Program / Other Counties

Irene suggested that this remain a standing agenda item until workshops are rolled out in neighboring counties. This opened the door to discussion regarding the need to secure more funding, centralize data collection and ensure fidelity of the model once ESPRI funds are depleted. Those present also discussed the idea of posting information and documents pertinent to North Country Bridges online. It was suggested that we explore adding a page to FDRHPO's website with links to documents (past meeting minutes, charter, etc.) if possible. Irene agreed to follow up with FDRHPO's communications staff.

Charter Finalization

The group reviewed the charter and suggested changing the reference to ESPRI under Reporting (page 3) to funders.

Potential New Members

Don Mesibov has agreed to join the Steering Committee and has already cleared his calendar for subsequent meetings. Joe Butler is also willing to serve, after his term as Mayor is completed. Pastor Jeff Smith, Tim Ruetten, and Amberlee Clement have all expressed interest. Steve shared that he would await the arrival of the new WPBS station manager before confirming with Kraig Everard. He also suggested that Mark Walczyk be added to the list of potential committee members; Dawn agreed to reach out.

Emerging Solutions Scholarship for GA Grads

Irene reminded those present to consider nominating a GA grad to attend the annual conference hosted by AhaProcess. This year's event takes place in Indianapolis in September; the deadline to submit a nomination is May 17. Dawn agreed to see if Sarah and / or Brandy had any thoughts about nominations.

PHIP Workplan Bridges Objective

Irene noted that the PHIP workplan includes Getting Ahead workshops, pending further word on additional funding streams.

Getting Ahead / Staying Ahead Updates

Dawn shared the details of two upcoming graduation events: May 15 at Community Action Planning Council and May 23 at Urban Mission.

Interview Closet

Irene shared that the GA interview closet at the Agape Shoppe was approved. Sarah is finalizing details, after which a press release will be sent out. LEAD Council is on standby to begin seeking donations.

Upcoming Trainings

Irene reported that upcoming trainings include: Seaway Valley Prevention Council (in partnership with Community Health Center of the North Country): half day on May 16 and 2-day June 27 – 28.

Facebook Analytics

Irene provided an overview of Facebook traffic / engagement on the North Country Bridges page. It was suggested that we feature success stories and other content from GA graduates.

Race Against Poverty – May 18

Teams are encouraged to sign up via the EventBrite link.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Bridges Steering Committee will take place on July 19, 2 – 3:30 PM at Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization.