

*Fox Cities Project Promise Poverty Coalition*  
Zion Lutheran Church  
June 9, 2010  
7:30am-8:30am

Meeting Summary

**Call to Order:** The Fox Cities Project Promise Poverty Coalition meeting was called to order at 7:40a.m. by Jon Stellmacher, Co-Chairperson.

**Invocation:** Debra Cronmiller shared her experience at a recent conference she attended in San Francisco. The conference was regarding healthcare and housing as a human right. Debra shared that we are very blessed with resources in the Fox Cities.

**Program:** The program this month focused on housing resources in the Fox Valley. Mary Parson represented LEAVEN. Mary shared that LEAVEN serves as a financial crisis band aid. They aim to prevent homelessness by making rent and mortgage payments and then refer people to longer term services. 73% of the LEAVEN clients only used LEAVEN as an emergency room 1-2 times since 2003. LEAVEN helps prevent homelessness by assisting with rent and mortgage payments. They also refer clients and partner with a variety of other agencies that assist with longer term needs. LEAVEN collaborates with the Emergency Shelter through the High Risk Prevention program which targets clients that have multiple barriers or need additional case management to maintain housing or become self-sufficient.

Debra mentioned that prevention is very successful. In 1999 1300 people who entered a homelessness prevention program only 11 entered a shelter.

Brad Vivoda presented on the Fox Valley Warming Shelter. Construction has begun on a new building that is almost paid for. Clients of the Warming Shelter are ineligible for services elsewhere due to AODA or criminal background issues. They are partnering with FVTC to provide Occupational Therapy. They are looking at best practices to decide what programs the shelter will offer.

Kathy Connolly reported on the services offered at Harbor House. Many of their clients have no financial resources and have safety issues. They provide everything for their clients including bedding and supplies. They help their clients with restraining orders and court appearances. Clients of Harbor House can participate in work experience programs and computer training. Harbor House works to connect their clients with services under W2.

Kim Luke reported on the Emergency Shelter of the Fox Cities. The Emergency shelter is a 75 bed facility. They serve families and single people. They serve 700 people a year. The core of the in house shelter program is case management to discover client's issues and address them. Residents of the shelter must participate in educational programming

that is offered Monday through Friday. The Emergency Shelter has a housing first program that aims to put chronically homeless individuals in housing so that they can obtain services by establishing residency.

Lisa Schneider represented the Housing Partnership. The Housing Partnership represents the affordable housing end of the housing spectrum. Lisa stated that each agency represented is eligible for different niche funding and offers different services. The Housing Partnership offers transitional housing to homeless individuals and must document their homelessness for funding requirements. They have 13 to 15 transitional housing units that are available for clients for 24 months with an average stay of 18 months. They offer case management services to connect clients to external resources and to assess their client's basic daily living skills. They aim to break the cycle of poverty by focusing on the children of their clients. They also offer permanent supportive housing that requires a documented disability and homelessness. Clients pay no more than 30% of their income.

**Treasurers Report:** Debra Cronmiller reported that there is about \$3,500 in the Project Promise account and that we are stable and the bills are being paid. Debra announced that she would be distributing an annual dues reminder to paid members for their annual payment.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- *Analysis & Information:* Jeff Williams and Mito Kudaka were unable to attend the meeting but Jon Stellmacher reported they are continuing to focus on financial literacy. He also reported they are partnering with Action and Impact to decide what action could be taken on the outcome of their financial literacy study.
- *Awareness & Education:* Jenni Eickelberg reported that they are updating the PowerPoint to achieve three goals. They are identifying groups to give the presentation to and want to adapt the PowerPoint to different groups. They are continuing to target youth.
- *Action & Impact:* Andrew Konkel reported that the website has been updated with a calendar and that Catherine Scullion is the contact for the PPPC website if people would like things posted on the website. Her email address is [cscullion@apl.org](mailto:cscullion@apl.org). Andrew reported that we have 96 fans on the Facebook page. The Resource Fair is set for June 19<sup>th</sup> in the City Center in conjunction with the Farmers Market.  
The Convoy of Hope Community Services Tent planning is underway.  
The Faith to Face Poverty event will end with the Crop Walk culminating the event on 10-10-10.  
Members of the Action and Impact Committee will be meeting with Analysis and Information committee to decide on what action to take to make an impact on financial literacy.

#### **Sharing of Information:**

- Lisa Schneider invited everyone to the housing coalition meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 at the Housing Partnership community room.
- There is a poverty simulation August 17<sup>th</sup> 2010 at Mercy Medical Center in Conference Rooms A&B 12pm-3pm call 1-800-362-9900 to register
- There is a fundraiser for Urban Threads on August 28<sup>th</sup>
- The Fox Valley Literacy Coalition is celebrating 20 years of providing adult literacy services during September 2010.
- Einstein Wireless is now Air Fire Mobile. They still deliver the same life line services.

**Visit our website for more information: [www.projectpromisefoxcities.org](http://www.projectpromisefoxcities.org)**