

September 12, 2019

- I. The meeting was called to order by Mandy and all members were asked to introduce themselves, after which John McCool recited our mission.
- II. Approval of July Meeting Minutes: Motion by Ivory, second by Jill. All in favor.
- III. There was a door prize drawing held. Everyone in attendance entered by putting their business cards in a vase.
 - a. Emily Snow and Danielle Perkins won! They get either an ad or gift card from Carl the Idea Guy
- IV. Presenters
 - a. Tracy Hack, BC3 Community Initiatives
 - i. BC3 now has a downtown Butler location in the ANR building!
 - ii. Their presence downtown is directly in line with their strategic plan to reach out and improve the community.
 - iii. Cool quote: "A ship is always safe at shore but that is not what it's built for." –Albert Einstein
 - iv. The Opioid Initiative- Hope is Dope
 1. Their mission is to educate the public about the opioid epidemic. Focus is on how addiction impacts the brain. It is based on the book Hope is Dope.
 2. This is an especially important initiative for Tracy, as she has two adult children who are incarcerated as a result of opioid abuse. She is very passionate that the community learn about the cause of addiction, how it changes the brain, and how recovery is possible. We must change our approach to how addiction is treated!
 3. Hope is Dope is now in Butler County prison! The opportunity to educate inmates who struggle with addiction on what is happening in their brain has been a game-changer.
 4. In people who are in recovery, the body needs to learn to produce its own endorphins again. A focus is on how to help them do this- art, nature, yoga, spirituality, giving back, etc.
 5. The Butler Art Center is collaborating with Hope is Dope to create a mural on the wall behind Natili's on North Street. The focus of this mural is not the history of Butler County, but on what Butler County CAN be.
 6. Are also working on Community Supported Sustainable Agriculture/Growing. Tracy is working on getting a space so people in recovery can grow a community garden.
 7. Hope is Dope has also expanded to New Castle and Mercer!
 8. The last Monday night of the month is Hope Night at the Art Center from 6:00-8:00pm. It is for ANYONE, people in recovery and their family/friends/children. Endorphin producing activities, music, and food will be there. Tracy will be sending a flyer each month to Glenda to distribute to the group.
 - b. Sandy Curry, Community Partnership Community Action Gap Analysis
 - i. Their board is made up of different community members, five who are voted in, five community members, and five community members who are low-income.
 - ii. Community Action agencies are required to do a community needs assessment every three years. They did this through an online survey accessible by the community and focus groups.

They were required to assess six areas, the top four current concerns in each area are listed below. Sandy will also provide this information to the BCF to distribute.

1. Education- funding for post-secondary education, child care, assistance with child behavioral issues, adult education activities.
 2. Employment- child care, transportation, career coaching/job placing, mental health concerns.
 3. Housing- affordable housing, basic home care education, access to furniture and household goods, pet-friendly housing.
 4. Health- affordable health insurance, affordable medication, access to mental health, more health programs.
 5. Income- saving and investing, budget counseling, increased access to financial assets, education.
 6. Infrastructure- better public transportation, increased community facilities (meeting spaces, community centers), opportunities for public recreation, broadband access.
- iii. They are planning some initiatives on sustainable agriculture. They will be working with Penn State Extension and are focusing on food bank recipients. They are also going to be creating a Food Council. They have already partnered with BC3 to get a food pantry started on campus. They are also the host for Produce to People and do cooking demonstrations while distributing the produce.
- iv. Also work on an entrepreneur program for low-income individuals.

V. Mini-Grant Application Discussion

- a. Josh reviewed the Mini-Grant application process with an informative Power Point! This Power Point will be sent out to the General Membership via email and will also be available on the website.
- b. This year the Mini-Grant will be \$2,000.00 plus \$600.00 in funds to be used on marketing and/or grant writing (These funds expire two years after the date it was awarded). The \$2,000.00 must be used within one year from the date it was awarded. The funds cannot be used for expenses that have incurred prior to the award date.
- c. **Applications are due the last business day of October!!!**
- d. All applicants must be members in good standing. Lead applicant must be a non-profit (including churches). The other two applicants are collaborating partners and do not have to be a non-profit.
- e. Mini-Grants will NOT be awarded for- one time events, and annual event, support of an existing program.
- f. Top priority will be placed on applications that address a gap identified in the Community Action Gap Analysis.

VI. Invoices will be sent to current members for next year's membership starting in November! Please keep an eye out for this.

VII. Open Executive Committee Offices

- a. Co-Chair: Mandy Geibel is eligible to serve one more term, and has accepted the nomination.
- b. Co-Vice Chair: Linda Thoma is eligible to serve one more term, and has accepted the nomination.
- c. If you are interested in being nominated, please contact Glenda! Please notify her prior to the first Thursday in November ☺

VIII. Subcommittee/Ad-HOC Committee Reports

- a. Detailed updates were provided in the agenda.

IX. Agency Updates

- a. Bulldog Office Products distributed checks to the BCF and organizations who made purchases!
- b. The Butler County Children's Center is in need! There is no organization in Butler County that provides the FBI clearance. Everyone who needs it has to go out of county to get this.
- c. The church that serves lunches in Father Marinaro Park needs volunteers for their Trunk or Treat. If interested please contact agandy@stlukecabot.org
- d. Bundle Up Butler will be held at Cubs Hall this year. Vendors are needed! Flyers will be distributed.
- e. Week of Caring is coming up soon! Please contact John Furman if in need of volunteers, or would like to be a volunteer!

- X. Next Meeting: October 10, 2019 at 9:30am. Red Chimney Hall, Monarch Place.