

Oscoda County CHOICES Minutes

Meeting: CHOICES      Date: April 9, 2018      Time: 4:00 PM      Location: Mio DHHS Building

Leader: Deb Nurse and Jan Schleicher

Present: Alice Stone, Jan Schleicher, Katie Jacobs, Devin Spivey, Mischelle Warner, Cheryl Melroy, Loretta Rice, Stephanie Riemer, Trish Otremba, Jim Magnutz, Larry Wilson, Melissa Burns

Absent: Holly Campbell,

Guests: Katie Hoestetler, Father Allen Feltner – St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church Mio

Topic	Leader	Discussion	Action/Follow-up
CALL TO ORDER/ Introductions/Announcements	CN	The CHOICES meeting was called to order at 4:04PM by Deb Nurse Jan Schleicher asked that we move Food Pantry Conversation up in the agenda, to after the MSU Extension Conversation	
Minutes, February 12, 2018 and March 12, 2018	DN	Motion made by S. Riemer and seconded by J. Schleicher to accept minutes from February 12, 2018. All approved. Alice Stone made a motion to accept the March 12, 2018 minutes, seconded by K. Jacobs. All approved.	
MSU Extension	MW	<p>Mischelle shared that she will be meeting with commissioners Nutt and Wilson tomorrow March 13, at 6 pm. Going in with an open mind and blank piece of paper.</p> <p>Larry Wilson was in attendance at today’s meeting, and is not sure what tomorrow’s meeting will bring.</p> <p>Mischelle shared the history of the county financing MSU-Extension. Initially assessment was at \$33,592.00 and it was decreased to \$20,000.00 which provided half-time 4H programming and access to state-wide programs. 2012 the millage failed twice, in 2013 MSU Extension pulled out of Oscoda County and supplies were put in storage.</p> <p>MSU also approached the Board of Commissioners in 2015 and 2016, but the Board of Commissioners declined.</p> <p>No matter what, would like to get started in community, both parties are aware youth need MSU-Ext. services in Oscoda County</p> <p>At March meeting of the board a person came to the meeting to remind Board that 2 millages for MSU-Ext. failed. Transparency will be key moving forward</p>	<p>Next board meeting is scheduled for April 24<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. Will be important for CHOICES members to attend, to show our support and let the Board of Commissioners know what we want to see in Oscoda County. MSU extension is Federally, State and locally funded. Discussion tomorrow to focus on how can county support without financial funding, ie, in kind funding.</p> <p>Mischelle has contacted both schools and they are supportive. Jan Schleicher reminded group to keep focus on the youth of Oscoda County.</p> <p>If possible put April 24 Board meeting on your calendar to show support.</p>

Oscoda County CHOICES Minutes

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			<p>Opioid Film Screening at Kirtland Community College Thursday night at 6:30 pm</p>
<p>Together We Can Food Pantry and Love INC Gap Ministry with St. Bart's Episcopal church</p>	<p>JS</p>	<p>Collaborative with LOVE INC and St. Bart's. Cheryl Melroy recounted CHOICES mission. Cheryl introduced Melissa Burns. CHOICES helped Together We Can by getting a brochure designed and printed to distribute in the community. As we learned more about Together We Can, we learned that some of their practices were not in line with the requirements of the Food Bank of Eastern MI and they needed to be revised. CHOICES knows that there is a great need for food in the community. Devin is working together with MSU on a food insecurity survey. As we worked with together we can we learned that the Food Bank of Eastern MI has resources that may be helpful, to get the most bang for the buck and the most benefit for the residents, we wanted to have a conversation to see if what LOVE INC and the gap ministry is doing and what together we can is doing. Melissa may be a link to both the St. Bart's Food pantry and Together We Can. Jan shared the mission of CHOICES as connectors, and also shared that the County Health Rankings data drove the formation of the CHOICES Group. Our goal is to improve access for the residents of Oscoda County to healthy food, to reduce food insecurity. We are involved with Together We Can because people were being turned away, had misunderstanding about who was eligible to get food. Leaders of Together We Can were a small group of people trying to do their best, had difficulty accepting help from others. St. Bart's hopes to give residents the ability to shop with dignity and not just receive a box and dispose of what they don't want in the parking lot. The leaders of together we can were following what others had done before them. Melissa met with them to get them on the right track, and they had a distribution last month on March 22, she wasn't able to go, she is helping them out, and she is concerned with their ability to continue with the mobile</p>	<p>Use paper surveys at the next food distribution at St. Bart's. Take 200 surveys to the food distribution on April 20, 2018.</p> <p>Melissa is willing to meet with the team at St. Bart's and sometimes there are grant opportunities to write for freezers. She will get 6 of her pantries walk-in freezers.</p> <p>Melissa can help us with Plan B if something falls through with Together We Can.</p> <p>Plans for St. Barts are arbitrary until they have resources, and they know more about community need. He won't say no about food drops at this time.</p> <p>Continue to have this on our agenda.</p>

Oscoda County CHOICES Minutes

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		<p>distributions because they have a little bit of trouble raising funds, and they really just don't know about how to go about some of it. Their hearts are in the right place. Concerned that if they aren't able to afford the mobile distributions, then that will mean that there will be people who won't be able to get food. Katie from St. Bart's checked to see if it was true that they no longer required an income, because she went to the distribution and the leaders said they ran out of food. They gave what was left over to St. Bart's, they served 212 people on March 22. Melissa had to tell them that they cannot turn families away because they are not registered. Trying to get them pointed in the right direction. Cheryl shared that when she spoke with Sharron and she shared that they did not have much success with community support for fund raising. With CHOICES being connectors there may be some opportunities for grant writing, other collaboration. Working towards this goal with collective impact. Truck costs \$1000-1200/month. They have big volunteer base, but no grant writers. Have the distribution down pat. Raise funds by bake sales, bagging groceries, now longer can do that. Sharron shared that a community member had given a large donation to get through to May. Deb said that some businesses and churches have given financial support. Together we can has been closed group. Melissa's other concern is that they will have to shut them down if they do not comply with the feeding America rules. There are different rules for mobile food pantry and stationary food pantries. Pastor said that they are going to use model similar to West Branch Episcopal Church. St. Bart's is in process of renovating for food distribution. Alice shared the 2 food drops Looking to provide long term service with long shelf life products. Also looking to deliver help immediately, and also have goal to get people on their feet. Have goal of teaching people how to use and prepare foods. They are receiving rice based commodity through Children Against Hunger. This is put together through the use of youth volunteers at churches around the state. There was discussion about prescription for health program, and partnerships with MSU- Ext., DHD#2, the hospital for health education. They are emphatic that the people who come to the</p>	

Oscoda County CHOICES Minutes

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		<p>pantry can shop with dignity. Hopes that he can minister to people who come to the pantry and that they have some choices and control. Don't want to be wasteful, hopes that participants will take what they will use. Stephanie asked question if the pastor sees an opportunity to partner with Together We Can, they managed food drops and you would managed the pantry, would you ever see an opportunity to partner with them, is that something you would consider. He has reached out to other churches for volunteers, his congregation is growing older. Hopes to be a community based operation, lets seek assistance from the community, over half of help has been through other churches, with the help of LOVE INC. He is seeking someone who is computer literate and set up with Eastern MI Food Bank, church is becoming internet connected. They have been gifted with a small amount of money to get the panty started. Laurie said that since it is a gap ministry all the churches that are part of LOVE INC can offer assistance. Fairview Mennonite pantry will be emptied into the St. Bart's pantry, St. Mary's catholic church will keep their pantry. Laurie hopes that the pantry will not be a drive through pantry where people are anonymous. They will offer self-sufficiency support and education, and hope to build relationships and make connections. Working on details of services to be offered at the food pantry. Trish brought up offering mental health services. Devin shared information about food insecurity survey that is rural focused, to do surveys and see where need is at, broken down by demographics, currently have about 30 and committed to get 400 done by the end of June. Next day food pantry will be open April 20 from noon – 2 pm. Pastor has written 2 grants. Shared stories about people are making choices about paying for food or medicine. Hopefully data we get from survey will help us write other grants. They have purchased 3 refrigerators with freezers.</p> <p>Pantries and mobile distributions have same rules about who should be served. Melissa answered questions.</p>	

Oscoda County CHOICES Minutes

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Back Pack Program	CM	Will defer for this month.	
County Health Rankings	CM	Cheryl share the 2018 County Health Ranking data with the group and the Michigan report. The report explores size and nature of health differences by place and race/ethnicity in MI, and the goal of moving toward health equity, which means reducing and ultimately eliminating unjust and avoidable differences.	Cheryl will re- send out electronic copies to the committee.
DHD#2 Grant Update – MSU Food Access Survey Mini Grant	DS	<p>Devin shared about 30 surveys have been completed. Devin updated paper survey. Use of Ipad to complete survey is quirky. May be easier to use paper survey and have Devin Enter.</p> <p>Devin has 100 \$5.00 Family Fare Gift Cards at the Health Dept. office in West Branch.</p> <p>Cheryl updated survey sampling form and send back out to the group</p> <p>We will use the Project Connect event to get surveys out.</p>	<p>Will distribute survey at St. Bart’s Food distribution, on Friday April 20.</p> <p><b>Survey still needs to be concluded by the end of June 2018. Hope to get 400 collected.</b></p>
Photo Voice Update	CM	<p>The goal is to start the project in April and have the final presentation to the community at Project Connect on June 20, 2018, from 3-6 pm.</p> <p>Still having difficulties getting started. YAC group could not commit to Photovoice project with special community program coming up</p> <p>Deb recommended Raquel Rondo who helps with the yearbook.</p> <p>As noted previously, it was agreed to keep question what makes it easy/difficult to be healthy in Oscoda County.</p>	Deb and Stephanie Cleeve will reach out to Racquel Rondo. Stipend may be helpful to get her help.

Oscoda County CHOICES Minutes

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Project Connect	AS	Alice gave update for Project Connect, 20 organizations registered. Will be doing follow-up	See attached minutes for Project Connect meeting
Obesity Initiative – List of Food Assistance in Oscoda County	CM/group	Group looked at draft, will have to remove the Mennonite church and add St. Bartholomews.  Cheryl did get cost for printing.	Get ok for final draft.  Continue discuss on where Food Resource Brochures should be distributed once they are printed.
Obesity Initiative – Munson Healthcare	CM	Deferred for this month	
Adjourn	DN	Meeting Adjourned at 5:40 p.m.	
NEXT MEETING:	DN	Monday, May 14, 2018 at 4:00 PM at the Mio Department of Human Services Building	
Minutes submitted by:		Cheryl Melroy	