

## Promise Partners Committee Meeting Notes

**COMMITTEE:** Youth and Families  
**MEETING DATE:** September 10, 2013

**CHAIRPERSON:** Jessica Simons  
**LOCATION:** Micah House

### **PRESENT:**

Dave Smith (Trailblazers)  
Jessica Simons (Promise Partners)  
Tim Johnson (The Daily Nonpareil)  
Nate Watson (Neighborhood Center)  
Terri Amaral (IWCC, Adult Ed. Program)  
Joni Griffin (AMP)  
Heather Loutzenhiser (Promise Partners)

Victoria Smith (AL Student & Trailblazers)  
Anna Hartmann (CB Public Library)  
Terri Dowell (Community Volunteer)  
Lorelle Muetting (PMP)  
Deb Kissel (Zion Recovery)  
Sheryl Lindau (Big Brothers Big Sisters)

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Tim Ross (Juvenile Court Services)  
Cindy Goodin (Youth Emergency Services)  
Mary Kramer (ISU Extension)

Michelle Badalucco (Carter Lake Resource Center)  
Julie Florian (Tobacco Prevention Partner)  
Deb Zebill (Green Hills AEA)

### **Introductions and Announcements:**

Anna Hartmann announced that the Council Bluffs Public Library now has a new website. It has changed from [www.cbpl.lib.ia.us](http://www.cbpl.lib.ia.us) to [www.councilbluffslibrary.org](http://www.councilbluffslibrary.org).

Lorelle Muetting announced that PMP has been awarded the Drug Free Communities (DFC) Grant from the National Office of Drug Control Policy and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The DFC Program provides grants of up to \$625,000 over 5 years to community coalitions that facilitate citizen participation in local drug prevention efforts. This grant will allow PMP to provide services in both Pottawattamie County in Iowa and Douglas and Sarpy Counties in Nebraska for five years. Also, the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Hands Across the Bridge Event will be held on September 21<sup>st</sup> from 9 – 10 am at the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge- Iowa side. A coffee bar will be available. The Community Star Awards will be held October 2<sup>nd</sup> at the MICAH House from noon to 1 pm.

### **Speaker: Nate Watson, Neighborhood Center**

Nate spoke about the Neighborhood Center and its role in the community. It is a 5 year funded initiative from the Iowa West Foundation. Currently, there are 21 Neighborhood Associations in Pottawattamie County, 19 of which are in Council Bluffs. Three of the neighborhoods are 501(c)(3) qualified. The goal of the Neighborhood Center is to work with Neighborhood Associations, get people together, create a sense of community, and determine an identity. A Mayor's Neighborhood Cabinet has begun, where Neighborhood Alliance representatives meet monthly with the mayor. The Neighborhood Center will work with any neighbor of any age, however, he is working to "bridge the gap" by using multiple forms of communication including twitter, Facebook, email, and even paper. His primary goal is ensuring that people are heard, and weaving a fabric of support for all neighbors. Any questions, comments, or announcements can be sent to [nwatson@neighborhoodcenter.net](mailto:nwatson@neighborhoodcenter.net). More information can be viewed at <http://neighborhoodctr.wordpress.com/>.

## **Developmental Assets of the Month**

The recognized Developmental Assets for the month of September focus around Boundaries & Expectations and a Commitment to Learning. Handouts and small group discussion focused on what these assets look and sound like in the community.

### ***Boundaries & Expectations***

- **Family Boundaries** – Family has clear expectations and consequences and monitors the young person's whereabouts.
- **School Boundaries** – School provides clear expectations and consequences.
- **Neighborhood Boundaries** – Neighbors take responsibility for monitoring the young person's behavior.
- **Adult Role Models** – Parent(s) and other adults model positive, responsible behavior.
- **Positive Peer Influence** – Young person's closest friends model positive, responsible behavior.
- **High Expectations** – Both parent(s) and teachers encourage the young person to do well.

### ***Commitment to Learning***

- **Achievement Motivation** – Young person is motivated to do well in school.
- **Learning Engagement** – Young person is actively engaged in learning.
- **Homework** – Young person reports doing at least one hour of homework every school day.
- **Bonding to School** – Young person cares about his or her school.
- **Reading for Pleasure** – Young person reads for pleasure three or more hours per week.

October's Assets of the Month focus around Positive Identity.

## **Spotlight Member: Terri Amaral, IWCC's Adult Learning Center**

Terri spoke about keeping up with standards concerning the High School Equivalency Test and the Pearson Test. The "GED" will soon be phased out and replaced with a new equivalency test. There is a lower price for these tests than the past. The new tests will begin in 2014. They are funded through federal allocations. Anyone above the age of 17 can test. The median age is 25. Common obstacles for people needing these tests are transportation, frustration, work, children, and childcare. Some changes have been happening, including hiring of a full-time instructor, arranging more classroom setting learning, and a staff person to keep up with the challenges that individuals are facing.

## **Business Items**

### ***Community Calendars with Youth/Family Friendly Events***

Calendars for the months of June-August 2013 were circulated with family friendly, free or low cost events happening in Pottawattamie County. These were made available on Google Docs. Nate Watson suggested using a platform to promote such events through the Neighborhood Center. The committee agreed to explore this further.

### ***Operation Medicine Cabinet***

A prescription and over the counter drug take back event will be held October 26th from 10 am to 2 pm. Tentatively scheduled at Walgreens. Discussion was held around the flyer and the need to "clean it up" and streamline. Jessica Simons agreed to update the flyer and send it to all in attendance and other partners that have been involved to get feedback. Part of the next committee meeting will be spent talking about logistics. Everyone is encouraged to volunteer their time; a volunteer sign-up sheet was sent around the room. Everyone is

encouraged to include copies of any materials they want to go to participants during the event. Bring 200 copies to the next meeting.

***Sign up for upcoming Spotlight Speakers & Door Greeters***

A sign up sheet was passed around to sign up as a spotlight speaker & door greeter at future meetings.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Tuesday, October 1 – 9 am, 445 Glen Ave.

Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday, October 8, 3PM at the Micah House.

Door Greeter: Deb Kissel

Spotlight Speaker: AMP Youth

Speaker- Topic will include Operation Medline Cabinet

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