

PFR Leadership Team Quarterly Meeting
Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2015
St. Paul Lutheran

Present: Casey Dunning, Landee Holloway, Jana Staton, Greg Arciello, Max Corrigan, Robert Howe, Shari Rigg, Steve Zellmer, Michael Moore, Brenda Erdelyi(MSOTA), David Wiltfong(MCS Pre-Release)

A. Review of 2015 goals, achievements, difficulties, gaps

A roundtable review of goals, achievements, news helped round out PFR report on 2015 (attached).

- MIC Homeless Advocates Network now funded for staff director, Jen Barile. HAN will be recruiting, training advocates, expanding assistance to those in danger of homelessness, returning citizens.
- A Social Enterprise business is in process of being purchased by MIC, to create employment, career ladders for returning citizens and homeless individuals.
- Healing Communities Training for 9 local congregations - MIC/PFR will coordinate development.
- Meeting with Property managers now planned in January as result of PFR Housing meeting, in cooperation with P.A.T.H., to discuss how to open more rentals to those with felony records. Michael is organizing, working with property managers' and landlords' associations to invite participation.
- Signs of change in housing: Michael had recent success in placing 3 with felony records in Clark Fork and Msla Property Mgt.
- Pre-Release just visited by Council of State Governments (CSG) to gather data on correctional population, outcomes for Sentencing Commission, Justice Reinvestment initiative. Economy is driving success at Pre-Release; employment positions being kept over winter this year.
- Good Neighbor House: running full with 5, almost no vacant nights. Bills are getting paid, not running a loss. Will have two vacancies this week, large stack of applications to ensure being filled. House will change from business to a nonprofit in 2016 to take advantage of donations, grants available, and Max & Robert are meeting with owner to renew lease this month.

"Really inspiring to stop by and see the guys getting together to cook dinner, talk about job situations, bond with each other. No problems with residents at all so far."

- Meeting with Mayor Engen Dec. 15 on removing felony box from initial Msla city job applications resulted from PFR Employment Meeting Nov. 12. Meeting arranged by Emily Bentley, PFR Council liaison, with Liz Rantz, Greg Arciello, Jana Staton attending for PFR.
- Transition support group: Steve Z. reports that *A Way Home* group has steady core attendance, 3-4 new attendees. Rowan or Steve participate with leadership developing from group; seeing members now becoming active advocates with HAN, attending PFR & other meetings.
- Poverello Information Sessions - Jana has meeting with Melissa Brooks Dec. 10 to explore how to work with Pov to reach their clients with info; potential role for returning citizens as credible leadership.

- Winds of Change grant proposal to State for Peer Mentor training just submitted has PFR written in. If funded, training would be open to returning citizens working with PFR, to become Recovery Coaches providing individual and group support. Services would not be limited to Medicaid clients.

Updated list of PFR actions, achievements for this year is attached - please send edits, changes as this will go on website, be handout in 2016.

B. Community Advocacy: Consensus public meetings should continue to open up other major issues.

No consensus at this meeting on continuing a fixed location, fixed schedule of day/time.

Location: Explore use of Salvation Army Community Center -- great location, good parking. Jana will follow up. City Council Chamber is available, but limited to noon

Time of day - not decided, may depend on topic and location.

Multiplier Effect - Meetings can media coverage -- guest columns, Independent, MCAT -- and reach many more than attend live event.

C. New Advocacy Goals for 2016: gaps, barriers, solutions

- Relationship/Mentoring - exploration of need for social support, advocates. Would serve to recruit, increase public awareness of need to welcome returning citizens. MIC/HAN will organize for PFR. Target date March 2016.
- Family Support - Shari Rigg and Jana to work on a public meeting focusing on support for families and children affected by incarceration (including victims of crime). Focus on stigma, misperceptions of those with family members in prison. Target Date May 2016
- Victim Support - invite local advocates, support network for sexual Assault to PFR meeting to discuss collaboration. Restorative Justice circles might emerge from congregations working to become Healing Communities. PFR can connect those interested with Norm Lavery who began the Community Dispute Resolution program in Missoula.
- Sex Offender Reintegration. Long discussion led by Brenda Erdelyi on how to raise issues effectively around reintegrating sex offenders into community. Concerns include how to keep meetings safe for presenters and participants, not create new public backlash by raising issue. Need to educate public, challenge misconceptions, myths, erroneous beliefs. Brenda chairs MSOTA public education effort, tasked with public outreach.

Facts about Sex Offender Reintegration

- MASC has 80% success rate placing individuals into alternative treatment programs but only 36% success placing SOs-- **64% go to MSP.**
- Only 3 of 6 Pre-Release Centers in Montana will accept SOs.
- 40% of SOs discharge from MSP directly.
- Lack of housing because of restrictive laws & stigma create major public safety issue:

Montana's 2014 Homeless Population less than 1%. **of all current registered sexual offenders in the state (2449) showed approximately 19% were registered as transient or "cannot offer a permanent address."**

-- Erdelyi Law & Justice Interim Committee presentation 11/30/15

Next Steps on PFR approach to Sex Offender reintegration in 2016:

- Brenda will work with Michael, participate in Property Managers meeting in January in order to address their misconceptions, fears, present factual information as needed.
- Include SO presentation/info in planned Realtor Continuing Ed workshop next summer.
- Explore offering continuing education workshops for teachers, etc., on sexual assault, abuse, treatment, public safety.
- Work with Kelly McGuire to reach next generation with more information about real dangers (close relatives, friends, dates) instead of lurking pedophiles next door.
- Congregations committed to becoming Healing Communities can be avenues for public education through adult education in safer, less charged contexts.

D. Website

- **Annual Cost: \$60. DUE NOW**

CONTRIBUTIONS needed: send to Jana, 629 Beverly Ave. 59801 to keep WEBSITE LIVE.

- **Report on Changes & Improvements from Darwin Corn**

1. Analyze metrics and determine necessity for website updates.

2. Make minor changes to existing website:

a. Move most of mission/about and leadership team to separate 'About'

page.

b. Restructure homepage to prominently display news & events...RSS feed

(i.e. automated news feed)?

3. Website overhaul:

a. Fully automate a news feed for ease of use (i.e. link emailing, something similar).

b. Feature narratives from returned citizens as well as those who hire, house, etc. them

(could implement this on current site).

c. Feature a blog for leadership team and guests to post opinion pieces, etc

d. Make the whole thing easier to update--in-place updates with previews, etc. instead of a separate interface.

E. Leadership Team Organization

Membership Expansion

- David Wiltfong and Brenda Erdelyi are both valuable resources and have been invited to be part of Leadership Team Quarterly Planning meetings.
- Jen Barile, Director of Homeless Advocate Network will become the HAN/MIC representative on the Leadership Team.

Others:

- Healing Communities network of 9+ congregations should have a representative for PFR, ideally a clergy member, rather than assuming MIC represents them.
- Brenda Desmond, Co-Occurring Treatment Courts.

PFR 2016 Leadership Team Quarterly Planning Dates:

Proposed: Early March, June, September, December 2016