



Choice Neighborhood Initiative Planning Grant

Build Olneyville's EDUCATION TASK FORCE

MINUTES
March 14, 2014

1) Welcome, John Kelly

John Kelly, Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed the Committee members and invited the members to introduce themselves.

2) Update on progress to date and direction for next steps, John Kelly

John Kelly informed the Committee that the PHA and the CNI partners have brought on Gayle Epps and Kathy Carton from EJP Consulting Group to help advance the process. He shared that the grant submission was extended to June 2014. He reminded the Committee that they came together over the summer and the bulk of the work to date has focused on Kindergarten Readiness. He talked about the connection to school enrollment and registration and the need to look out at student and education goals beyond early childhood. He invited Kathy Carton to update the Committee on the findings she prepared on school enrollment.

3) Key Findings from Education Needs Assessment, Kathy Carton from EJP Consulting Group

Kathy walked the Committee through her presentation of data related to school enrollment. She noted that copies would be distributed with the

minutes. She informed the Committee that there were a significant number of eligible students from Manton Heights who are not enrolled at D'Abate Elementary School. In fact only 16 Manton Height residents are enrolled at the school. These 16 students represent only 9.3% of the total elementary school age youth at the housing site.

4) Discussion Topic:

a. How to increase resident enrollment at D'Abate

b. Barriers residents face with school registration

The Committee discussed ideas on how to increase enrollment. Jose Luis shared how he approached each of the 25 eligible families last year and felt that there was some improvement. He noted that there is no before school care provided and there is no bus. Both present challenges for Manton Heights families. John suggested that Manton Heights possibly partner with the Boys & Girls Club to provide the before school care and we develop a "walking school bus" to transport the children to D'Abate. It was also identified that residents may not be aware of how good the school is. They also probably do not have enough information about the registration process and deadlines. Sorrel discussed some of the newer initiatives that PHA did this past year to help make residents more aware. It was also noted that the need to have a completed physical and immunization form was an added barrier for residents. Other discussions followed relating to the use of the different summer programs such as the Inspiring Minds, Community Library and Meeting Street and identify how these summer programs and their own registration process could also be helpful in spreading the word about registration.

5) Future Topics

Future discussion topics identified included the focus on out of school time and the notion of how to have a community based project support existing city-wide work. John pointed the group to the work of the CYC and Teresa Guaba discussed the areas of overlap. A meeting will be set up between Kathy, Gayle and John and the team from the CYC.

6) Next meeting date

The next meeting was scheduled for April 9, 2014 at 10 AM at Manton Heights.