



**Bridges Out of Poverty Champions for Change Steering Committee**

**FDRHPO Conference Room | July 19, 2019 | 2-3:30 pm**

**Invitees:** Dawn Cole (WUM), Irene Parobii (FDRHPO), Tracy Leonard (FDRHPO), Joanna Loomis (NCI), Cheryl Mayforth (WIB), Aileen Martin (NRCIL), Stephen Todd (BOCES), Max DelSignore (NNY Community Foundation), Cindy Nelson (River Hospital), Courtnie Toms (Maximizing Independent Living Choices and Points North Coalition), Brandy Burnett (NRCIL), Sarah Yerdon (Getting Ahead Facilitator)

Present: Irene Parobii, Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization

Joanna Loomis, North Country Initiative

Cheryl Mayforth, Jefferson-Lewis Workforce Development Board

Aileen Martin, Northern Center for Independent Living

Max DelSignore, NNY Community Foundation

Courtnie Toms, Maximizing Independent Living Choices

Sarah Yerdon, Getting Ahead Graduate

Pastor Jeff Smith, First Baptist Church

Logan Eddy, District Director for Senator Ritchie

Cathy Brodeur, Community Action Planning Council Headstart

Rosetta Landis, North Country Family Health Center, WIC

Excused: Dawn Cole, Urban Mission

Tracy Leonard, Credo

Stephen Todd, BOCES

Cindy Nelson, River Hospital

Brandy Burnett, Northern Center for Independent Living

## I. **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from March 1, 2019 and May 10, 2019 were approved.

## II. **Action Items:**

- **List of Staying Ahead interest areas (to support community engagement)**
  - Sarah will ask the Staying Ahead group at their next meeting and share with steering committee so that they can connect with speakers and/or resources.
  - Staying Ahead meetings take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month; 12-1pm at NRCIL and the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month; 5-6:30 pm at the Urban Mission.
    - ❖ Last meeting a representative from Watertown Savings Bank came to speak about how to build/re-establish good credit. This month, at Urban Mission, Better Alliance will help to brainstorm ways to provide outreach in community, and last month the owner of Power Play came to walk with participants to strengthen the 'physical' resource. Sarah mentioned that they are open to speakers and will share what the graduates are interested in with the Steering Committee to help with recruitment.
  
- **Data tracking for Getting Ahead program/ other counties (*graduation rates, successes, fidelity of programs, tracking funding/new workshops, aha process recommendations?*)**
  - Current Getting Ahead cohort started on July 18<sup>th</sup> at CAPC, next cohort will begin September 18<sup>th</sup>, third one will start sometime in Nov/Dec 2019 in order to be completed by March 2020.
  - There are 8 cohorts total to date and 88 graduates
  - All cohorts are currently being funded by ESPRI. During the 16 week workshop, investigators conduct assessments in 3 main areas: finances, stability, and a self assessment. This data gets put into a data tracker (Charity Tracker) and is tracked by cohort and by individual. At 3 months and 1 year after graduation, do these assessments together again with the cohort. This is currently being done through CAPC. Participants are reimbursed for their time/participation in the workshops (\$25 gift card). The time to spend ESPRI funding has been extended to March 2020.
  
- **Steering Committee website/page for minutes, information, etc. (FDRHPO site; PHIP priorities)**
  - Poverty will be listed under the population health improvement program priority area on the FDRHPO website
  - Could Steering Committee agencies have links here?
  - Irene to connect with Communications Coordinator at FDRHPO about creating this and adding links to the committee charter, North Country Bridges Facebook page, and minutes on the site. It was discussed that the best location for upcoming GA workshops/events would be on the Facebook page.
  
- **Points North Housing Coalition**
  - Included in packets were slides from a recent presentation by the Points North Housing Coalition about the coalition and the Point in Time survey results from January 2019 (a regional survey of homeless persons on a single night in January). There was discussion that a better time for this survey to get a more accurate count would be in the Spring.
  - GA Grad participation: Sarah and Brandy reached out to Getting Ahead Graduates about interest in participating, and a few have expressed interest. This information has been shared with Maureen Cean. Aileen shared that the coalition is should include representation of people with

experience in homelessness. Sarah will connect with the graduates at the next Staying Ahead meeting to check on progress of participation.

- Aileen shared that emergency beds would be located in the Victims Assistance Center, and transitional beds could be at the Mental Health Association or TLS.
- Courtnie shared that the Point in Time Survey subcommittee is still a work in progress, and currently no one is on the committee, so there is no work currently being done to get ready for the January survey. Point in Time survey purpose is to capture people in the community who may not be visiting an agency (this data is already captured in the Housing Management Information System)
- For those who may be sanctioned by DSS (Pastor Jeff Smith shared he encounters many of these cases), Sarah suggested that they may be able to go to HEARTH at the Urban Mission to get put into a hotel room. The challenge is that if this is after-hours, there are no walk-in shelters.
- Homelessness Survey Results: survey results included in packets and briefly reviewed.
- Additional CoC funding:

CoC annually comes out with notice of funding opportunity for a number of projects: supportive services and construction of buildings, housing, domestic violence (provide rental subsidies to people for a year while they receive stabilization services; even if people are sanctioned from DSS). There is a cost for this application. However, there is no funding available specifically for shelters since data does not show a link between shelters and decreasing homelessness, and HUD will not fund these initiatives. More housing funding is focused on supportive/transitional housing to get into permanent housing. Challenge of this is being able to afford permanent housing. Mental health can also affect seeking permanent shelter (an example story is that some people stay in caves by Black River during the summer; get arrested in Fall to be able to spend colder months in jail). Some hotels also do not provide good environments.

\* The group decided that we need to keep talking about this issue and how to change the community (Follow other models in other cities like Syracuse; Rescue Mission?)

\* Joint meeting with PNHC would be good to discuss funding allocation in the community

Irene will contact Maureen and Courtnie to schedule a joint meeting with PNHC, PIT subcommittee, and GA graduates interested in serving on the committee.

- **New members: status check**

- Sarah and Brandy have contacted GA grads, but many have started jobs or are preparing to go back to school so they aren't available, but Sarah will continue to reach out to graduates.
- Max mentioned that annually the NNY Community Foundation gives out non-traditional scholarships – how do we make more people aware of this opportunity, and adult learners? Application is now closed, but next Winter (February/March) is a good time to apply if thinking about going to school the following Fall. Cheryl also mentioned she has applications at her site. Complete application, interview, and funds are awarded in August. If students owe student loans – this would not disqualify them for this application.

III. **Getting Ahead/Staying Ahead updates** (*Dawn and Sarah*)

- Agape Shoppe closet for GA investigators (Joanna and Sarah):
  - Clothes have been donated – Sarah and a few graduates will be going to the shop next week to work on the space. More donations are needed! (scrubs, professional clothing, non-slip shoes, kitchen wardrobe- black pants, polos.) Can drop donations off at Agape, or contact Sarah. Press Release when everything is organized – will be on FB page. Two grads will be the contacts for inventory, visits etc. Rosetta mentioned she is on the board of the Agape Shoppe, and happy to assist in any way.
- 1 current GA workshop, 2 more upcoming GA workshops, 2 SA sessions currently.

- Race Against Poverty did very well this year: \$27,000 raised!

#### IV. **Expansion of Poverty Programming**

- A. Central New York Innovation Funds (NRCIL and CNY Care Collaborative):
  - \$250,000 to implement a Bridges Community in Lewis County, with a healthcare focus (grant is for one year). Lewis County Priorities Council is a partner and will facilitate a local Steering Committee. Funds start in September. Aha process is coming in November to provide Bridges Out of Poverty training. Second phase of the project is Getting Ahead –facilitators will be trained and hoping to hold 2 workshops. Phase 3 is sustainability.
- B. FDRHPO PHIP: GA facilitators (4 additional); continue to support SA:
  - Budgeted funds for 4 additional facilitators in Lewis (collaborate with Aileen) and St Lawrence. Connect with Don Mesibov from SLC (all 4 here?) How do we identify facilitators? At least BOP training, going through the GA workshop first is very beneficial. Workshops in SLC first may be helpful to have these grads then trained. Connect with BOP trainers in SLC.
- C. ESPRI Extension: Extended through March 2020 (not getting more money, just more time to meaningfully spend funds)
- D. Mother Cabrini Grant (Watertown Urban Mission): Dawn was excused from this meeting and unable to share update at this time.
- E. REDC: Support workforce development for under-resourced populations (underemployed, unemployed, working poor). Recruit people for work in entry level hot jobs in health care (CNA, Home Health Aid). Irene will keep the group updated on application progress.
- F. Max added that through efforts of Race Against Poverty, Lead Council and NNY Community Foundation grant, there is about \$100,000 in the Race Against Poverty Fund – administered through the Community Foundation, with the intent to continue workshops at the end of ESPRI. Funding can be deployed across the three counties. There is an application that has been developed for this, and will become more of a reality next Spring, when ESPRI concludes.

#### V. **Yearly Meeting Schedule**

- Locations/Topics?
  - Proposed schedule included in packets.
  - Topics and location feedback for upcoming meetings welcomed from all members
  - Joint meeting of steering committees is a potential for Lewis county location (revisit next year)

#### VI. **Updates (All)**

- Upcoming BOP trainings:
  - Lewis County (open to the community) – in October – Aileen will share more information about this.
  - Train the Trainer BOP workshop in November in Lewis County.
  - If members have ideas for a target audience in the region to receive BOP training, please let Irene know.
- Facebook analytics: no updates, but new posts on Facebook are reaching about 65 people! 91 followers currently. <https://www.facebook.com/NorthCountryBridges>
- Race Against Poverty: 3<sup>rd</sup> annual race was a success!
- Watertown Urban Mission food pantry has new hours: open everyday, do not close during lunch, and there are evening hours on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday.
- Ticket to Work program: participants are allowed to try out work beyond benefit amount without losing benefits (trial period). This is offered through the Social Security Administration for anyone receiving SSI, SSDI (connect with Cheryl for more information about this!)

#### VII. **Next meeting:** September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2-3:30pm

**Topics:**

- GA Data tracking
- Website status
- Benefit cliff – what is our role as a steering committee? What could our role be in State advocacy related to this?
  - ❖ Several expressed this as a relevant concern. Pastor Jeff expressed this hopelessness and frustration as a catalyst for substance abuse. Sarah also mentioned that mental health is a factor and closely related to substance abuse as well.
- Potential location for joint meeting with the Points North Housing Coalition could be at WUM if there's a large group.

**Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm**

*Attachments:* meeting minutes (3/1; 5/10), Points North Housing Coalition presentation, CNY Care Collaborative Grant Press Release, Yearly Meeting Schedule(draft)