

## Promise Partners Committee Meeting Notes

**COMMITTEE:** Youth and Families

**MEETING DATE:** June 10, 2014

**CHAIRPERSON:** Jessica Simons

**LOCATION:** Micah House

### **PRESENT:**

Jessica Simons (Promise Partners)

Terri Dowell (Community Volunteer)

Tiffani Pinkerton (Heartland Family Service)

Cindy Goodin (YES)

Sandra McKinnon (ISU Extension)

Deb Kissel (Zion Recovery)

Pam Nightser (Fadss/wcca)

Jamie Strickland (Heartland)

Kyle Gay (YMCA)

Audrey Clauson (Family Connections)

Angela Moerke (Transitional Services of Iowa)

Michelle Badalucco (Carter Lake Comm. Resource Center)

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENSE:**

Graham Jura, Mary Kramer, Lorelle Muetting, Terri Amaral

### **Introductions and Announcements:**

Deb said the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) has announced a 6 month extension on her grant.

Audrey Clauson said they are offering Anger Management classes.

Cindy announced transitional living funds in Council Bluffs for people 18-21.

Jess reminded members of the community calendar online google document. Be sure to enter your family friendly low/no cost events on the calendar.

### **Spotlight Speaker:** Sandra McKinnon, Iowa State University Extension

Sandra McKinnon, Family Life Specialist gave an overview of the services that Iowa State University – Extension offers. Services, trainings, and assistance includes 4H & Youth, Agriculture & Environment, Business & Community, and Families & Healthy Living. For further information visit [www.extension.iastate.edu/westpottawattamie/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/westpottawattamie/).

### **Laundry Love Project:**

The event was held at the Broadway Wash House at 20th and Broadway April 10. The committee felt it was very successful. Final report has been turned in. The committee suggests we do it again. *Copy of report is enclosed.*

- 79 people served. (66 loads of laundry, 71 meals, 800 toiletry items)
- 9.97 (out of 10) satisfaction.
- 71% reported they could identify at least one new person, program or service they might connect with or get support from in the future.
- 80% surveyed reported that they were able to spend quality time together as a family.

## **Election results**

- As follows:
- Chair: Jess Simons
- Co-chair: Cindy Goodin
- Secretary: Michelle Badalucco
- Note taker: Tiffani Pinkerton,

Steering Committee members are Jessica Simons, Deb Kissel, Terri Dowell, Dave Smith, Cindy Goodin, Michelle Badalucco, Lorelle Muetting, Sapana Sharma and Mary Kramer.

Any one is welcome at the Steering Committee Meetings.

## **Committee Planning for the 2014-2015 Year:**

Smaller groups were asked to discuss priorities, educational opportunities, community trends, and overall Youth & Families Committee. Results were then posted. Below are results with priorities in red.

### **1) What are the priorities and items you are focusing on through your work?**

**What are you working to improve or maintain?**

- Overall wellness
- Healthy families
- Healthy lifestyles for families- eating, physical activity
- Lack of parenting
- Community Service Projects
- Youth Leadership
- Financial Literacy
- Self-sufficiency for families
- Latino High School Graduation

### **2) What are some trends that you are noticing in the community?**

**What is good & what is bad for children, youth, and families?**

- Addiction & drug use in the community
- Need for drug education
- Resource Rich Community
- Good collaboration across programs/agencies
- Teenage Pregnancy, Unwed mothers, Multiple pregnancies
- Activities for youth & families. "Fests"
- Single Parent Families
- Lack of participation in available programs
- Information on resources & programs

- Bullying
- Transportation Problems
- Increase in homelessness
- High school graduation rates
- Aging population
- More minorities- acceptance, language barriers
- Diversity
- Increase in unemployment

**3) What are some educational opportunities you'd like to learn more about?** *Topics, issues, speakers.*

- Drug Trends: From police perspective
- Drug & Alcohol Information
- Substance Abuse Prevention- what to do & what not to do
- Mental Health
- Together We Can Training

**4) What is the state of the Youth & Families Committee?**

**What would help us to maintain our good work or improve our good work?**

- Invite Others
- More members/participants
- Market & Promote Y&F:
  - Create bookmarks
  - Pens
  - Brochure
  - Use Social Media: Facebook & Website

**NEXT MEETING:**

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Tuesday, September 2 at 9AM, 445 Glen Avenue

Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday, September 9 at 3PM at the Micah House.

Speaker/ Topic-

Door Greeter-

Spotlight Speaker-

Meeting minutes will be posted at [www.promisepartners.org](http://www.promisepartners.org).

The Youth & Families, a committee of nonprofit leaders and community volunteers, held a Laundry Love Event on Thursday, April 10 at the Broadway Wash House Laundromat in Council Bluffs. This was an opportunity for youth and families that struggle financially to wash their clothing and laundry at no cost. While together, intentional networking and friendships were built to create a sense of community and to help participants get assistance from neighbors, community resources, and others.

Upon entrance into the laundromat, guests were welcomed, registered, and someone helped them to start 2-3 loads of laundry. Guests were then encouraged to eat a hot meal of fried chicken outside; many people socialized while eating the meal. Hygiene items were available for guests to take and very appreciated. Street Outreach through Youth Emergency Services gave away bags of grocery items. A resource table with pamphlets and information about community supports were available and people helping at the event had many conversations with guests about resources and services available in the community. Board games, cards, a reading nook, and children's crafts were also available. 79 people were guests at the event—65 were adults and 14 were children (*surveys indicated that this helped another 8 children who did not attend*). Children attending helped their parents in completing laundry alongside their parents.

Leftover items were donated to other causes. Leftover chicken was donated to the Micah House Emergency Homeless Shelter. Leftover snack food items were donated to Youth Emergency Services (YES) and Drug/Alcohol Prevention Programming. Additional personal hygiene items were kept in hope of doing a future event.

Our committee felt that this was a largely successful event! Families and individuals that were guests were very vocal with their gratitude and appreciated the opportunity. People helping at the event expressed that it was a very humbling experience and appreciated the opportunity to give back to their community. The environment in the laundromat was neutral; all were respectful and many conversations were had.

After the event, the committee held a meeting to discuss what went well and changes that could be made if the event was held again. Consensus was a desire to hold another event if given the opportunity. Although there were no major concerns, committee members discussed ways to improve the registration process, helpers remaining with guests, a "helpful hints" handout, more awareness of who was sponsoring the event, and changes in marketing. Additionally, many guests asked about job opportunities in the community. So a job search or application help may be of assistance.

Many people in the community supported this event and the planning. 11 paid "staff members" collaborated on project-representing Zion Recovery, Youth Emergency Services, Transitional Services of Iowa, West Central Community Action - FaDSS, Heartland Family Services, Trailblazers of the Heartland, Carter Lake Community Resource Center, Promise Partners, and Council Bluffs Police Department. 6 adults and 2 youth volunteered their time. More youth & young adults were planning to help at the event, but due to their transient nature were not able to. Many people encouraged families that they work with to attend—including staff through Council Bluffs Schools. This high level of collaboration led to many great ideas and opportunities.

The Broadway Wash House was entirely encouraging to the event and supports holding one in the future. Donations of items were made through Sam's Club, hotels, New Horizon Presbyterian Church, Fairmont Park Neighborhood Association, and Seventh Generation. Acieta (formerly Ellison Technologies) donated \$500. Hy-Vee discounted all food items. Between all the donations, we did not use the full grant funds.

**Quotes from Guests:**

- "You are wonderful! Thank you!"
- "Awesome! I just moved here. I'd like to volunteer in the future."
- "This will free up some money!"
- "The food was good."

**Other Guests Shared:**

- Living in a tent in Lake Manawa State Park. We weren't sure we would have enough money to get to get here, do laundry, and get back. Now we'll be able to fill our vehicle with the money saved.
- Lost my job after being sick. Now washing machine is broken; can't afford to get it fixed. This was much needed.

<b>Purpose Statement</b>	<b>How much did we put in? (Input Measures)</b>	<b>How much did we do? (Output Measures)</b>	<b>How well did we do it? (Quality/Efficiency Measures)</b>	<b>What difference did it make? (Outcome Measures)</b>
<p>To provide an opportunity for youth and families that struggle financially to wash their clothing and laundry at no cost. While together, intentional networking and friendships will be built to create a sense of community and help participants get assistance from neighbors, community resources, and others.</p>	<p><b>What has been invested in financial and non-financial resources?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$1,942.08 expended (\$1,442.08 from grant, \$500 from donation from Acieta/Ellison Technologies)</li> <li>• 75 toiletry bags, 30 chapsticks, 50 band-aid buddies, 24 other items donated. Discounted chicken through Hy-Vee.</li> <li>• 11 paid “staff members” collaborated on project-representing Zion Recovery, Youth Emergency Services, Transitional Services of Iowa, West Central - FaDSS, Heartland Family Services, Trailblazers, Carter Lake Community Resource Center, Promise Partners, CB Police Department</li> <li>• 6 adult volunteers</li> <li>• 2 youth volunteers</li> </ul>	<p><b>What was produced or changed as an effect of the effort put forth?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 event held: April 10, 2014- included meal, laundry service, free personal hygiene items, and networking</li> <li>• 79 people served- 65 adults &amp; 14 children (additional 8 children impacted from home)</li> <li>• 66 loads of laundry completed</li> <li>• 71 meals served</li> <li>• Over 800 toiletry items given to guests- including deodorant, shampoo, soap, socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, &amp; personal hygiene items</li> </ul>	<p><b>How qualified and efficiently was the activity or service delivered?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Average rating of 9.97 (out of 10) given by participants surveyed</li> <li>• Ways guests heard about event: 43% Walk-ins, 32% Word of Mouth, 7% Trailblazers, 7% FIP/DHS, 11% Church/ Thrift Store/ Laundromat</li> </ul>	<p><b>What was the change in conditions for the people served?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 71% of adults reported that they could identify at least one new person, program, or service they might connect with or get support from in the future.</li> <li>• 80% of those surveyed reported that that they were able to spend some quality time together as a family.</li> </ul>