



New Bern Housing Authority and the City of New Bern

CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS PLANNING GRANT
Trent Court/Craven Terrace/Greater Five Points Neighborhood

Workforce/Adult Education Task Force
Meeting Minutes – March 26, 2015

Attendees: **Monica Minus, John Connelly, Antonio Brown, Bruce Simmon, Mark Best, Joe, Jillian Baldwin, Juliet Rogers, Luis Miranda, Bob Kehres, Deb Swan, Alana Gentry, Seana Spicer, Cheryl Reed, Bernitta Johnson**

Meeting minutes approved by consensus

1. **There was a review of priorities at the beginning of the meeting.**
 - **GED resources and places**
 - **Childcare/transportation**
 - **Create different options for individuals based on need**
 - **Community engagement**
 - **Resources**
2. **Discussion on how to make the programs holistic, having the services needed in a location that is conducive and that would provide more benefit.**
3. **How do we get companies to partner with CNI for the benefit of the residents in the CNI area?**
4. **Entrepreneurship is a major priority for the residents in the CNI area and there needs to be some careful and intentional thought o to incorporate this into the process. Planning Lead stated that Economic Development Task Force is working on this effort, however, we need to reinforce nit in our priorities, so HUD will understand its importance.**
5. **There was a discussion of a comprehensive prison-reentry program. How to work with Legal Aid of NC to expand the program or to get a full understanding of the program.**
6. **The discussion moved to needing a resource center in the community, a one stop shop that again will work holistically to ensure self-sufficiently and success for the individual not the community's version of success for it may look different for every individual. Is the goal to get a GED? A Job? A place to Live, A place to Work, just basic skills training, etc. Thought the main goal maybe GED, it may not be possible for everyone to achieve this goal.**
7. **Where does the homeless population fit into this equation? This is why a holistic program is needed. A GED may not be within their reach, they may transportation for a job that hires them without the GED, but encourages them to get the GED while working. Let's think about the individual and their success.**
8. **The discussion in the area of workforce is the same as It is in the childhood education task force, i.e., GED, childcare/transportation. There is a need to create options ([pathways, again for individuals). People Lead stated that there is someone working on transportation but we need to reinforce in our strategies/goals.**
9. **Also, under workforce, work readiness is a critical component. What would work readiness look like, i.e., technical skills, interview skills, teamwork skills, personal development. There must be an overarching community engagement component with any goal. The**

engagement must include individuals, employers, local governments, nonprofits, private public partnerships, etc.

10. Often not spoken of when you think of workforce development and adult education is internal/external customer service. The group thought this was important and was the reason that many persons are not using the services that area available in the local community.
11. Lastly, it was higher education. Continue to encourage higher education at every given opportunity while engaged with the individual.

The Task Force continued to discuss a vision framework for the group which entailed the keys words from which to make a vision statement:

Individual, engagement, options, holistic, resources, education, connections, customer service

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 28 @ 9:40am for tour of Craven Community College

Proposed Agenda

- How to connect the resources to the people
- **Connecting services to the community through (community engagement)**
 - **Encouragement**
 - **Churches, faith based organizations, nonprofits, local government, peer to peer, etc.**
- List of the four priorities
- Partners Needed
- Create options for individuals, not one size fit all
- Internal/external customer service
- Basic skills
- Higher education and what does this look like for individuals