

Caring & Sharing

March 13, 2009

8:30-10:00 a.m.

Minutes

In attendance: Brownie McGraw, Mark Dorr, Ronn Ponder, Lauren Powers, Nicolle Gregg, Kiersten Guerro, Kathi Wright, Debra Bueno, Tyler Robertson, Pia Jansen, Jan DeLay, Lizzy Slatt, Nicole Dean, Carrie Landers, Karen Bettis, Anne Chaisson, Brenda Guzman, Kim Sharpe

Presentation—Pathways Past Poverty, by Nicolle Gregg, United Way of Larimer County

Nicolle gave an overview of the initiative, progress made and current work. Here's brief summary:

Pathways Past Poverty began in response to the October 2006 release of alarming Census Bureau statistics that showed a growing percentage of our Larimer County population living in poverty. Looking at this critical data, it became imperative to begin a community dialogue about what we need to do to be proactive and begin to turn this trend around before it became too large to effectively address. As the organization focused on health and human services across our county, United Way was the logical choice to convene this conversation, in collaboration with Colorado State University, NCEDC, The Coloradoan, and other non-profit organizations. As a result of these partnerships the Pathways Past Poverty initiative was formed.

The vision of the initiative is:

“We are an engaged community, cooperating to ensure that every individual has their basic needs met, has choices now and has opportunities to thrive, grow and live with dignity in the future.”

The goals of the initiative are as follows:

GOAL 1: Ensure families in Larimer County have access to quality child care that they can afford, that supports their children's development, and supports their ability to be present and productive at work, school and/or training (including when children are sick).

GOAL 2: Significantly increase the availability of, access to and quality of job training, critical life skills and education opportunities that lead to self-sufficiency.

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Goal 2A: Identify critical skill sets required for self-sufficient employment in Larimer County; (*strategy* under the goal)

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Goal 2B: Identify and increase self-sufficient job training opportunities which teach critical skill sets and increase the participation in this job training; (*strategy* under the goal)

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Goal 2C: Identify and create synergistic support systems which enable members of our community to successfully participate in critical skill set job training (*strategy* under the goal)

GOAL 3: Develop and implement a multi-dimensional approach to low-income housing to help ensure that no persons or families lack access to adequate housing.

GOAL 4: Provide better jobs for residents in Larimer County (better jobs are jobs that have a sustainable wage; value employees as people; and are long-term, career oriented)

GOAL 5: Ensure that families facing poverty will have the opportunity to take part in a community supported process that enhances their own individual and family resources. In this process, individuals take responsibility for building their future as they identify their goals and assess their resources

(financial, emotional, mental, spiritual, physical, support systems, relationships and role models, and knowledge of the hidden rules of class). They continue with the process by making choices and creating plans to enhance their resources. (Definition of families includes, but is not limited to two parent families, single parent families, grandparents raising grandchildren, foster families)

GOAL 6: Develop and implement a multifaceted integrated health care, wellness & preventative system to help ensure that every resident of Larimer County has access to quality mental, dental, physical, and vision services throughout their lifespan.

GOAL 7: Increase awareness of diversity and poverty to create an inclusive and involved community that honors the value of all people in Larimer County

GOAL 8: Engage a broad range of community stakeholders in examining policies and implementing best practices that support children, youth and families.

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GOAL 8A: Raise community awareness of the economic benefits of investing in and supporting children, youth and families. (proposed *strategy* under the goal)

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GOAL 8B: Have every governmental body in Larimer County place the health and well-being of children and youth as a top priority, demonstrated through budgetary processes, policy decisions and awareness efforts. (*strategy* under the goal)

GOAL 9: Develop and implement a seamless, affordable, integrated multi-modal transportation system, providing uninterrupted coverage for the area from Wellington to Berthoud and including Timnath, Windsor and Johnstown.

GOAL 10: Increase the academic success of all youth in Larimer County.

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10A: Ensure that schools have necessary supports to educate children and families in poverty. (*strategy under the goal*)

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10B: Provide supportive programming for children and their families to improve school readiness and participation. (*strategy under the goal*)

GOAL 11: Level out the playing field for those in poverty. (Financial justice.)

GOAL 12: Increase the level of financial literacy and stability in the community.

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12A: Encourage people to have savings of 3 – 6 months of expenditures to create a cushion for emergencies such as job loss or health issues. (*strategy* under the goal)

Various organizations have committed to building strategic plans to address each of the goals.

For more information contact:

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