

Addressing Community Needs and Compassionate Communities

November 2016

Compassionate Schools/Community

▪ INFORMATION SHARED:

- ✓ Erin Bernardi is working on a peer mediation project at school with 3-5th graders. She is also teaching the bug and a wish communication strategy to the students. Erin has also worked with the Compassion Games at a school in Seattle.
- ✓ Nikola Chopra and Carolyn McGown shared that they want to partner with this group to have a community conversation that would follow-up on the “Screenagers” film that was shown.
- ✓ Kim Pascuito is working on several more community conversations with other community organizations.
- ✓ Barbara talked to Karli Anne Christiansen at the Compassion Action Network on 11/18. She had a lot of great suggestions including using this sequence of events:
 1. Start with a day-long event or week long sign-up at different times and locations – where the community signs a **Charter for Compassion** – each individual making a commitment to participating in this compassion work and sharing emails to learn how they can participate in the future.
 2. **Implement Compassion Games** – a good game to start with is the “Secret Agents of Compassion” – where for 7-10 days, everyone on the email lists gets a different compassion mission each day, then reports back what they did if they want to. For example, one daily mission could be: “Go talk to someone you don’t know today”.
 3. **Living Room Conversations** – a format to get into more in-depth conversations about more controversial issues. Host a series on these on topics relevant for Lopez. They are developing a format for these.

- **NEXT STEPS: Form a committee of people and meet to plan activities for 2017. Let Barbara Gurley know if you are interested.**

Community Needs

1. Safety

- **NEXT STEPS: A group of volunteers is looking at solutions to keep all diverse members of our community safe.**

2. Housing and Rental Assistance

▪ INFORMATION SHARED:

- ✓ Sandy reported that the County is hiring a housing coordinator position.
- ✓ Sandy also reported that the County Housing Committee is looking at 3 options to raise funds for more affordable housing a) ½ of 1% on real estate taxes; b) increased sales tax, and c) property tax levy.
- ✓ Sandy mentioned that 3 more volunteers are needed from Lopez on this committee.

- **NEXT STEPS: Recruit 3 more volunteers to join Sandy on this committee so Lopez needs and concerns are addressed. Let Sandy Bishop know if you are interested.**

3. Rental Assistance

▪ INFORMATION SHARED:

- ✓ LIFRC staff and board have been having conversations with Jamie Stephens and Rich Hughes, the Opportunity Council about rental assistance.
- ✓ The County is considering adding more funds to the budget for rental assistance.
- ✓ The LIFRC board has been advocating to our state legislature to allow Consolidate Homeless Grants (CHG) to be used for both preventing homelessness and homeless households.

4. Food

▪ INFORMATION SHARED:

- ✓ A group met with Kristen Rezabek from San Juan County to research EBT/SNAP at farm stands and the farmers market.
- ✓ Kim Pascuito has talked with Brooks Brouwer at WSU Extension about a gleaning program
- ✓ Kim Pascuito has talked with Molly Bill about her Food Hub Efforts.

- **NEXT STEPS: Meet with Brook Brouwer, Kristen Rezabek, and interested community members to plan an assessment of food needs on Lopez, and further developing EBT/SNAP and a gleaning program. Let Barbara Gurley know if you want to get emails about these meetings.**

5. Nutrition Education

▪ INFORMATION SHARED:

- ✓ There is strong interest in piloting some shared cooking/learning experiences.

6. Children/Child Care

▪ INFORMATION SHARED:

- ✓ Mo Pomietto shared that there are more families needing car seats, and more education needed on car safety
- ✓ Brenda Asterino mentioned some funding sources and supports and called them already. Barbara Gurley will call to follow-up more.
- ✓ Claudia Rempel and Beth St. George have started an after school STEM program at the library in partnership with LIFRC on Tuesday's, early release day.
- ✓ The Lopez School is doing homework help after school.

▪ NEXT STEPS:

- ✓ **Individuals volunteer to work as a group to help identify grant opportunities for car seats and training, and identify an individual that is interested in getting the full training to help families with car safety.**
- ✓ **Continue to expand after school activities.**
- ✓ **Look at options for the full day to be covered for child care during the summer.**

7. Economic Opportunity – NOT DISCUSSED AT THIS MEETING

- Hold focus groups or do surveys with individuals that need living wages (are underemployed, unemployed or want to change careers) to learn about what they are interested in.
- Research new business opportunities that could thrive on Lopez and meet the interests of individuals on Lopez
- Have a conversation with the community and individuals looking for new opportunities about what the research shows
- Look at options to help new businesses get started

8. Mental Health Substance Abuse

▪ INFORMATION SHARED

- ✓ LIFRC will follow-up with the county and regional organizations to continue working on solutions for crisis mental health – another regional meeting will be held.
- ✓ LIFRC continues to work with Compass to get assessments done on Lopez
- ✓ LIFRC will participate in County meetings to continue to advocate for systems changes
- ✓ Community members will be invited to these meetings as they are set-up
- ✓ Barbara is talking with Peace Hospital about doing a Self-Harm training on Lopez in December. She is waiting to hear back from Gary Waters and Beth Williams-Geiger who will come to do the training.

- **NEXT STEPS: Let Barbara Gurley know if you are interested in participating in these meetings**