

Oscoda County CHOICES Minutes

Meeting: CHOICES Date: September 10, 2018 Time: 4:00 PM Location: Mio DHHS Building

Leaders: Deb Nurse and Jan Schleicher

Present: Jan Schleicher, Devin Spivey (on the phone), Cheryl Melroy, Deb Nurse, Larry Wilson, Jim Mangutz, Loretta Rice, Melissa Burns, Mischelle Warner,

Absent: Katie Jacobs, Alice Stone, Trish Otremba, Holly Campbell

Guests: Anita Troyer, Shawn E. Sullivan, Joann Bolda, Norma Lyden, Rachel Keylor, Janeen Troyer, Ken Troyer, Carole Berry

| Topic | Leader | Discussion | Action/Follow-up |
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| Call to order/Introductions | J. Schleicher | All in attendance introduced themselves. Guests: Anita Troyer, Shawn E. Sullivan, Joann Bolda, Norma Lyden, Rachel Keylor, Janeen Troyer, Ken Troyer, and Carole Berry. New member Michelle Barber from Munson Healthcare Grayling Hospital | |
| Brief History of CHOICES for guests in attendance | J. Schleicher | <p>CHOICES as a group are considered connectors. Connecting people in Oscoda County to available resources, connecting organizations in Oscoda County to each other for collective impact, breaking down barriers.</p> <p>Recent works: Project Connect Food Insecurity Survey with MSU through DHD#2 Getting MSU back to Oscoda County</p> <p>CHOICES found out Together We Can was playing to close, and we know that it is a huge resource for food for may Oscoda County residents, and wanted to see what support if any the community could give to keep the mobile food pantry</p> | Send out CHOICES Mission with the minutes to in attendance. |
| <p>Together We Can Food Pantry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration with Food Bank of Eastern Michigan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 20th 2018 last food drop? How to continue with food delivery to Oscoda County • | J. Schleicher/ all | <p>Together we can (TWC) provides a huge service to the community, and will leave a void if not there. What we are here to talk about today. It was thought that St. Bart's would pick up when TWC's work stops, but may not be the case, are they really?</p> <p>St. Bart's is opening September 21 –grand opening, the shelves have been stocked, per Loretta Rice, who is helping to get food to St. Bart's. Will be open every other week.</p> <p>Rachel and Carole said that they are also making appointments for people who work during the time of the regular hours. They are coming to get what they need, not just what was available on the food truck and they won't have to wait line.</p> | <p>Message to give resident who come to the September 20 food drop: Refer them to LOVE Inc.</p> <p>Tell them that there is a committee looking into continuing the work of TWC.</p> <p>Rachel will help us out in any way she can, and will be a part of the discussion group, but does not want to be on the board.</p> |

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| | | <p>Rachel met with the Pastor at St. Bart's. The participants who will use St. Bart's will have to register through LOVE INC. TWC has shared the information that registration will be required with those who participate with TWC food drops.</p> <p>St. Bart's will meet again tomorrow, 9.11.18. St. Bart's has support of Family Fare and the IGA in Fairview. Per Rachel support of others in the community. Rachel will be involved with St. Bart's.</p> <p>Shawn Sullivan voiced concern over people hesitating to come to a church. Some older people in need because if they pay for their medicine they can't pay for food. Stories shared of people who were helped by TWC volunteers who delivered food to residents' houses, for various reasons. Mr. Sullivan asked about what would happen to shut-ins? Rachel shared that St. Bart's serves the same people that TWC does, only not that many because St. Bart's is not that well known in the community yet. It was shared that St. Bart's may be set up to serve about 75 families. Many of the TWC volunteers are elderly.</p> <p>Deb Nurse stated the reason that we wanted to bring everyone together is because it is too big of a job for one group to do it alone. Is there an opportunity to have both TWC and St. Bart's serve the people of Oscoda County?</p> <p>Rachel stated someone would have to step in from ground zero and build up. Deb stated though that if the by-laws are in place, if the 501c3 is still in place, because yes to start a new 501c3 is quite a lengthy process, so if there is an opportunity to keep the 501c3 open and put together a new board, that would look at can we continue TWC differently, get more people to volunteer so the work can be shared, schools are excited to maybe have their kids volunteer, so this is why we brought everyone together to take over what TWC has done.</p> <p>Rachel states that people interested in continuing the work of Together We Can would have to go to county board to talk to them about the building. They are going to turn the key over at the end of September, they are considered the 1st group, they</p> | <p>We have a list of people to get started with to start the discussion of how to re-establish a board to continue the work of Together We Can. We can do a doodle poll to come up with a date to meet again.</p> <p>Guests were invited to stay.</p> |

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| | | <p>took over when Sarah said she was quitting. Cheryl Melroy offered that that what Deb is trying to say is that now that you are ready to hand over the reins is there an opportunity for CHOICES to jump in before everything is lost, to assist during the transition time to bring people together who may be interested in continuing the work. Rachel stated the building is owned by the Oscoda County fairgrounds, they have a lot of rules and regs. Need to pay someone to plough the snow. Rachel stated that Joe did it last year, as a favor to Rachel.</p> <p>Joann Bolda said she was one of the Founders of TWC back in 2001, we have by-laws and you need to have by-laws in order to be a 501c3. Joann asked if the current group have by-laws in place and are they meeting every month. Rachel stated that they have not been meeting due to various reasons. So technical TWC is currently not abiding by the rules of the IRS, Rachel said that they are abiding by them as best they can. Joann reminded group that if TWC dissolves, all the equipment that is in that building conveyor, tables, anything that was bought or donated cannot be sold. Omni metal craft donated conveyor, they almost got it for free. According to by-laws it would have to go back to a non-profit, it can't just go by the wayside. There are 12 tables and the conveyor. Freezer etc. were donated. Meat from this month, goes out next month. Some months they do not get meat. When Sara left there was 7 freezers, and they took their freezers back. It came up that with 501c3 status they should have been donated to a non-profit. Rachel said the people who donated them, took them back, like they were on loan according to a stipulation that was made when they were donated. They were loaned. When they took over there was 5 freezers full of meat, which is how they went to giving meat from the month before at the next month's distribution. Now they must give the food out on the same day. Ken donated 2 of the freezers. Rachel said that they were going donate the freezer to St. Bart's, but Ken said if TWC is going to stay open then we should keep them there. Rachel again said that if we are going to try to keep it open we are going to have</p> | |

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| | | <p>to start from ground zero, go to the county board, and ask county if we could continue to use the building. Larry Wilson will ask at tomorrow's commissioners meeting. Per Rachel, it would need to be a whole new group of people to keep TWC open, Deb reiterated that there are many people around the table that want to work to see if they can make that happen. There is no heat in the bldg.</p> <p>Per Joann, the building belongs to TWC, unless it folds, then it reverts back to the county. TWC has not folded yet. Joann asked the question, why is TWC folding? Rachel stated it is folding because they have no money. The reason they have no money is they were told that they have to give food to anyone who comes through the door, no matter how much money they have.</p> <p>Joann said the past TWC board went through that, and they are not judge and jury –really how do we know what they are facing. Previously they had went by income guidelines, but Food Bank of Eastern MI policy and procedures prohibit limiting who can have access to the food, and they were signed by the current leaders. They did not get all the paperwork when Rachel and Sharron took over. Jan said the original articles of incorporation for TWC stated that the purpose of the organization was to distribute free food to the residents of the area, and was later amended to include personal care items (similar commodities). Rachel said they are basically closing because she said that people don't want to give to a place that gives food to the wealthy. Cheryl Melroy showed the flyer and it states that TWC gives food to those in need in our community, so again, the intent is there and we can't be judge and jury. Reminder to manage for the many in need not the few that may abuse. Bottom line get people food.</p> <p>Shawn said that they did fundraising on their own without grant funding. Shawn said if CHOICES can help find the money, there will be volunteers to keep it going. Deb stated that we need to put together a board that will look at the articles of incorporation and follow the guidelines in the by-laws, and re-</p> | |

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| | | <p>establish TWC. That is why a lot of people are here, they want to keep in going and are ready to step up.</p> <p>Loretta Rice said that she has helped St. Bart's purchase the food for the pantry, she want to see TWC continue, she offered to help write grants, but Sharron refused to meet with her. She would personally like to see a place where there are no restrictions on who can get food. We will not get that with St. Bart's. There will be income guidelines. They are not bounded by FBEM guidelines. Joann asked the group to let St. Bart's do what they are comfortable with, and not discuss it around this table. Joann was one of the originators of TWC with Joan Elkins, When Joan worked at Social Services the idea was to help folks in the community, it wasn't to provide food because they got food stamps, we wanted to supplement, and that's what Joan Elkins wanted to do. Joann would personally like to see that all come back, let's not judge the person, let's see if we can't put a board together, let's see if we can't use the by-laws as they are intended. Her husband was unrightfully removed from the Board because he wanted people to abide by the by-laws. Joann would like to see a new board, let's use the articles of incorporation and the by-laws and start it over again. Let's collaborate with St. Bart's and work to get back on the right track. Deb asked for volunteers who would like to work on building the new board for TWC. A list of people was generated. Jan stated that we will have Melissa Burn's guidance and the guidance of those involved with TWC and are willing to work to get TWC up and running using the by-laws and necessary policies and procedures from the FBEM. Putting your name on the list is committing to coming together to talk about how we keep TWC going. There are number of grants available. Cheryl reminded the group that the county just completed a food insecurity survey.</p> <p>Deb asked if all questions were answered: Shawn sked if St. Bart's was going to have a delivery service? Loretta said they are still trying to work details out. It will be brought up to the steering committee. St. Bart's may be overwhelmed by the number of people they may be called to</p> | |

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| | | <p>serve. Serving 35 people, and running out of food. They originally were going to be set up as a supplement not the main provider, they started the pantry because Emma Lowery in Luzerne closed down.</p> <p>Cheryl brought up the question about contacting the newspaper and asking the community for contributions to get money to TWC for October and November Food drops. A call to action for the community, and letting them know that a committee is forming to discuss how they can continue the work of TWC. If we were asking for donations for TWC, where could the donations be sent? Jan asked Melissa if the FBEM has anyway that food can be delivered without a payment, can the FBEM help. Jim Mangutz asked how much does a food truck cost. A food truck costs \$1000.00 for 25 pallets, which is without going on the website. Melissa clarified that there is a guideline that shows what will be delivered, and that the truck should really cost \$1200 but the FBEM kept at \$1000, because they knew the group was struggling. The produce trucks are free. Melissa could ask her boss if they could send a food truck for free for October to keep it going, while we raise funds for November and December. Jan stated that if the committee met and if the word was put out that the food trucks were for all Oscoda County residents, there would be donors. If people saw that TWC was going to close without assistance, people would step forward and donate or do something, but we need that time to get the board going, and then the board get the article in the paper, etc. Joann also talked about Walmart being a source of food that all that needed to do was pick it up, but it was not considered by the past leadership. Ken stated that Walmart also gives out \$1000.00. Group agreed that it sounds like there is money out there. Joann also asked about Family Fare Gift cards what the restrictions are-it was discussed. Joann thanked the group for addressing this need and working to keep TWC going. Group thanked Joann for her passion. Stories shared that reflect the need to have a new board with integrity and rolls of board members clearly defined.</p> | |

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| | | Melissa thanked our group for getting TWC to our table as well as our guests. Current group is not keeping records. Heart was in the right place, not able to follow process. Group not aware of what 501c3 really is. | |
| Minutes – August 13, 2018* | J. Schleicher/D. Nurse | Deb Nurse Motioned, 2 nd by Cheryl Melroy, approved. | |
| MSU Extension – Follow up on Next Steps: | M. Warner /L. Wilson | <p>Had total of 11 applications. 5 passed 2 are from Mio. Got resumes yesterday. Tentatively planning to interviews September 24, if anyone from this group can attend. Don't know if they will interview all 5. Wonderful that 2 are from Mio. Interviews can be held in Mio. Deb will see if Community Center is available. Mio school donated everything they needed. Deb shared that Fairview will most likely do the same, just need to ask.</p> <p>STEAM position – Mischelle shared STEAM Corp flyer. New person would be supervising STEAM person. Caveat we have to raise \$5,000. We have been approved for the STEAM position! If we happen to miss this year, it is a 3 year window. Net Net it is probably \$20,000.00/year job. Not a definitive start date, Sept 4. Training for supervisors is October 4. Raising \$5,000 shouldn't be a problem. Talk more next month, about way to go with talent available. If wrong person is hired for STEAM Corp and they quit, we would lose money. Does anyone have time to go to Commissioners meeting to give update – no one is available.</p> <p>Curriculum available, SPIN Clubs are what will be promoted, short term special interest programs. Lunch, before and after school clubs. Person doesn't need science background. All agreed this program is so needed. Some candidates are not currently employed. Hope that Mio applicants can be given a shot.</p> | Programs left for FYI> |
| Project Connect –ongoing Update on participation and wrap-up | A. Stone | No report. Planning team taking the month off. | <p>Next Project Connect Planning meeting is on Monday October 8, 2018, at 3 pm at the Mio DHHS office.</p> <p>Get event on School Calendar for 2019 – who will be responsible?</p> |

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| <p>Grant Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHD #2 Grant Update MSU Food Access Survey Mini-Grant Update • McLaren Grant - PhotoVoice Project • PhotoVoice Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Question: What makes it easy/difficult to be health in Oscoda County? | D. Spivey | <p>Devin Food Access Survey: 319 surveys were turned in. Met goal. They will be working on the report the next 2 months. Should have final report back in October. MSU must have the grant completed by the end of October.</p> <p>Preliminary data available but difficult to understand. Assume they should be hearing from them soon.</p> | |
| MiTHRIVE Regional Community Health Needs Assessment | C. Melroy/H. Campbell | No report due to time | |
| Trauma Informed Community – make standing agenda topic | D. Nurse | Deb passed out MOBO challenge info to be aware. | |
| <p>Take Action Cycle – Focus on What’s Important*</p> <p>Theme: Obesity</p> <p>Goal: Most efficient use of resources</p> <p>Guiding question: How can we create a more aligned, coordinated, and coherent approach to improving health?</p> <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand what is available in community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of food assistance in Oscoda County – share final • Actions of Local Food Coalition • What is state doing-DHD#2? Any update on CHIR (standing item) • Munson Healthcare Regional Obesity Initiative (standing item) • Identify gaps and barriers/Analyze root causes (standing item) | <p>Cheryl Melroy</p> <p>H. Campbell/D. Spivey</p> <p>Cheryl Melroy</p> | No Report | |
| Commissioner Update | L. Davis | No Report | |
| Announcements | | | |
| Follow-up items and NEXT MEETING/NEXT MEETING AGENDA – Monday October 8, 2018 | J. Schleicher | | |
| Adjournment | | At 5:40 pm | |

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Minutes submitted by Cheryl Melroy