



50 x 30

Educational Preparedness Team

May 24, 2016

5:30-7:00 p.m.

Prior Lake Library

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Roz Addler, Suzanne Arntson, Kathy Busch, Sarah Geffre, Todd Otis, Lisa Pollard, Jen Schultz, Kami Thompson, Lisa Von Bokern

Introduction Exercise

This was the first time the group has been able to get together since the retreat. Jen passed out an introduction exercise so that everyone in the room could get to know each other better.

Recap 50 x 30 Kick Off Retreat

Jen passed out a document highlighting the activities from the 50 x 30 Kick Off Retreat. Since the retreat, the Steering Committee has added the “Live~Learn~Earn” phrase as they felt that helped better encompass all of the working groups. After tonight, all four of the working groups –transportation, housing, workforce and educational preparedness—will have held their first meeting. The Steering Committee planned to meet on May 25th.

The goal is to ensure 50 x 30 is a community driven project with the community driving the goals and process. The goal is to have collaboration across all of the working groups so that we can achieve more together.

Todd is interested to see how all four work groups will work together and how communication will work across the groups. There is a plan to bring information from the other groups to each work group meeting so that we can ensure we are not duplicating efforts and because issues are rarely limited to just one work group—ex. Workforce issues will also revolve around transportation issues, housing issues, and childhood care and education.

Kathy remembers a similar initiative of collaborative work among school districts called Scott Family Net, but she is unsure what happened to that group.

Suzanne informed the group that Scott Family Net is still operational, but had taken a step back to work on finding focus. They ran into funding issues and were forced to reevaluate how they were operating.

Kathy would like the 50 x 30 groups to be successful.

Jen reminded everyone that as the Educational Preparedness group starts to set goals and work on issues, if you know of other groups working on similar issues, let the group know so that we can join forces rather than duplicate efforts.

Roz left the kick off retreat feeling very excited and energized. She appreciated the opportunity to think outside of the box and think about issues in a new way. She feels the goals the group started to talk about at the retreat feel huge, but exciting. She was able to give a recap of the day to the Childcare Association.

Jen reminded everyone that the goals may feel big and progress may take more than a few months, but to be patient throughout the process and let it work.

Todd left the retreat feeling fired up—he enjoyed the big ideas, and the huge employers present in the room. He thinks it would be great if the Educational Preparedness (and other work groups) could get them involved with childcare and other issues. He thinks it would be great if Scott County became known as a place where employers support family friendly policies.

Kami has worked in childcare for a long time—she felt very inspired at the retreat.

Lisa Von Bokern feels that making people aware of the issues is a large step. The group is aware of the issues, but most people are not.

Who's here? Who's missing?

Jen passed out a Big Tent Stakeholders Wheel to everyone. The group had completed a wheel at the retreat, but that was more of a collective wheel between the four working groups. Jen wanted the Educational Preparedness group to see what skills and experiences we have in our group. Jen asked group members to put red dots on the wheel for roles the members are currently involved in and blue dots for previous experience either professionally, recreationally, or through lived experience.

Everyone completed a wheel individually and then worked together on the wheel as a larger group. The group talked about areas of the wheel where it appears we might be missing skills and experience.

Workforce and preparation for high school felt like an area that was lacking. Kathy pointed out that a number of schools in the county offer school to work programs or partner with local businesses to give students experience. We could possibly bring someone from those initiatives on board 50 x 30.

Kami felt that someone with Human Resources experience might be helpful when trying to work with the big businesses and bring them on board with the group goals. When bigger businesses come on board there tends to be more power and awareness moving forward.

Cultural Diversity felt like an important piece that may be missing as well as parks and recreation.

Jen pointed out that not all of our group members are present at the meeting and so we may have several of these skills in our group already, but be unaware. As other group members show up for meetings, we will need to add their dots to our wheel and make sure we review if we have sufficient representation or if we need to try and bring others on board.

Chair/Vice Chair

Eventually a chair and vice chair will be needed. If anyone is interested, let the group know.

Early Childhood or Birth-18

Lisa Pollard asked if the group will focus on early education only or if we will be considering the entire spectrum of children's ages and stages from birth-18. Kathy and Lisa Pollard both felt that early childhood is only one stage in a child's life and that the whole spectrum of birth-18 should be considered if the end goal is to prepare children for the workforce.

Jen said that is something the group should talk about and decide on. A large portion of the information pulled focused on the children up to third grade, but educational preparedness could also focus on preparing teens for college or work.

Closing Remarks

Kami has been advocating the importance of early childhood almost her whole life and is impressed these discussions are happening.

Kathy hopes that the groups continues and is hopeful for the success of the group.

Next Meeting Date: June 28, 2016