



New Bern Housing Authority and the City of New Bern

CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS PLANNING GRANT

Implementation Steering Committee

December 16, 2015

MEETING MINUTES

1. Welcome & introductions, role & mission. Thank you for serving! The CNI Implementation Committee is comprised of a core group of “go-to” individuals who participated in the working group process. Our two-fold mission is move the draft Transformation Plan to the final version and to turn the corner from planning to implementation.

2. CNI update.

- Marketing the draft plan across New Bern.
- Final plan due end of Feb 2016.
- Moving to implementation. We can't count on a large HUD grant but must be moving now into implementation using the resources we already have or can find. Keep up the momentum.

3. Updates on key “Doing While Planning” initiatives:

- Health Initiatives:
 - The Nov 21 Health Fair hosted by Trent Court and Craven Terrace residents was highly successful with over 150 participants. Dr. Lynch of the Mobile Care2U clinic attended; he agreed to return to the Trent Court site in April. Conversations are underway about regular visits to public housing sites going forward. About 90% of the residents who saw Dr. Lynch at the November fair were suffering from hypertension.
 - Dr. Ralph Redding of MERCI Clinic board is exploring a program that will provide a nurse with a vehicle to serve residents of New Bern public housing. The intent is to identify the residents with the highest priority health needs and provide them with case management. He is in conversation with the Hospital, the Foundation and the Health Department who have all expressed verbal interest in this concept.
 - As part of the November Health Fair and in an effort to justify ongoing visits from the Mobile Medical van, Trent Court and Craven Terrace residents surveyed 160 of their neighbors about health needs. Cheryl Reed will provide a summary of the findings.
 - The sliding scale fee structure is one of the key issues with access to health care. While individuals and families that are not eligible for free care might be able to manage the nominal sliding scale fee for an initial visit to the doctor, if treatment requires multiple visits that each require a co-pay this can become prohibitive.
 - Access to health food is critical. The CDC had a table right next to Dr. Lynch at the Health Fair and distributed more than 160 bags of food. Need for education so that people know what to do with unfamiliar foods like kale, papaya, etc.
 - New Bern's Farmers Market is now accepting SNAP benefits.
 - Genesis 457 CDC and the Cooperative Extension are offering the Faithful Families program in partnership with local Duffyfield churches. This 10-week program includes

- training about healthy food and food prep and an assessment of the health of the church as a whole, and provides leadership training to individuals who in turn teach their fellow congregants about health lifestyle changes. 42 churches in and around the CNI neighborhood are targeted for outreach.
- Genesis 457 CDC's farmers market received \$94,000 in funding from USDA for outreach. They accept SNAP/EBT and offer Double Bucks. The CNI neighborhood is in the 4th poorest district in Congress and among the hungriest.
 - Resourceful Communities helps to organize grant information fairs for local nonprofits. Blue Cross Blue Shield provides funding to more than 250 grass roots organizations in NC. This funding is focused on social justice, the environment and econ development. Genesis 457 is providing training to local faith leaders and others on Jan. 9 on how to access these grants and funding.
 - Health Insurance Resource Day provided a marketplace for locals to get health insurance. However, it only covered the portion of the community with the means to purchase insurance. It was suggested that another fair be made available that would also bring together providers who offer free access to those with limited means so that the full spectrum of providers are all available at one time and place.
 - Jennifer Knight noted that a proposal for the K Street Expansion is in development to include a fellowship corner, gardens, a small fruit and orchard demo space and a small covered area. Although plans are limited due to FEMA regulations in flood plains, the hope is to have a preliminary plan blessed by the City by 2/1 for inclusion in the CNI Plan. Perhaps FEMA would be flexible if we could create a demonstration program for land in the floodplain.
 - The NC Cooperative Extension is a great program and partner, however, significant staffing and budget cuts are underway that could jeopardize this going forward.
 - Gayle Epp of EJP Consulting Group noted that there are communities across the country that are branding themselves as "agrihoods" or health neighborhoods. Is this something to consider in Greater Five Points?
 - Reimaging/Marketing Campaign:
 - Cindy Blot from the City and Jamara Wallace from the Greater Duffyfield Resident Council (GDRC) provided an update on the "re-imaging" campaign for the neighborhood. With a \$10K grant from Bate Foundation, a re-imaging process is underway that is focused on the history of vibrant businesses in the area. There will be a number of charrettes to hear what residents like about the community. While the GDRC applied for and will be managing the grant award, the City played an important role in helping to access this grant opportunity.
 - Workforce Development:
 - There was some discussion regarding the workforce programs available at RCS which include construction trades and a fork lift training program currently underway. Although all of the programs do not necessarily result in a living wage, they do provide entry level positions in fields where there are current job openings. Every training include aspects related to soft skills development including resume writing, interviewing and business etiquette.
 - Monica Minus noted that Greg Singleton is working with a network of providers on re-entry issues. It was suggested that Greg provide a presentation to community members about the work of the re-entry council and the programs available to support

ex-offenders. Wash Away Unemployment is a local non-profit working with offenders and Jobs For Life provides mentoring beyond the training programs. The Rural Center coming in January 2016 helps people start businesses.

- Given the success of the November Health Fair, it was suggested that the team might use that model to provide community information fairs related to other topics like Employment for Young People. Coupled with food distribution we could build on the success of the earlier effort and draw a crowd. The November fair was a significant effort on the part of NBHA and the residents so they would be looking for partner support in future endeavors.
- Grace Hudson noted a particular interest in training for carpentry and brick laying. Dawn Baldwin Gibson has a meeting with the NC Association of Minority Contractors who is interested in helping to build an apprenticeship program in carpentry and masonry. Debbie noted that Craven County Schools offers certification programs for high school students in a number of fields. They just launched a program in welding but also offer programs for EMT, CNA and firefighting. They are interested in expanding these programs but are constrained by funding.
- 1st Street Gateway Improvements:
 - Cindy provided an update on the 1st Street Gateway. A Golden Leaf grant will support Craven Community College to offer seven workforce development training programs, including transportation, at the site. There will also be a makers space where small business can develop their products. A grant is pending for kitchen incubator space. The City intends to put the street on a “road diet” to slow down traffic making the area safer for pedestrians and cyclists and implement several streetscape improvements including resurfacing, landscaping, bike paths and new sidewalks to Pembroke.
- Neighborhood Rehab and Clean Up:
 - Several initiatives are in the planning stages for minor home repair and rehab programs.
 - The New Bernian Ball held annual around Memorial Day provides an opportunity to solicit former Duffyfield residents to support these initiatives as well as possible donations of tools from Lowes and/or Home Depot. This is a 60+ year tradition, attended by 600+ in 2014.
 - Clean Sweep also provides an important opportunity to get local residents involved in the beautification of the neighborhood. A planning meeting is scheduled for 1/21.

4. Vetting draft strategies: Given how detailed the strategies are, we need to narrow in on the priority strategies that are most critical and most ready to move forward.

As homework, you are asked to review the CNI “Keys To Our Success” Workbook and identify priority strategies with existing partner commitments that should be highlighted in the final plan. We will discuss at the next meeting. For each strategy:

- ID responsible leads & partners for each goal
- Prioritize -- which strategies are realistic and most important? Now or later?
- Which strategies are too ambitious and should be deleted from final plan?

5. Next meeting: Wed, January 6 at 2:00pm at Development Services conference room, 303 First Street.

Happy New Year!