

Working Cities Wednesday Minutes February 22, 2017

Carolyn talked about Working Cities/Berkshire Bridges and how it strives to create systems change. Agencies have taken and will take cultural competency classes and Bridges out of Poverty trainings. Agencies are also implementing the Net Promoter Score to measure success. The Executive Committee and Steering Committee have started meeting. The Executive Committee meets monthly and the Steering Committee meets quarterly. We are looking for Pittsfield residents to join the Steering Committee.

Alisa Costa is replacing Ruth Leon as the initiative director. You can email berkshirebridges@gmail.com to contact her, but she won't be in until March 7th.

In preparation for the MassMoves Workshop on March 28th and the meeting with Adam Hinds on March 17th we talked about transportation. If you want a ride to the MassMoves Workshop, you can contact me at bcwaters@berkshirehabitat.org. We voted to have a survey on transportation in our community. We talked about what is working, what isn't working, how to show the impact of transportation, what values a 21st-century transportation system should embody, the approaches that would get us to where we want, what actions we should take, and what success looks like at MassMoves. The responses can be seen below:

Transportation impact? Do we need to show it?

Document unmet needs & are jobs not filled b/c of lack of transportation
survey Berkshire County
Extend commuter train service
Employers inability to retain employees due to lack of transportation

Transportation in Berkshire County
What is NOT working?

traffic patterns in summer
no buses for certain days or at all
not during needed hours

- employers can't hire for lack of transportation
 - data from BREB
 - where and when → taxi costs
- Jacobs Pillow seasonal labor stories
- * - Vicki Smith will follow up with age-friendly community
 - not just to jobs - child care, market, doctor
- Aubrey Armstrong story - Barbara will be contact
- * - Christian will complete survey - link on basecamp
- Reach out to local Berkshire re: resorts/hospitality
- Share bus fare structure
- absurdity of lack of transfer - zone
- Medical access limited by transportation.

What approaches do you think are most important to get Mass on the pathway to a 21-Century transportation system?

tax incentives for private enterprise
Pre-tax TSA
Rail System - (Solar?)
TO ALL cities

What VALUES should a 21-Century transportation system embody?

~~24/7~~ Times that meet the needs.

What does success look like
at Mass Moves?

Accept invitation to ride.

Bus full of people

Being Really Heard!

5 stories!

Survey Results in hand.

Regional, size, rural/urban.

What ACTIONS should be taken to
start on that pathway in your region?

BRTA - Participate in the
Conversation... w/ stakeholders.

Stakeholders on BRTA Board.

Let us keep our tax money \$
to support Berkshire County needs.

A day in the life exercise.
from N.A. to Great Barrington.
or.

On Thursday, February 23rd there was a memorial at the Christian Center. Manos Unidas and Youth Alive are leading hip hop classes on Fridays at 5:30 pm. Jacob's Pillow is hosting a Dance for Social Justice On February 24th. The Community Development Block Grant input session is on Monday, February 27th at 5:30 p.m. at the Conte Community School (200 West Union Street, Pittsfield). Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity is offering tax assistance to low income families through the VITA program. Getting Ahead needs food on Tuesday and Thursday nights and can offer compensation. **The next Working Cities Wednesday meeting is on March 22nd at 5:30 p.m. at the Family Resource Center.**