

People TF Meeting Notes from 1-19-16 meeting

BJ and Kathleen – Distributed the Draft Russell Transformation Plan outline that was submitted to HUD; a summary of ideas from past meetings. Many topics are shared among the different task forces and we will discuss how to work together on those. Review of the 4 pillars that seemed apparent for the People TF: Health, Workforce Readiness, Financial Literacy, and Neighborhood Networking – which will be the topic for February meeting.

Today we will review what was submitted to HUD and we need to prioritize these ideas based on need and implementation. What can we accomplish, what are our priorities, identify partners to be resources. Turn conceptual ideas to specific plans/goals. Identify what is short-term, long-term and dream goals. These have to be tangible and implementable, and we must measure outcomes.

Summary of priority needs noted:

- Improve neighborhood cohesiveness
- Many people still use ER as their primary medical home; high chronic disease
- Low income, high unemployment rates, low paying or under employed

Asked the group if anything seems like it was missed: food security (and access), tree planting

Theodore Scott – Louisville Grows has 2 large garden programs, establishing one at Iroquois. CSA enables individuals and families to pre-pay for coming season of locally grown food. There is a motivation to train people to grow food, and to grow it year-round. They offer training, as well as bring in the tools and resources needed to help people grow foods and change the mindset of residents of seeing the opportunity and health benefits of eating. Kathleen mentioned the CNI Action Grant which could compliment such programs; quick review of the action activities allowed by the grant.

Love Louisville Trees – April 9th holding event where they will plant 166 trees in Russell. They are in initial planning stages at this time.

Good Health – looked at Healthy Louisville 2020, adopted by the community. We need to improve access to healthcare, but we are in transition right now with new administration. In the meantime, we are looking at a funding opportunity through KY One Health (program is called Health Connections Initiatives) to help connect people who have left healthcare systems to VNA (Visiting Nurse Association) where people into their homes and help them manage their health better to prevent future hospital visits. Russell could possibly be a “hotspot” for funding. Need to keep patients educated about how important it is to keep the state updated on new information such as address and phone numbers.

Partners with Park Duvalle Community Health Center (federally qualified health center) – reach out and invite them to the meetings. Invite YMCA for the National Diabetes Program to speak to us about how we can support their efforts.

Have health impact assessments; staff who consider “is this project healthy for the neighborhood”. The current vision for Louisville/Jefferson Co., Cornerstone 2020, is expiring in 4 years. The new vision will include public health as part of the policy – can either be woven throughout the plan or as a separate element of the plan. Sustainability will also be woven in for the first time.

NOWs held 1st Kitchen conversation at Russell Apartments. 15 residents attended.

Outcomes from the conversation:

- Access to health care; most use the Family Health Centers (not PD) or their own private physicians, a couple use the ER.
- Need better access and money for healthy food
- People interested in having a more active life style but don't feel safe in the neighborhood to walk or going out for classes. Can we hold classes at Russell Apts or bring classes to them?

- People felt they could use TARC easily to do their errands but would rather not because of safety concerns.
- People misunderstood the FreshStop CSA requirements/structure – they thought it was too expensive.

Workforce piece is where the most overlap occurs with Neighborhood TF (economic piece) and also Education TF – joint efforts will occur with these details.

Review of the barriers to employment that are in the plan. Anything we should add?

--Charles Booker – Seed Capital KY, West Louisville FoodPort . Would like to join efforts to be a part of this planning; they will have about 150-200 construction jobs available and want to start a pipeline for the construction phase (beginning in August) of the FoodPort, in which they are working with the Kentuckiana Works and Urban League to start that pipeline. They want to connect people with skills needed for the jobs (might need to get certifications). Mercer will be working with them to do soft skill training. They hold an open Workforce group meeting monthly. Community Council meetings are also open and they need voices there. Company coming from Chicago and bringing 70 jobs, they have a success model for 2nd chance jobs and each partner at Food Port is being asking to do this. All our jobs are all living wage jobs and above (entry level thru career-track and management level). Urban League helping on the construction side, but there will be operational side of things.

--Mental Health is a big barrier to employment

--Program for new inmates to detox; often start using again when they leave the system. Their concern is there is nothing for them (limited employment opportunities) when they leave due to their offense/record. Look at substance abuse from a new perspective; Ban the Box, State level felony expungement, lobbying efforts. Mentorships/working with people hands on to expose them to other more positive things, stop selling the dream and show it to them. Go into the Russell neighborhood and engage them/listen instead of talking. What we can do for each other to make this community a better place. Improve connections between social workers and corrections. People want better but there is a trust issue many times.

Jamesetta – review the Financial Stability piece of the plan

People need to build assets – build banking relationship, Homeownership, increased access to other traditional financial tools. When traditional methods have failed in the past, they choose other means which can be costly and predatory. Establishing and/or improving credit can take much time (many months to years). Working with MOLO Village and Bank One to help prepare people to rent/purchase new housing being built on vacant lots and coming to the neighborhood. Educating families regarding financial literacy. Is there anything we need to add?

--Add opportunities to continue education as wealth building – future oriented versus immediate needs and crisis

--Add youth financial literacy

--LMHA is reporting rent to credit bureau to help build credit - Credit Building Alliance (CBA)

--Capacity Building and training; in general, but also for youth

--After school programs for youth (*this is covered by Education TF*)

Guest Speakers for the Workforce readiness topic: REImage and Pivot

REImage

A new program, started in Fall of 2015 – Funded by Office of Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods, and administered thru Kentucky Youth Career Center.

Targets 18 to 24 years olds touched by the court system with misdemeanors in the Russell and Shawnee neighborhoods. They will have a case manager to assist in navigating the court system, connect with jobs and further their education. We also address health – mental health, trauma from crime.

Right Turn: 16 to 19 year olds to try to keep them on track to stay in school and get work ready

SummerWorks: 16 to 21 making kids work ready at 16. Earnings make a big impact on their lives. Using those 7 weeks of work to have them feel part of the workforce.

Menu of Services (all programs are free)

Approach is to meet youth where they are, help them build skills and the confidence to move forward. We work with job skills, workforce education, help identify strengths, find out what they want and where they are at (without being directed by others), resume writing, letter writing, interviewing skills. Work with them on Job placement. GED and life skills workshops. Expungement – Legal Aid is working with the group. Transportation options – free TARC tickets. Goal is to change 100 lives by July or August 2016. Building trust. Example, we met with twenty five 18-24yr olds from several gangs at Baxter Community Center and shared a meal pleasantly; some were out of their comfort zone just being in the area.

Kentuckiana Works Programs

- Program to help those wanting healthcare career

- Code Louisville – free program to prepare people for computer software coding jobs, no age limit

- Running cohort groups every couple months

- Louisville Sales – emerging career pathways that consistently show up

Sales account for 1 of 4 jobs in Louisville – helping build skills for professional sales positions – free, age 18 & over. Workshops at LCCC.

Pivot to Peace – came out of One Love Louisville, funded by a Juvenile Justice grant, Up to age 34, Focus on hotspots. When an individual reports to an ER with a penetrating injury (knife, guns), there is an immediate de-escalation measure – violence and street interrupters will be called to shutdown the violence at the time it happened. For those eligible, there is an expungement process, work to further education, get a job, etc.

Peace Education is the primary owner of the program, in part ownership with KentuckyOne, University of Louisville ER, Office of Safe and Healthy Neighborhood, Public Health and Wellness.

Also looking at the Juvenile Justice system – looking at court system: for example, kids are shackled, help identify kids who are non-violent and shouldn't be shackled. Kids are moved at midnight on their 18th birthdays and move them to adult corrections.

Stop Teen Violence Partnership (STVP) – meets at the Hall of Justice every other month– kids age 12 to 17, volunteers – not an open meeting, would need an invitation, let us know if you are interested in attending.

Talk next month about Neighborhood Networking at next meeting – Judy Schroeder and John Nevitt to talk about their program

Center for Neighborhoods Russell Neighborhood Institute; Jackie & Julia shared their experience/thoughts. John: Neighborhood Institutes is a neighborhood leadership program that CFN has done for 29 years now. The 6 week program and graduation focused on the needs of the Russell community. Goal was continued community engagement. It was nice to see the side conversations held to discuss how to continue the work. Julia and Jackie are going to be in the 12 week program as well.

Thoughts on who is still missing at the table:

- Places that engage a large number of individuals, such as Youthbuild.

- Need grassroots type of effort to connect individuals to services

- Do a better job of getting info to people; leave information in barber shops and hair salons

- Basic card with information with key contacts – the more local they are the better

- Doing While Planning

Discussion on ideas for engaging residents; variety of topics and means seems necessary to reach more residents. What we have done in the past, ideas for the future.

Move next meeting (Feb. 16th 3-5pm) to Russell Apts., Baptized Pentecostal, Oak & Acorn, etc. – location TBD.