

People Task Force Meeting Notes, 2/16/16

Introductions

Recap

We have determined 4 themes of People Task Force:

Health

Financial Stability

Employment readiness and opportunities

Neighborhood Networking

We are in planning and working towards the submission of a Transformation Plan to HUD for the Russell neighborhood. There are four working task force groups – People, Education, Neighborhood and Housing. There are common areas that cross among all the groups; including violence and neighborhood networking which the task forces will work on together.

Center for Neighborhoods: John, Laura

Center for Neighborhoods is undergoing its own revitalization efforts. Mission is to build healthy, sustainable, safe and attractive neighborhoods through engaged, informed and committed neighbors

Laura - Neighborhood Liaison-Outreach and Technical Assistance, working to connect with other groups and resident leaders to create peer-to-peer networks

Education and Training – Neighborhood Institute

Green Institute that focuses on environmental issues

Data and resources, assessment and planning – Fulltime GIS coordinator on staff;

offer neighborhood assessments, all the way to fully adoptable Neighborhood Plans that are adoptable by the City

John – Senior Programs Manager

Neighborhood Networking handout - Tips for Working with Neighborhoods; principles they try to stick to when networking. Neighborhood Networks don't always look like professional networks, and who/resources to contact can be overlooked if you don't know where to look.

When you have a traditional boss, timelines and deadlines are usually imposed on people, but we can't put those kinds of restraints on people because many are strictly volunteers. Instead of managing projects, follow the lead of residents. Authority can rest with the one with the most relationships.

People in neighborhoods can be associated with resources you don't know about. Post It Note Exercise to help think about that. Everyone think of a formal organization and/or informal social network that they are part of.

Point here is everyone is involved in some organizations, and there is power in groups. If you could get people together when you need them, you will get things done. Identify the people in the neighborhood that want to take that next step, and talk them about: "What would you do if you knew you couldn't fail, and how many hours would you put in to help get this done?" This would help get a group together to make neighborhood changes. The group went around the room and talked about the groups they are in (*listed below*).

Formal	Informal
Yoga Class Westport Church of Christ Metro Louisville Government Jefferson Co. Extension Advisory Board Employment Committees Church St. Augustine Church Louisville Central Community Centers UofL Alumni Association Central High School PTSA Volunteer as a Foster Center for Neighborhoods KY Refugee Ministries Portland NOW Choice Neighborhood Vision Russell Race Community and Child Welfare School of Urban & Public Affairs Alumni Association Church (Promise Land) STVP Stop Teen Violence Partnership Reentry Task Force KYCC Mentorship Neighborhood Association DeHaven Baptist Church Rotary 3KT Wilborn Charitable Foundation Louisville Implementation Team UofL Students Organizations	Book Clubs Church Golf Group Kids Groups Bowling Group Community Gardeners Friends and their troop of friends Yoga Class and community Committees Family Friends Neighbors walking their dogs Love Louisville Trees Volunteer with Safe Place Services Circle Groups Volunteer at Center for Women & Families Soul Sistas of Substance Bike riding groups

Metro United Way: Judy Schroeder & John

Asset map – MUW did this several years ago when there was first talk about a Promise Neighborhood grant for west Louisville; they talked to residents and parents (including Russell) and what they saw as a vision for their kids and what they were willing to do to help that.

Kids and Parents marked the map with what they considered assets. You can find out:

- Where are your favorite spots in the neighborhood?
- Who are your favorite people in the neighborhood?
- Where the elders live that are on their porches?
- Can find out from the kids where the hotspots are, the secret areas
- Favorite stores, best fish fry
- Where are basic needs: the food pantries, clothes closets
- People with work skills, tools you need, people who know how to cook
- Who would help volunteer (i.e. with hospitality if there is an event)

You get to know the neighborhood through the eyes of the people who know the neighborhood the most. You can use this information to find people; for example, If I want to go find people, go to this church on a Friday night at the fish fry

This map is very valuable: Indicates the places where people gather – these are the spots where you pass out information, fliers, do a little pop up.

They found out that by putting a brochure on porch, back of a church, etc. doesn't necessarily get noticed because of the trust issue. Need to build trust. When they did community conversations for the promised neighborhood, they found passionate people who self-identified to volunteer for specific activities/groups. After they cracked the code of trust, they had a whole network of parent advocates willing to help.

Have about a 180 children involved at Parkway now. Building a network – parent to parent and they are taking the message to their own networks. Judy is a neighbor and lives in Portland.

Exercise to populate the map:

Places that are good to congregate and meet with good people

Places that are negative hotspots

(Spent a lot of time on this exercise)

Email John to see if we can get the asset map legend that he distributed at the meeting (CVC)

MUW is in hiring mode for grass roots parent advocates. Need at least one (maybe 2) in Beecher, and one at Smoketown. Very part-time jobs – maybe 12 hours a week. Pays about \$12 an hour. First requirement is that they prefer for it to be a resident of Beecher who has the network there. Stephanie Barnett oversees a group of single parent women at Beecher; she may be a good candidate.

Doing a lot of clean ups in neighborhoods, vacant lots, drug houses, absent landlords, cleaning up needles
Corner liquor stores that are staying open late
26th and Jeff – place where someone sells drugs

BJ complimented the strength of people in this neighborhood – especially women; after each event in the neighborhood (tour, etc.) she walks away a better person.

Do we want to bring in some of the folks that are currently networking at our next meeting to present on what they can offer; for example: Mama to Mama, The Healing Place, etc.

Is there an active ministerial coalition?

West Louisville Ministerial Coalition

Rev. Vincent James (not part of Russell)

Rev. Snardon (Joshua Tabernacle)

Rev. Wright: One of the things about churches in general, usually focus on short term needs for clothing, feeding the hungry, housing, etc. and that they don't expand beyond it. Would like to see more relationship building among the pastors.

Settlement House is going to be used by a group this summer called "Urban Spirit" – a week long poverty simulation experience. Some people who participate quit early in the experience. It would be a good resource for people who will be working in the neighborhood. He will bring flyers to next meeting.

A comment: Use Next Door as a neighborhood networking tool; Portland joined, but what is interesting is that the people who joined aren't usually the ones that show up for meeting. Is Next Door in Russell? They will send out postcards with a url to sign up for that specific neighborhood. **We could do a campaign around it, put it in newsletter.** You can specify up to 20 of your neighbors at a time. If they have the neighborhood boundaries wrong, you can have them correct the boundaries.

Kimberly is putting together something at the Baxter Community Center, and will serve food. She asked if this group could talk about what they do. She will have a flier and a concrete date for their event soon. **Talk with her about how we can get more residents to attend our meetings/community conversations.**

BJ: There is a key group of people working on trauma informed care; such as judges, social workers, attorneys, youth detention centers, etc. – people who can make some changes. Elizabeth Jones is making efforts in Russell and will speak to us about her work.

She has a law degree and studied mass incarceration. There is a prison and state documentary on Beecher Terrace. She looks at space, there is a handful of neighborhoods that pull the mass incarceration in the US. Atlas.org is a gif map, and can see the highest concentration of prison activity, probation and parole.

Looking at 4 different neighborhoods in Louisville (using census tract) – Russell (Beecher), Portland, Germantown, Algonquin/Southwick. Interest in connecting to neighborhood residents about the criminal justice system and their experiences, and the neighborhood effects on them. Looks at race and class differentiations. They are in the 2nd iteration of their project; initially they had many people interested, but when it came time to talk there was a lot of attrition.

Urban citizenship – people who are citizens, but do not feel like a citizen in the city in which they live. African American are the only group other than Native American that are likely to experience hyper-segregation.

Kimberly met the people that did the documentary and said there was a barrier of people not talking -- trust issues. She is recruiting for focus groups. Can give an incentive for participation in the focus groups. In her first group, there was an interesting dynamic about the police and the perception of the police and the criminal justice system.

Nannie – definitely need to build trust. When she used to work for Extension, she carried a bag into meetings. People were suspicious and thought she was a social worker. Need to treat people with dignity and respect, it is all about trust and confidence.

You get what you give. We meet 4th generation drug dealers who fear trying to do something different.

Jackie: Russell has seen so much violence – among each other – we overlook the trauma and its impact to mental health. Elizabeth: There is a study showed children are being diagnosed with ADD, but it's actually PTSD from the trauma. We need to also consider what other people are dumping in our community that zoning allows. Healing Place just opened a new transition facility. Russell is zoned for these types of uses and she just recently learned this. We need to get through to people that this is our community.

Kimberly: Black Trauma Training (Darrell Turpin), teach people to turn their anger into a different direction. Channel anger into something positive.

Concerns mentioned: young women seen on heroin in the summer, 19th and Jefferson – there is a sex offender facility close to schools, parks, and daycare.

BJ: Women's dormitory in corrections – Mark Bolten is doing really good work, the women help each other get off drugs; he could be a resource to help with recovery options for women. Kimberly added: "Enough is enough" program - people who are detoxing are taken care of by people who've already gone through it.

There is a parole office right next door to St. Peter's. Currently, if they live in Beecher, they have to catch a bus to go out to Brownsboro Road to report to parole and probation instead of using the one in their neighborhood (reporting location is based on zip code).

Research shows, including research from RWJF, until the violence and the issues that arise from the violence and drugs is addressed, it's very difficult for a community to revitalize.

Where and how are we communicating with "the least of these" – homeless, SRO's, etc. They are part of our community and we also need to address their needs.

Rev. Wright has worked with individuals who needed help to get thru the system, and we also need to work with the systems to make changes. It can be done to switch a system from zip code to neighborhood, but it can take effort and time. Don't give up.

Blake Haselton: Mental health counselor at Roosevelt Perry (R/P), want to praise his efforts, but the persistence issue is important. Not getting push back from students working in that environment. Dr. Foster located his own facility at the Nia Center. No one directly involved at R/P, but there is good work at Shawnee. As the numbers increase at R/P they could see more hours there.

Comment from Jackie: The social work students need to stay there, her daughter is going to pull her son out of the school because he was hit in the face by another child, and the student's response was just that he was "having a bad day". We are all aware violence and how we deal with it didn't happen overnight, but there are too many incidents like this and we need to do something to find resolution. R/P is now a priority school.

A comment: She is excited that we finally have people being sensitive enough to do something. Need implementation that is going to happen and she is excited to see it.

Kathleen: Distributed Action Activities Process handout, from the grant application we submitted for the Choice Neighborhood Action Activities. Wanted everyone to have a copy b/c it's what we are proposing how we would make the decision on which activities are selected. It is resident driven and based on things that are already included in Transportation Plan (TP) that we should have drafted by July. The anticipated award announcement is June 27th. We will then go to the TP and pull out the highest priorities and proceed thru this selection process, draw up action plan to submit to HUD for final approval. Appreciate all input on this process. We are happy that the people choosing the activities are the people living in Russell. We could get up to 1.5 million.

Other Announcements/Comments:

LCCC – Kindergarten Readiness Summit, March 19th, great opportunity to discuss the education efforts of our grants.

City is applying for a couple grants that will compliment and piggy back on our Choice implementation grant.

Sweet Peaches – father daughter dance – 120 father and daughters, went very well. The reason she came up with idea was so fathers could spend time with the daughters.

Little girls give away at Coco's Cakes – shoes, barrettes, first Saturday in March, giving them everything they need for Easter

Look at holding the next meeting at Baxter Community Center

Trauma informed

Adverse child experiences – David Finke