

Minutes of Faith Subcommittee meeting
April 23, 2014
Submitted by Sue Brinkmeyer

Present: Kent Brinkmeyer, Sue Brinkmeyer, Jim Duran, Janine Dykstra, Jerome Kahler, Jennifer Mokos, Dave Schulze

1. The minutes of the March 26, 2014 were approved as presented.
2. Jim Duran and Dave Schulze will discuss the the Faith In Action group the possibility of their June Faith in Action event be a panel discussion addressing the reasons there are so many homeless on the street. The panel might consist of Meloney Roy to address the ways the history of mental health treatment and the laws restricting service providers contribute; a NAMI "In Our Own Voice" speaker to address the role of mental illness in the road to homelessness; someone from the Housing Authority perhaps to address the relationship between the decrease in public housing assistance and the rise in the numbers of homeless people on the streets of our cities. Sue will look for a speaker from a faith community that is actively working to assist those experiencing mental illness.
3. The Faith in Action group will continue to work on plans they have discussed for an October event inviting different houses of worship to share what they are doing to reach out to those in need. Pantries will discuss how working together has allowed them to do more with limited resources. Agencies like H2H will share how working together has helped them be more successful. A list of ways faith groups can be involved in helping will be available, along with resource contacts for each need area some group is already addressing and special asterisks or something for areas where no one is yet working or where lots of extra help is needed. A discussion might be sparked about the goal faith groups have when they work in isolation and whether it is to make their services no longer necessary -- to help those receiving services exit poverty and become self-sufficient. If that is the goal, then we might be able to explore ways working in cooperation might more effectively lead to that outcome. Information gathered here about the services that each faith group provides will be captured eventually as a Google document that can be shared and updated online. The Hope Worth Giving breakfast is Thursday, May 8, at 7:30 a.m. at the Crown Plaza Hotel, 450 E. Harbor Blvd.
4. The City Center has 28 residents (13 adults and 15 children). Two additional faith communities have recently become monthly supporters, making 11 faith groups so far. Project Understanding will continue to provide the case management there.
5. All are invited to the next City Center meeting, Friday, April 25 at River Community Church at 6:30 p.m. Free dinner from 6:30-7 and then updates from property owners, City Center Board, Mentors, Case managers, and residents. Attending this meeting would be a great way for all to learn more about The City Center.
6. Project Understanding is moving its intake and referral services to 718 E. Thompson, very near The City Center in mid-May. The H2H showers and laundry services will be through Turning Point Foundation. The Faith in Action program has at least 19 faith community partners, but several others are in process of joining.

7. Three additional churches have expressed interest in joining the Safe Sleep program. The City will have to change the limitations it placed on the program when it began as a pilot (up to a maximum of 5 cars per lot in up to 3 lots). Rob Orth has contacted the three churches, and will continue to work with them and the City.
8. Food Share is continuing to work on its electronic ordering system so that pantries and others can order what they need online. (this item corrected from original draft)
9. The hearing on the Harbor Church CUP is scheduled for Monday, May 12 at 6 pm at City Hall.
10. The next meeting of Senior Concerns is scheduled for Monday, May 12 at 9:30 a.m. (for a discussion of the final draft and implementation of the new payee program) and 10 a.m. for discussion of ways we might resolve food insecurity issues for seniors and disabled adults.
11. A group is meeting May 22 at 6:30 p.m. at 914 Utica Avenue to discuss the possibility of forming a new nonprofit focused on ending the cycle of homelessness by focusing on children who are being raised in homelessness, with an initial focus on preschool.
12. The next meeting of the Faith Subcommittee will be May 28 at 3 p.m. Jim Duran and Dave Schulze will report back on the plans for the next Faith in Action workshop.