



Vision 2020: Ending Poverty in Waushara County Meeting Minutes - April 17, 2017

Mission: “To engage and mobilize individuals, families and organizations in efforts to build a community of opportunity.”
Awareness – Education – Action

Present: Jan Novak, DHS; Jill Wilbert, CAP Services -Domestic Abuse Outreach; Mary LaBlanc, DHS, Patrick Nehring UW-Extension; Zina Soltis, UW-Extension; Bruce Runnels; Corey Jungwirth, Family Health/LaClinica; Amber Gotch, UW-Madison Hancock Agricultural Research Station; Tracy Bastar, DHS; and Jeff Kasuboski, Wautoma Area School District.

1. Welcome and Introductions.

2. Fox Valley Technical College Campus Expansion

Jeff gave us an update on the FVTC expansion project. They are one step away, pending approval, from having FVTC build a new campus on Wautoma School District land. He explained a quick overview on how the partnership started - In 1997, the school had no internet and had partnered with FVTC. In 2007 WASD partnered with CAP Services and Workforce Development to provide the welding center and in 2009 they added the machining portion. In 2015, FVTC started a Partnership Alliance to move the welding center to Mayville Engineering. FVTC programs would include welding, manufacturing maintenance, CNA and small business. They are trying to educate young adults to get them out of poverty. FVTC's Promise Scholarship helps low-income students pay for school.

3. Meeting Secretary – Jill will take notes for today's meeting.

4. Approval of Agenda and Minutes – Mary made a motion to approve the agenda and the minutes, seconded by Zina. Motion carried.

5. Workgroup Reports - Food Connections –

Patrick said the committee has not met since January but will be meeting this Friday. They are working on a food simulation which is on a much smaller scale than a poverty simulation. The committee is working with food pantries and making those connections. Amber from UW-Hancock Research Center says that center gives produce to Second Harvest and wants to give to Waushara County food pantries. They also have a demo garden that could possibly be a community garden in the future.

UW-Extension has the local food locator map on their website at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/wilocalfoodlocator/> The locator allows users to search for area producers by county by farm name or by type of product. The map provides name of farm, type of products, hours, location and contact information.

Community gardens are at two locations, Grace United Methodist Church, Wautoma and St. Mark's, Redgranite. The garden at GUMC is open to the public and you can go to church and sign up or call 787-4668. The garden at St. Marks are square foot gardens.

Back Pack Nutrition -

Jan said they are serving three area schools and serve 133 students every week. The last day for the program is May 25 for Redgranite and Coloma and May 30 for Tri-County. Waushara Industries workers pack the backpacks for the schools and there will be an

appreciation picnic for those workers. Auttum has done a great job with this program too. They are trying to enforce nutritional value to the foods that they distribute by adding a food label from myplate.com.

Resource Awareness –

Publications of the resource page and Help for Hard Times are complete and are available on the county's website (www.wausharacounty.gov). The pocket resource cards are at the printers and will be available early May. They are also working with FVTC to have links to resources right on the Facebook page.

6. Plunge into Waushara County Economics/CHAT Team

Theda Care developed a CHAT team, using the concept, that people have the knowledge and opportunities to meet their basic needs including food, jobs, housing and transportation and the tools to make healthy choices and locate the services and resources that can help them. Progress with the CHAT team has slowed down a bit. The CHAT team had hosted an economic plunge back in January. Positive outcomes that came from the plunge are that the food pantry has more volunteers and 500 free books were given to the Community Christmas Project. It also sparked an individual to look at Kiwanis scholarship recipients and see how those can go to more underserved individuals.

7. Economic Disadvantage in Rural America Webinar – 4/12/17

Poverty is more prevalent in rural areas. Poverty rates have stayed relatively flat for nearly 40 years. In 1960, it was 47%, 1979 – 15% and Current – 12%. There are fewer job opportunities due to transportation and lower wage jobs in rural area. Priorities in the country should include embracing immigrants and engaging unemployed/detached workers in the workforce.

8. Logo and Marketing

No action. Feedback from community members regarding meaning of Vision 2020 range from optical services, goals associated with the year 2020 and a viewing conditions clearly (like having 2020 vision)

9. Next Meeting

Since 2014, WI Council of Churches, WISDOM, WI Council on Children and Families and Citizen Action Education Fund have started Faithful Citizenship Campaign. This is a faith based advocacy group. Their goal is "The people of Wisconsin need to set a goal of cutting childhood poverty in half in the next ten years. To guarantee greater equity, we also need to cut racial disparities in childhood poverty in half. These goals need to be accompanied by a commitment to evidence-based evaluation of progress". Their three top focal points are immigration, criminal justice and transportation. Esther is the name of our local chapter. Local chapter president, Fr. Joe Mattern, will share information regarding Esther at our July meeting.

10. Announcements/Open Forum

Zina would like to identify a group of individuals/organizations interested in working together to help the community be more receptive to Latino/Hispanic populations. She will follow up with the Waushara Prevention Council, Inc. and Family Health/LaClinica.

SNAP article – Please read it and we will revisit it next meeting.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, July 17th from 10:30 – 12 Noon in the Demo Room (lower level) at the Courthouse.