

Partners for an Enriched Community (P.E.C.) Minutes - July 14, 2010

In attendance: American Red Cross: Jackie Dempsey, Jennifer Foster, CareNet Family Resource Center: Leah LaBelle, City of Miracles: Arlena Taylor, CREW, Inc.: Maggie Maxwell, Lake County Adult Learning Connection: Barbara Babb, Lake County Workforce Development: Eva Locke, Love INC: Jacqui Franclemont, Maristella: Sonia Mares, Nicasa: Mary Henderson, RESPOND: Luke Mudd, SER Fair Housing Center: Megan Harrington, YouthBuild Lake County: Zandra Genous, Zion-Benton Public Library: Susan Clark, Sarah Covey, Zion Park District: Karen McElyea, Zion Township: Cheri Ditzig

Maggie Maxwell, Facilitator, called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM and welcomed guests.

June Minutes: Motion from Cheri Ditzig to approve the minutes from June 9, 2010. Jacqui Franclemont seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote of members present.

Introductions: This month we had four guests attend: American Red Cross: Jackie Dempsey, Jennifer Foster, City of Miracles: Arlena Taylor and Most Blessed Trinity/RESPOND: Luke Mudd.

Zion City of Miracles: Arlena Taylor informed the group that City of Miracles International is in its twelfth season of sponsoring festivals. Zion City of Miracles was started in 2005. The purpose of the festivals is to build community awareness about the social and economic resources available in the area. These festivals are provided to the public free of charge. This year they will be held on the following dates:

July 31, 2010, 10 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. 12th Annual Walnut Street Festival - Waukegan

August 14, 2010, 10 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Zion "City of Miracles" Festival - Zion Township

August 28, 2010 10 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. A Heart for Park City Festival - Park City

The group reviewed the festival handout that is given to participants. Arlena will be making updates for next month. This year, the group hopes to have a survey so participants and agencies can provide feedback. Arlena mentioned that agencies that are unable to pay the fee to participate in the festival are encouraged to speak with her as she is willing to work with each agency individually. Last year, over 23,000 people attended the festivals. The community of Zion served approximately 2000 adults and their families. This year the goal is to get volunteers to go with families so they visit the resource tables that most appropriately fit their needs and interests. For more information, contact Arlena at zionwalnutstreetfestivals@yahoo.com.

AmeriCorps and Red Cross: Jackie Dempsey briefly discussed some of the services provided by the American Red Cross to this community. Jennifer Foster, an AmeriCorps volunteer who is placed at Red Cross, is assigned to provide a variety of trainings to members of Zion and other areas. Jennifer can provide health and safety classes to residents free of charge. Babysitter's certification is also offered and only requires a \$15 book fee. The Family Caregiving training is a seven-module class. For details regarding AmeriCorps, visit www.myamericorps.gov.

Book of the Month Club: Maggie recommended a book about servant leadership for our next book of the month club pick. She is currently looking into getting copies of *Practicing Servant Leadership: Succeeding Through Trust, Bravery and Forgiveness* (Ed. Larry C. Spears and Michele Lawrence). The group will determine at the August meeting if this is something they would like to read.

Announcements are attached. Meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

July 2010 PEC Announcements

Lake County Adult Learning Connection: Barb mentioned that there are a number of literacy services available to Zion residents. LCALL partners with the College of Lake County to provide Adult Basic Education and GED tutoring and classes to students free of charge. In Zion, students are able to work with tutors one-on-one at Zion-Benton Public Library or other public areas. In addition, Family Literacy is offered at the Library to parents who have children ages 0 - 5. The program is in need of more volunteers who are willing to tutor in Zion. For more information or to sign up for tutor training, call Barbara Babb at 847-623-2041 x 222.

Maristella: Sonia announced that the agency is one month away from drawing a winner of a 2005 Chevy Aveo. Tickets can be purchased through her for \$20.00 a piece. The raffle will be held Sunday, August 15th at 2:00 p.m. at Maristella. Call Sonia for tickets or information 847-367-5360. The Legislative Breakfast Committee is in need of sponsors. The breakfast will be held on September 17th at Illinois Beach State Park at 7:00 a.m. Tickets are \$25.00 per person.

SER Fair Housing of Lake County: Megan distributed the agency's new brochures. SER has a number of new staff.

Zion Park District: Karen announced that the Jubilee Days 5K run will be held on September 4th. For details about the race or to register, visit www.zionparkdistrict.com or call 847-746-5500. The Boys and Girls Club 8K bike race will also be that day. To sign up, contact Jack Senter, event coordinator, at jhsenter@yahoo.com or 224-441-2573.

Zion Township: Cheri updated the group about Service Point and Pearce Community Resource Center. Maggie has been working with Peter to learn the Service Point system so we can begin training members soon. Cheri met with the new business manager at ZBTHS to discuss rental options for tenants at Pearce Community Resource Center. Those interested in renting space may either fully rent the space or utilize a collaborative office one day a week.

Lake County Workforce Development: Eva mentioned that Workforce Development is also reviewing Service Point for their resource room. The Summer Work Program is in full swing for the county. The Waukegan Job Center is currently down to one unemployment professional at the office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The Grayslake office processes insurance. WIA training is taking place. However there is a long waitlist. Those interested must attend an information session prior to the training. Contact Eva 847-377-3456 to get the most up-to-date information about the programs and workshops being offered each month. *Workforce Development does not fund transportation except for WIA involved clients.

Nicasa: Mary announced that Nicasa is now partnering with CREW to provide management services. Nicasa has been chosen as a family advocacy center for the state. For more information, call 847-546-6450 and ask about the family advocacy program.

Most Blessed Trinity: Luke stated that MBT provides a soup kitchen, food pantry, PADS location, immigration center, legal services and general and domestic violence counseling. He discussed the coalition that has been formed in Waukegan called RESPOND. The focus of this group is similar to PEC and includes relationship building and an educational component. The group used to meet on a monthly basis. Other RESPOND members will be attending next month's PEC meeting. Luke can be reached at 847-623-2655.

CareNet Family Resource Center: Leah announced that the center's hours are Mondays from 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m., Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The organization is focused on assisting pregnant individuals or couples, especially new parents by providing them with the necessary information to make the best decisions for the future.

Zion-Benton Public Library: Susan announced that Family Literacy classes will begin in August. Space is still available and families who qualify may contact Sari Oosta at CLC 847-543-2317. Sarah Covey stated that the Library received a grant allowing her to have a five part book series that will focus on African American history through literature. Registration is requested. Please call 847-872-4680 x 4 or visit www.zblibrary.info for additional information and to sign up. The National Suburban Library System has downsized and now provides van delivery services only. This impacts the Interlibrary Loan program.

Love INC: Jacqui announced that LOVE INC's clothing closet has been closed due to donations being down 44% this past year. Furniture is still available. The agency will be changing its name to Love INC Lake County Northeast effective this fall.

Continuing Education Opportunities:

Cheri recommended that members visit the UW Parkside website to see a listing of their continuing education courses. The University provides a number of trainings/classes on a variety of topics including ethics, collaboration and measuring outcomes. Visit <http://www.uwp.edu/departments/community.partnerships/NDConferencesWorkshops.cfm>.