



Healthy Mendocino Poverty Action Team

Minutes for March 28, 2019

In attendance: Angelica Millan, Julie Fetherston, Julie Beardsley, Waldi Helma, Anne Molgaard, Julie Beardsley, Angela Wartell, Rachel Ebel-Elliot

Update: Community Market –

- UUSD approved the event to be at the school and on the playground blacktop (rather than in the parking lot).
- West Company will be holding their first training/meeting with applicants Friday, April 5, 5:00-6:30pm.
- The first two weeks of April, the subcommittee will be creating fliers and promotional materials for the market
- Next sub-committee meeting will be April 10th, 1-3pm

Update: Economic Summit – Heather emailed HM staff a draft Economic Summit Summary, she is working to finish it and will share it with the group when completed. They have received a grant to hire a part time person who will be working on (among other things) summarizing the outcomes and next steps from the summit. Julie F. noted that the issues that were identified so far (pertaining to the Poverty Action Team) were:

- finding and retaining employees,
- workforce development
- child care

Update: Action Items – Angelica sent Julie F. the Poverty in Tucson report and survey. It is a great report with a very detailed and extensive survey. After looking into what it would take to conduct a detailed survey, Julie f. recommended that the group table this idea for this year and revisit it at the end of 2018. The group agreed that if we were to conduct a survey, there would need to be a clear intent, methodology, and outcome before we decided. Julie will gather existing data in the community and bring it back to the PAT in the late fall to prepare for that discussion. Ideas for existing data on the picture of poverty in Mendocino County were:

Marbut report, CalWORKs report, EDFC, Senior center data (meals on wheels and other programs), Food pantries, CHNA, IHHS, Headstart, Family Resource Centers.

If anyone has additional ideas, please send to Julie F. The group discussed the possibility of holding a few focus groups with service providers to glean their knowledge before deciding on conducting an additional survey.

ACTION ITEM: Julie will collect above data and put together a list of possible focus group attendees and bring it back to May meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Julie F. will explore possibility of getting a VISTA member for poverty alleviation work including EITC promotion

Discussion: Goals, Objective and Measures

Objective 1: Identify and analyze the problem through data collection and community focus groups to better understand what poverty looks like in Mendocino County.

Objective Measure: By March 2019, completion of surveys of at least 125 households living in poverty in Mendocino County.

As mentioned above, the group decided to remove the survey from our 2018 calendar and objectives and revisit it for our 2019 goals and objectives.

Objective 2: Generate poverty alleviation initiatives depending on the results of the data collection and community focus groups.

Objective measure: Generate at least four different initiatives by May 2019 to improve the living conditions of (1) children, (2) families (3) single individuals, and (4) seniors with measurable outcomes by 2021.

The team decided that even though we have not conducted a survey to inform a group of initiatives, we have enough knowledge of best practices that we can choose some 'low hanging fruit' to develop into an initiative. Julie F. suggested promotion, education and expansion of the federal and state Earned Income Tax Credit. This was something identified by the PAT in early versions of goals and objectives. Julie F. has been talking with VITA and exploring the possibility of increasing outreach through VITA, employer education, and other avenues. There was discussion in the group and some additional suggestions emerged. Anne suggested that if we had a VITA volunteer, they could join WIC to Covelo and Laytonville one day a week. Waldi mentioned that Redwood Coast Senior Center also does volunteer tax assistance and that we might be able to help them expand their capacity as well. Anne suggested that this would be a great job for a VISTA AmeriCorps person. Angelica said we would need to come up with specific measures. The team agreed the idea was worth exploring. Julie F. said she would put together some ideas for the initiative, some initial measures and verbiage for the objectives and measures and bring them back to the group at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned due to time and it was agreed that next meeting would be spent finishing the revision of the goals and objectives. Julie f. asked that each of the team members bring one initiative idea, to either send ahead of time or bring to the meeting for discussion. She will also review best practices to include in the discussion.

ACTION ITEM: Julie F. organize and outline an EITC/CTC promotion and expansion initiative to bring to team for consideration

ACTION ITEM: PAT team members will choose one possible initiative to share with the group for next meeting

ACTION ITEM: PAT team members will review the HM PAT Poverty Asset Sheet and add any missing programs or organizations, and update contact information for their own programs. Julie F. will then update remaining contact information.