

Rochester Steering Committee Meeting September 21, 2007

Rochester Community Center

Aimee Danielson	Weed & Seed Coordinator	Ed Holm	TCPAO
April Overlie	Boys & Girls Club	Erik Landaas	TC Dept of Health
Bill Liddle	Weed & Seed Chair	Erin Price-Smith	BBBS
Bill Zimmerman	Resident	Joe Ingoglia	Boys & Girls Club
Chris Carr	Family Education & Support	Karen Johnson	TOGETHER!
Donna Zimmerman	Resident	Kate Greenquist	DOC
Donna Smith	Resident	Jim Anderson	Rochester School District
Gail Gosney	TCPAO	Scott Gordon	DEA
Ellen Nelson	TOGETHER!	Marcee Stiltner	ROOF
		Rachel Palmer	Rochester Library

Meeting opens 10:06

Rochester Steering Committee, August 2007 meeting minutes

Motion to approve, Kate Greenquist. Seconded by Erik Landaas. Motion passed.

Prosecuting Attorney's Financial Report

The final numbers are not in for the summer budget. Gail will have a final report in October. Gail presented the budget for August – December 2007. The Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO) divided up the budget (August – December & January – July) to match the county's fiscal year. Gail will have a report of first quarter expenses in October.

PR Committee

Gail requests a public relations (PR) committee so we can let other agencies and the government know what Rochester Weed & Seed has accomplished. Gail will work with a committee to do this and asked for volunteers for PR. The following people volunteered:

- Gail Gosney
- April Overlie
- Rachel Palmer
- Bill Liddle
- Donna Smith

It was suggest we let the Rochester area legislator know what Rochester Weed & Seed has accomplished. The Senior Scene Newsletter is as newsletter for seniors in the local area – Weed & Seed might want to submit an article for that newsletter.

Quarterly Reports

Each partner who received funding from the Weed & Seed grant will continue to do quarterly reports (next one is due October 10th for July – September, 2007). Gail requested that all reporting parties add a paragraph or two about the additional services they are providing for the community. This is helpful for future reporting and would be useful for the PR committee.

Rural Domestic Violence Grant

Gail spoke with Mary Pontorollo, the Executive Director of SafePlace. The federal Department of Justice has had a rural domestic violence grant available in the past. If this becomes available again, there is an interest in applying to increase education, support and outreach in South Thurston County to increase support for victims of domestic violence and provide strategies for community members to respond.

Graduated site

Kate spoke about the pros and cons of having a graduated site. The effort would not need to be managed by the existing steering committee. She said that graduated Weed & Seed sites have more advantages when applying for grants. Donna suggested there are more advantages than disadvantages. Ed Holm agreed again that he will have somebody in his office do the reporting if we become a graduated site. The committee agreed to make a decision next month on if Rochester Weed & Seed should apply to be a graduated site.

Weed Report

Gail received the monthly Sheriff's Department report from Lt Mealy. Arrests for alcohol and drugs are dropping, but calls related to domestic violence (DV) are increasing. Ed Holm mentioned that there will be a Gang information meeting at Olympia High School on Oct 3rd from 6:30-8:30 p.m. It is open to the public.

Methamphetamines

Erik informed the group that use and treatment admissions are on the rise. There exist a strong correlation between Meth, violence and crime. Kate introduced the group to a company who provides technical assistance regarding meth use.

Merit Resource Service
David L Wilson.
Executive Director
702 Franklin Ave
P.O. Box 997
Sunnyside, WA 98944
509-837-7700

They focus on substance abuse prevention, education and treatment.

Commissioners meeting

The Thurston County Board of County Commissioners meeting was well attended, because people wanted an opportunity to have issues heard by the BOCC. It was a successful meeting. Kate stated that the role of Weed & Seed is to bring people together.

Focus of the 5th year funding/Vision 2020

The fifth year application for Weed and Seed funding for the Rochester area focuses on:

1. More outreach to underserved populations in the area.
2. Focus on more positive activities for school age children and strategies for older teens; address the high rate of drinking, violence, alcohol and drug use among middle and high school students.

3. Develop a process for a community planning strategy - "Rochester Vision 2020" to begin to address issues of housing, jobs, transportation and social services in order to continue to reduce incidences of crime and substance abuse in the Rochester area. Originally Weed & Seed included Vision 2020 as a goal, but members of the committee feel it may be time to have the community take on this issue. The collective consensus of the committee is that the leadership of the Vision 2020 & beyond should come from interested local residents with facilitation from TOGETHER!'s capacity team - Karen Johnson (facilitator). Bill Liddle, Aimee Danielson & Donna Smith (Rochester residents) will work with other community members who express interest on a plan outside and completely separate from the Weed & Seed Steering Committee. Committee agreed to remove Vision 2020 from the Agenda. (Note: Gail will work with the federal office to remove the item from the grant goals.)

Action items:

- 1) P.R. committee will meet to discuss web site, newsletter and other outreach activities and report back at the October meeting;**
- 2) Discussion and decision at October Steering Committee meeting on whether or not Rochester Weed & Seed should apply to be a graduated site.**

Meeting Adjourned 11:40

Next meeting – October 19, 2007 10:00 a.m. Rochester Community Center