

Peak-to-Peak Human Service Task Force

Minutes of January 20, 2016, meeting.

Amy Hardy called the meeting to order at 9:05.

Present: Amy Hardy, Dale Porter, Chris Current, Dennis Whalen, Ressa Lively-Smith, Kristi Venditti, Lonnie Howell, Ernest Cienfuegos-Baca, Sarah Buss, Julie VanDomeli, Dawn Baumhover, Serene Karplus, Susan Gerhart.

At Amy's request the committee introduced themselves to first time attendees Lonnie Howell from Teens, Inc., and Ernest Cienfuegos-Baca from Workforce Boulder County.

Ernest explained the opportunities offered through Workforce Boulder County (WBC). Boulder County (BOCO) offers grants to people who want to return to the workforce. The grants support internship programs which pay people while they train. The program funds internships for both for-profit and non-profit local businesses. The primary qualification for acceptance into the program is low income based on household income. The second is age with younger people given priority. One of the goals of the program is to put enrollees on a career pathway. In addition, the program helps with resume preparation and job leads. The internships typically last between three to nine months, for 25-35 hours per week. With a letter of offer of employment, the internship can be extended. Ernest is going to come to Nederland to market this program. Ernest asked that the committee help by directing him to the target population. He intends to come to Nederland two to three times per month to meet with potential clients.

Julie said that EFAA has looked at the outcomes from WBC and that they are very successful. Ernest noted that the agency served 150 people in 2015. Julie pointed out that WBC works with other agencies to get other benefits for which the client is eligible. WBC offers bilingual staff and is working on an ESL program. A significant benefit to potential employers is the funded liability and workers' compensation insurance.

Ernest offered to have a local workshop. In response to questions about eligibility, Ernest asked that any potential clients be sent to him.

Julie announced that EFAA has received funding for a mountain advocate position. The position is for eleven hours per week plus time for community outreach. EFAA will supervise the position. She is putting together a committee to create a job description, which will include the requirement that the person filling the position be a resident of the Peak-to-Peak region, and set up the hiring process. She hopes to have the logistics worked out and the position filled by February. She asked about local workspace and several people made suggestions which included the library and Dr. Camarata's office.

Julie reported that EFAA served 300 families in the Peak-to-Peak area and expects to serve 400 in 2016. She anticipates that many of these families will shift from the Boulder office to the new one here.

There was a discussion on the appropriate title for this new position. Among the suggestions were •mountain resource coordinator, and •mountain advocate.,

Serene and Amy suggested an article in the *Mountain-Ear* as a way of advertising the program.

A discussion followed in which local entities that would benefit from this program were named. Among them were the schools and the Town.

Dawn reported on the proposed Twin Lakes affordable housing project. She reviewed the history of the project and the arguments pro and con for continuing with it.

Lonnie discussed the Peak-to-Peak Coalition Brainwise curriculum. The program is funded by a grant from Omni. Starting with Chinook West, the program includes a workshop for elementary school teachers. Late buses will be available for after-school activities. The primary goal of the program is to prevent drug use in children and young adults. Another goal is to have a secure, permanent prescription drug disposal site in every Colorado county. Funding will be available b May.

Janet Prell will be at the committee's next meeting to discuss her survey results. Committee representatives present the findings at BOT meeting after the new trustees are in place, most likely in May.

Dawn named the BOT candidates as of this meeting. The deadline for candidacy is March. There will be a workshop in February for candidates. Amy suggested creating a list of questions for the candidates, specifically asked their views on affordable housing.

Dawn announced that the Bonfils Blood Drive will be held on 1/31 at the Community Center.

Lonnie said that he is looking for a representative for the Prevention Coalition.

Amy said today's meeting had been very helpful and suggested postponing Navigator training until March.

Dawn said that there will be a housing sub-committee meeting on 2/4. She also discussed the Ned Zero plan and its on-line platform. The Town awards money to organizations that further the goal of a zero-waste, sustainable community.

Amy H. adjourned the meeting at 10:58.

The next meeting will be February 17 at 9:00.

