

## Education Task Force Meeting notes, 3/24/16

Welcome & Intro; Lunch and learn session

Diane Porter opened with a discussion on why education is so important to the Russell Transformation Plan (TP).

Responses:

- Students to feel like they fit in and not struggle
- Way to focus on the future
- Helps Russell community compete in the world
- Informal and formal education both open up possibilities
- Foundation that helps the success of all initiatives of all task force goals
- Increases options and empowers people
- Can reduce crime rate
- Key to systemic change
- Major institution in which change can occur that impacts the community
- Influences the financial stability and health of families
- Levels of educational attainment have an impact on lifestyle and quality of life
- Gives people hope and something that can't ever be taken away; helps parents help their children, it unlocks doors and helps them use their education to make choices
- Transforms the neighborhood
- Education is foundation for all other changes we want to make
- Impacting the young generation will change the future
- Families make transformations, help the parents and you impact the children

### Update:

LCCC Kindergarten Readiness Summit; co-chaired by Bonnie Freeman and Dr. Beverly Gaines. Dr. Cooter from Bellarmine talked about the Brigance Early Childhood Screens and Dr. Dena Dossett with JCPS gave data about Brigance. The goal was to bring community and childcare centers together; it brought people together to discuss early childhood education and what the community's perception is.

There were 3 discussion groups – Community, Childcare Workers, Parents

Conversations and an exercise on what's most important to them

There were stations with additional information; one was JCPS employment opportunities

Metro United Way had a Little Library display (free book distribution) and kindergarten readiness kits

Additional comments:

Tony Peyton: There were speakers who discussed the important role that family members can play.

There were diverse backgrounds among the folks who attended, from healthcare to Girl Scouts to parents.

Rose Livingston: 40 to 50 people in the community group; discussed that everyone wants to contribute, Each discussion group was to respond to the same question -- What can I do to help?

Issue that keeps coming up is how to connect with parents; there is a lot going on, a lot of info but it's not getting to the right place. An interesting idea was suggested: Russell block parties for families - if parents come, children will come. A committee member volunteered to help plan a Russell Block Party.

4Cs – people from childcare centers came because they got continuing education credits; great incentive to get people there.

Diane: there will be 2 more LCCC sessions in this series on education for different ages; this one was for the very young, followed by the older kids, and the last one will be on economic development and workforce.

Kathleen: Draft Transformation Plan Outline was submitted, feedback was received from HUD during a conference call. HUD felt we have a great start on our plan but it's VERY ambitious; need to narrow down and prioritize the list with something the CNI group can realistically accomplish. We have a lot of partners involved but with this TP, we can refer to what they are working on but we need to emphasize what's unique about this group efforts and/or what we will specifically do to augment our partners efforts. HUD talked about quantifying our goals and strategies, create matrixes, and treating things more holistically instead of artificially separate out strategies that might overlap into separate components.

The group looked at current CNI grantees and the education sections of their Transformation Plans. Very short and focused lists of strategies, for example:

OH has:

- Improve coordination and connection with schools that serve community residents
- Support high quality early education
- Support high quality out of school education and enrichment activities

TX has:

- Build on early childhood education, capacity and high quality learning environments that support school readiness and prepare parents to help children succeed from an early age
- Link students and families to learning and enrichment opportunities that support student achievement and empower parents to help their children break the cycle of poverty
- Work collaboratively with AISD (*Austin Independent School District*), neighborhood associations, parents and other communities stakeholders to increase the long term viability and diversity of excellent neighborhood schools

PA has 5 strategies, in their People plan and closely related to Education:

- Children, youth and adults are physically and mentally healthy
- Children enter Kindergarten ready to learn
- Norris apartment (*target site*) children are proficient in core academic subjects
- Youth graduate from high school, college and are career ready
- Adults are economically stable and self-sufficient.

HUD likes how our plan mirrors Louisville's cradle to career framework. Our challenge is as a group, what can we do to support current partners, and what the CNI effort can we bring to the table. We need to tell who the Education lead will be. HUD wants to see one entity as education lead – and we need to identify who it will be JCPS, MUW, etc.

What makes Russell unique, what sets us apart, what is our vision? Some ideas/thoughts that have come up....

Capturing the past and connecting it to the future – making Russell a smart connected community. How do we set ourselves apart from other Louisville neighborhoods? Some team members brainstormed food, arts and culture. How can that be tied it into schools and education - do we work on improving nutrition in schools in some way? Community gardens at schools are great, but time intensive; teachers are already strapped for time. Perhaps we talk to partners about bringing gardens to schools and childcare centers.

Improve quality of learning experiences/spaces at early childcare providers. Could staff attend the Early Learning Center at University of Louisville and/or replicate a similar program in Russell? There are other resources, computer programs out there...are families aware of them or utilizing them to full extent? Do we make schools and early childcare centers central information dissemination centers? These are all ideas to mull over. How do we pull everything together and maximize what we have going on in Russell and tie back to education, and finally, what specific piece is the CNI group going to be responsible for?

Anthony – What if we look at 1<sup>st</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> pillars of Cradle to Career. 1 - Focus on early childcare education/development and put emphasis on preschool readiness, then to 4 - 21<sup>st</sup> Century workforce which is really around the parents of those children. Two-generational approach....look at young kids and their parents. We will meet the other groups because of older siblings. Focus on Roosevelt Perry (R/P) and make sure it has what they need, then look at Russell as a whole with regard to the #4 pillar. This would cut us down a bit but still cover a lot.

*Grab lunch – look over 1 & 4 and let's discuss.*

Kathleen: Perhaps we keep all four Cradle to Career pillars but narrow down the number of strategies within them? Need to specifically include kindergarten readiness, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading level at R/P (part of 2<sup>nd</sup> pillar). The 21<sup>st</sup> Century (4<sup>th</sup> pillar) will be incorporated into the economic development component of our transformation plan.

Anthony – concern is that we don't focus on parents getting right types of education for the workforce. Don't want to lose this piece.

Diane – Thank you for all at the table who offered the information we are looking at. Sorry HUD cannot take all that we have offered. What I think would be helpful is to see what we trim out of the outline?

Blake:

– approach should be comprehensive, collaborative and sustainable (being the most important focus with anything we talk about doing)

Early childhood is 3 phase: 0-3, 3-5, Kindergarten ready – fits very well with other task forces.

Pilot The Beech with a 0-3 initiative; 80% brain development occurs between 0-3 yrs.

What job creation is available in the Russell neighborhood? Do parents or adults have the skills to support the 0-3, 3-5 and Kindergarten readiness? If the grant is collaborative all the way thru, we could address these together. We have mechanisms we can use that we haven't so far.

Rose:

– The Beech – a place where adults are comfortable to come in, discuss, question and learn how to support 0-5yr. Current drawback is that it's not always open. It's a sample of a portal of support to infuse info, get people together to grow together.

Kathleen:

-some conversations in our design meetings have discussed a multi-generational center, like The Beech only expanded – a science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM). Looking at different options to have this at or nearby Beecher.

Rose – we need somewhere with practical living skills – garden beds, holistic approach.

Tony:

- Look at 2-generation models that are able to pull in caregivers – National Centers for Families Learning and Toyota in partnership with JCPS are bringing in \$175K for a 2-generation model program at Okolona and public library.

Judy:

- model is very similar to Family learning that is at the Early Learning Campus; might be an easy match with The Beech. Really appreciate the 2-generational approach as a focus around our work.

Anthony:

People of Russell have several locations they get together, Urban League, LCCC, etc. It's important that everyone is getting the same consistent information (a tool kit package), so kids see the benefit of education. Education has to have a real practical value for people to see the benefit of it. Helping parents get better outcomes helps the children to see outcomes.

Diane – National Center for Families Learning/Toyota/Metro Louisville Press Conference – a mom who talked about the importance and benefits to her. Why it was important for her to help her child, then down the hall observed some actual activities underway. Working specifically with both parent and child. Have had an opportunity to see the work of the National Center for Families Learning at the DuValle Education Center and McFerran Early Childhood Center.

Cory:

-Professional development for early learning staff; mutually reinforcing activities, connect people to existing opportunities and resources. There is a lot of ground level work going on - connect someone from this group to Kindergarten readiness network at MUW. Connect the dots among agencies/programs and support the potential they offer. There are incentives for scholarships, college, CDA (Child Development Associate), other associates and degrees. OVAC has an early Head Start partnership grant, they are offering a CDA certification program.

Judy:

– childcare centers can be community centers - potential for whole family learning; same concept as The Beech and others...improving safe and successful education for the children, and while they are there, fully engaging parents.

Kathleen – pediatrician working with LMHA now, wants to place her practice close to an early learning childcare center to be more frequently in contact and involved with families other than when children come in for illness or well-check appointments. Could do a similar model in Russell

Also talking with Youth Build about an initiative in Russell to maintain vacant lots.

Raymond Green:

– 1<sup>st</sup> four bullets in #4 (at the top of page at 26) – speak directly to the work at Central H.S. Looking at strategic partnership with companies, so students can earn a living wage.

Diane:

– At U of L – you see an educational complex. We have a lot of learning opportunities (our own educational complex) in Russell, but it is never talked about it like that. We have 3 elementary schools, 1 high school, and the Western Library.

Amy:

- if you are an engaged parent who is looking to be involved, the info is there. How do we get them engaged is the challenge.

Rose:

-What if it's set up as school improvement plan, with continuity and outcomes. Make it appear uniform. Have a Russell-wide clearinghouse.

Comment - Mechanism to have the voice of Russell in the Cradle to Career model. The kindergarten readiness alliance and committees are open to having representatives at the table; they want to hear what others think/want.

Makeeba (Beecher management employee):

- sees 2 roadblocks that Russell residents are faced with.

Can't get 4C's funding; to be eligible, you have to be employed a minimum number of hrs. per week. She encourages parents to get their kids signed up early, but they are often placed on a waiting list. Most folks go to the center itself to sign up instead of using online option. She helps by working with kids while parents are filling out this paperwork - gives worksheets to kids to learn colors and alphabet.

Diane:

- Trying to make kindergarten a full day program. State only gives funding for half day. Extended learning for the whole family instead of just a specific grade or age.

Can walk-in to Camp Edwards Educational Complex (701 S. Hancock) or Dawson Orman (900 S. Floyd) to sign up for early childhood programs.

Discussion on Ban the Box- asking Metro Louisville jobs to remove the question about felony convictions on the application. It is a big problem for teenagers.

### **Announcements:**

Raised garden beds - Youth Build does a great job with them.

Kathleen:

-Community Conversation on Crime (11am-12:30pm) & Safety and Design Workshop II (1:00-2:30), LCCC, April 16<sup>th</sup>. Police will have mounted patrol officer there and the Police Hummer on location. At the Design Workshop 2 there will be some conceptual designs to see and possible types of housing, parks, amenities - splash parks and water features, etc.

-Joint Task Force meeting is 4-20-16; Main task on agenda is to do the prioritization of strategies for Transformation Plan.

-Byrne Criminal Justice innovation grant NOFA was issued, application due 5-12-16. LMPD, City, and other Choice partners meeting to discuss the grant soon. It was discussed at the Choice conference last week - CNI grantees are encouraged to apply for Byrne grants and to work with police department on community policing approaches.

-HUD announced that they may issue the CNI Implementation grant NOFA (Notice of Funding Availability) on April 25<sup>th</sup> with a tentative due date of July 25<sup>th</sup>. Our Draft Transformation Plan (TP) is due July 15<sup>th</sup>. If we are eligible, and we think we can score well, the current plan is to apply for the Implementation grant. We met some other potential applicants for this round in D.C. last week including Boston.

Our TP might be a 20-year plan - an Implementation Grant would cover a shorter period - what we could realistically and financially accomplish in the first 5 or 6 years.

Amy - Kitchen conversation for Youth (Youth Conversation, 12-18 yrs) will be held at Central H.S. on 3-31-16. Please spread the word and help distribute fliers.

Diane – Aside from Russell grant, just an FYI -- Started a conversation at JCPS Board on school facilities – concerns about inequity of facilities. Meeting with individual board members to discuss their needs within their district; this will be on-going for the next 90 days. Central HS has extensive physical needs including a much needed redo of the HVAC system. She is advocating for updating that system as soon as possible.

Anthony - Would like to do a scan of the 2-generational programs in Louisville and if they are doing any in Russell. We should know about all of our historical buildings in Russell. Comment: There is a Family Ed division within JCPS, maybe just call them.

LMG community service office has grants for kids who go to Early Childhood Centers, and for parents finishing degrees.

JCPS is having Spring “Take What You Can Tote” – April 16<sup>th</sup> - PTA Clothing Assistance Program - Fifteenth Street between Muhammad Ali and Jefferson

### *Conclusion of morning Meeting*

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Evening meeting notes

Anthony -- recently, there were ~135+ kids or more passed advanced tests but they weren't put in the classes because parents didn't fill out the paperwork. Anthony suggested parents have to **opt out** of the advanced path instead of **opting in**; but this has not been implemented in JCPS yet. Inform parents there is a benefit and support to your kids being in advanced classes; yes it's more work, but there are benefits.

Diane: Asked Magnet Committee to consider adding Advance program in traditional schools. Per conversations with parents, this is a big piece that keeps them from putting kids in traditional schools. Board members are not part of those committees but she looks forward to Committee presentation/discussion about this.

Waldorf program used to be at Byck but it was decided having 2 magnets (Waldorf and Performing Arts) at the same school was confusing and hard to manage. Catalpa program ( component of Waldorf) was moved to Maupin Elementary school.

New attendee at meeting with her 2 year old daughter: She learned of meeting in Vision Russell newsletter and came. Introductions of others.

Anthony Smith – CEO of Cities United, works with mayors across the country to reduce homicides of African American men and boys, reduce violence and create communities of hope, compassion. Goal is to reduce homicides by 50% in 2020.

Kathleen: overview of why we meet. Last January received Choice Neighborhood Initiative grant, looks at comprehensive ways to transform distressed sites in context of their neighborhoods. Formed 4 task forces who meet on regular basis, looked at existing conditions, JCPS schools, and conducted a neighborhood survey to establish where we are now - “existing conditions” in Russell. Meet to discuss assets and challenges of neighborhood. Each TF has been developing goals and strategies to maximize and/or address these (in the draft TP outline distributed). Feedback from HUD: great work but narrow down the focus for what is realistically attainable and develop plan for funding it. Final Plan is due Jan. 2017. CNI Implementation grants are a potential source of funds – but very competitive. Many other sources of funds to explore which are available. A Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation grant was also

issued recently, which focuses on community policing strategies. Great events coming up on April 16<sup>th</sup> - LCCC, Community Conversation on Crime and Safety and Design Workshop. April 20<sup>th</sup> Joint Task Force to prioritize the preliminary strategies our TF groups have been developing.

Diane to new meeting attendee: We've been offering 2 meetings on the same day to get more community involvement. Would like you to take some time to look at the information provided so we can get a fresh insights. Would love to hear what you think about education strategies as you are thinking about the educational future of your 2 1/2 year old.

Response: Most of her knowledge right now is early education based on her work history and the age of her daughter. She desires a school close to her house so she can be more involved in her daughter's education. Wants to have a community where the kids live close by and go (maybe walk) to school together. She and spouse both value the arts programming and encouragement of creativity in learning. Looking forward to going to the Showcase of Schools to learn more about the cluster schools. Would like to go into the schools and talk to people to really get a sense of the school; they look so similar online. Would also like to be able to go into the school, and sit in or take a class to get a feel of the class.

Diane: JCPS is launching a new website after spring break. Should be more parent-friendly. Sometimes the schools have open houses during the day or the evening – not a standard policy across the District, depends on the school.

Anthony: Tying our goals into the Mayor's Cradle to Career framework.

Is the framework emphasizing in-house or early childhood centers? Making sure that everywhere kids go – that the conversation is all the same – you can see yourself in the pipeline no matter where you are.

Attendee: Metro United Way (MUW) is in 4 different childcare centers, but none are in Russell. They are in Neighborhood House and Keystone Learning Center. MUW – does a Parent-to-parent training program (mentoring program) as part of the Parent Café. Cafes have different topics at different times; changes month to month. Purposely pulling in neighborhood parents so they can bond together.

Excellence Academy gives a lot of support to the teachers. What kind of support is given to staff at Russell schools/centers? Anthony: That's what we are looking at now. Early Learning Campus at University of Louisville – how to do that in Russell and then keep the childcare workers staffed in Russell (i.e. incentive ideas such as housing subsidies for new housing).

Diane: MUW had reached out to childcare centers to attend the recent Early Childhood Summit; talked about what we can do to help each center. There was commitment to put more books in the centers so the children have more options. There is a lot going on, but we need to make sure people are aware of what we're doing.

Kathleen: Foundations – look at what they fund, then look at our plan and mesh the two to see what they can do to help us. Transformation Plan will be long-term - perhaps 20-years with short-, mid- and long-term goals.

Attendee: Maupin Elementary/Catalpa program. It will take a while to see what works and she appreciates the commitment to a long-term plan because if you cut it off too soon, it may not work.

Diane: JCPS decided to scale it back to K-2, next year it will be 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and let it continue to grow from there. It started out as a K-8 program, but we needed more time to look at it. Tried not to have one way as the only way; parents have choice and we don't learn the same.

## **Recording stopped, but there are additional notes below...**

Develop a map of Russell Education Complex

Early Childhood

Code training

Nia Center

Chef Space

Plato Academy

Transformation Plan will be a living document that is updated

Plan a 2½ hrs. meeting to prioritize strategies. Include Anthony, Diane, Tony Peyton, Drema Jackson, MUW, Rev. Greens, Rose Livingston, representative from Centers for Family Learning, include one outreach workers – Jackie if available

Look at opening *The Beech* again – insurance needs, money for Rose. Could this be done while planning activity?

Look at foster granny program – opportunities for people to get paid to help mentor/tutor/support children with learning. Urban League has some training and funding. Particularly important for schools with high rates of behavior problems. Have stabilized enrollment at Roosevelt Perry and Byck.