

**Healthy Mendocino Project**  
**POVERTY ACTION TEAM (PAT) MEETING MINUTES**  
**August 23, 2017, ARC Family Resource Center**

**Present:** Susan Baird, Healthy Mendocino; Sheila Rogers; Angélica Millán, Legal Services of No.CA; Rachel Ebel Elliott, HHSA; Maria Avalos, FIRST 5/ARC-FRC; Yoana Alvarez, FIRST 5/ARC-FRC; Lydia Lopez, FIRST5/ARC-FRC; Andres Alvarado, FIRST 5/ARC-FRC; Thaïs Mazur, Healthy Mendocino; Steven Lamb, West Company; Liesha Boek, West Company; Mary Anne Petrillo, West Comany

### **1. Announcement**

Susan made a brief announcement about the All-Team Summit. It will be held in Willits on October 25 from 9:30 to 12:30.

### **2. Overview of Group.**

For the benefit of newcomers and guests, Susan presented a background of the CHIP and PAT. Susan mentioned that the PAT's focus is on financial stabilization with particular emphasis on families with children.

### **3. West Company Presentation**

Mary Anne Petrillo, E.D. of the West Company presented about the West Company's work on financial stabilization. The West Company operates as a business resource center for Mendocino County. It provides two core services: (1) One-on-one counseling, and (2) Workshops/Training Programs. One can find current training programs on their website at [www.westcompany.org](http://www.westcompany.org). There was further discussion regarding one workshop in particular—a Ninety-Minute Workshop for Business Basics. The West Company is looking for partnerships to develop programming specifically designed to meet needs of community members. The Company is federally funded and there are limits to type of services it can provide (e.g. focus is on business) and to whom it can provide services to (non-profits cannot be clients). The Women's Business Center will be opening in Ukiah this fall. The West Co. is also able to offer services in Spanish.

### **4. Project Planning**

Susan summarized the current posture of the PAT planning. The group is gathering information about family needs—identifying gaps, barriers, and opportunities.

There has been discussion about co-hosting an event to discuss main barriers related to poverty. Lydia believes that the Latino Coalition (recently formed and forming) will need a couple of

months before they can take on a project such as hosting such an event. There was discussion about the questions to ask at such a community dinner/event, e.g. What resources are missing? What do you need? What are you concerned about?

The group reviewed the Poverty Action Team Inventory questionnaire created by Jennifer. It is a survey for nonprofit and county service providers to identify the existing financial stability programs in the County. There was discussion about which organizations to send it to, including: Project Sanctuary, Ford Street, Manzanita, Tribes, FRCs, Career Resource Centers, First 5, EDFC, West, HHSA and MPIC (there could have been others...). There was discussion about the form itself and possible edits to clarify the type of information requested (i.e. there are certain types of services that indirectly lead to financial stabilization) and Lydia mentioned adding information regarding language services being offered.

## **5. Next Steps and Leadership**

Susan is unable to continue as chair and made another appeal for a volunteer to transition into this role. Rachel Ebel-Elliott agreed to assume the Chair position!

**NEXT POVERTY ACTION TEAM MEETING: September 27, 2017, 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. at the Big Sur Conference Room, located at 747 S. State St., Ukiah**

Minutes by Angélica Millán