

Promise Partners Committee Meeting Notes
Youth and Family

COMMITTEE: Youth and Families
MEETING DATE: November 11, 2014

CHAIRPERSON: Jessica Rayment
LOCATION: Micah House

PRESENT:

Jessica Rayment (Promise Partners)	Rebecca Losh (Big Brothers Big Sisters)
Terri Dowell (Community Volunteer)	Greg Smith (Kids & Co.)
Tiffani Pinkerton (Heartland Family Service)	Dave Smith (Trailblazers)
Lorelle Mueting (Heartland Family Service)	Julie Florian (Health Promotions Strategies)
Kaylene Page (Workforce Investment Act)	Sandy Hull (Live Well CB)
Jared Ranken (Iowa Legal Aid)	Jeff Kemp (YES)
Shelly DeBugar (Catholic Charities Phoenix House)	Kimberly Kolahwski (Children's Square Integrated Health)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Sandra McKinnon (ISU Extension), Cindy Goodin (YES), Deb Kissel (Zion Recovery), Audrey Clauson (Family Connections)

Introductions and Announcements:

Sandra McKinnon (ISU Extension) – announced a save the date for a listening/discussion event. They are seeking community members to come and give input on how we can partner to reach youth of color with Positive Youth Development opportunities. This will be November 10 1-3pm at the CB Public Library. Please RSVP to mkramer@iastate.edu or seilstad@iastate.edu. Individuals are able to sign up for an e-newsletter by emailing rwright1@iastate.edu.

Dave Smith (Trailblazers) – Will be holding their annual Thanksgiving Dinner on 11/25 at the Boys and Girls Club from 4:30 – 7:30pm. This is in cooperation with Trailblazers, The Salvation Army and Boys and Girls Club. They expect to serve 400-500 people.

Greg Smith – Kids and Company, a before and after school program housed in different schools. They also have summer school programming. All programs are for kids aged preschool – 8th grade. He also coordinates a monthly free/no cost activity calendar for families to use, they are currently working on the December 2014 calendar.

Jeff Kemp (Youth Emergency Services) – they are currently looking for youth 18-21 years of age to participate in their Transitional Services Program. Contact Jeff or Cindy Goodin for more information.

Jared Ranken (Iowa Legal Aid) – Promoted their Youth Link Project which they are trying to grow. This program helps kids aging out of foster care by assisting them with life situations (how to rent an apartment, buying a used car, etc.)

Tiffani Pinkerton (Heartland Family Service) – In cooperation with the Phoenix House will be offering a lunch and learn at no cost on “Kids and Technology”. Bring your lunch on November 20 from Noon – 1pm at the Micah House and learn about the pros and cons of kids and technology. For more information please contact Tiffani.

Shelly DeBuhr (Catholic Charities Phoenix House) – They have a “Care for Kids” program that helps kids age 3-11 to build healthy body images. This is a kit that helps staff provide this information, training is included. They have a few more to give out.

Kaylene Page (IWCC Workforce Development WIA) – They continue to look for new referrals to their programs. She shared information that UNO will be providing Ted Talks in the future and are looking for community topics and speakers.

Spotlight Speaker – Rebecca Losh, Outreach Coordinator for Big Brothers Big Sisters

This is a new position; her focus is to promote their programs in SW Iowa. Research shows kids who have a mentor do better academically, socially, avoidance of risky behaviors and commitment to their community.

They are looking for more adult volunteers “bigs” and kids “littles” to participate. This is a community based mentoring program, so most activities happen in the community or in individuals homes. Because of this, BBBS has a process of screening and training volunteers so that everyone is safe. This also allows for more real life experiences (i.e. Cooking, sewing, home or auto projects). Couples are also able to mentor together and are considered “big couples”. They do not need to do all activities together.

Many of the referrals for the littles come from word of mouth, schools/counselors, or parents inquiring for their children. There are currently about 15 kids on a wait list, and Iowa bigs are in high demand.

There is a training/information session coming up this Thursday 11/13 at the Salvation Army from 5:30 – 6:00pm. Training session (2 hr.) will follow. These sessions are held on a monthly basis.

This is an easy way to make a huge change in a child’s life. Contact Rebecca for more information.

Community Health – Sandy Hull, Live Well Council Bluffs

In 2010 Pottawattamie County was ranked 91st out of 99 counties for overall health of its residents. At that point a coalition was started and it ended up combining with Keep CB Beautiful in 2013. Keep CB Beautiful is still around, it is a committee of Live Well CB. Their mission statement is to create healthy people and healthy places. They have 3 strategies

- 1) Healthy Eating
- 2) Active Living - Heartland B Cycle is a project that came out of this strategy. CB will be getting a bike sharing program, where individuals can rent a bike from the kiosk. They will have multiple stations in CB (6) and Omaha will have some as well.

3) Beautification – “Recycle on the Go” which is recycling at events. And “CURB” Neighborhood which is re-granting makeovers for neighborhoods.

Opportunities for participation:

Action team meeting 11/17 3pm at Community Hall

Join an action team – Healthy Eating, Active Living or Beautification

Shape the Direction – goal setting in action teams

Participate – Family Wellness Fair 4/25/15

Please contact Sandy Hull at 712-328-4974 for more information.

Infusing Developmental Assets into Our Work

Support: Young people need to be surrounded by people who love, care for, appreciate and accept them. Small group discussion on above topic.

Comments from the Coalition

It was suggested that the Youth & Families Committee attend the Promise Partners Governance Board meeting in December 10 or January 28 to discuss projects we are working on, as well as concerns for the community we have identified.

Update on the future of Prescription Drug Drops in Pott County. A grant was applied for from Dodge Trust Fund to continue with the annual drops. Updates will be provided as they come in.

PMP – Taking Action Against Substance Abuse will be holding their New Member Breakfast on 11/24 from 9:00 – 10:30am at the HFS Sarpy Office. The topic will be on drug and gang trends in the metro area. PMP meets the 4th Monday of each month. For more information or to get on their mailing list please contact Tiffani Pinkerton or Lorelle Mueiting.

NEXT MEETING:

Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday, January 13 at 3PM at the Micah House.

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Tuesday, January 6 at 9 AM, 445 Glen St

Meeting minutes will be posted at www.promisepartners.org.