

Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting
Monday, April 27, 2020
MINUTES

Attendees:

Shari Brightful, LaKeysha McLaurin, Kathy Fogel, Damon Johnson, Alexander Shay, Sandra Huey, Lynn Heitz, Wayne Trout, Alli Smale, Joan Nelson, Lisa Andrews

WELCOME:

Shari Brightful opened the meeting at 10:03 A.M. and said we would wait a few minutes to see if Suzanne Erb phoned in then asked for introductions – Shari Brightful, LaKeysha McLaurin, Kathy Fogel, Damon Johnson, Alexander Shay, Sandra Huey, Lynn Heitz, Wayne Trout, Alli Smale, Joan Nelson and Lisa Andrews introduced themselves.

Shari Brightful asked for approval of the minutes from the last meeting. Wayne trout accepted the minutes and Kathy Fogel seconded. The minutes are approved.

Shari Brightful introduced the speaker, Alli Smale.

Alli Smale discussed Timesharing Process, Good Neighbors Time Bank and presented a power point presentation.

Organization barter for skills rather than items. You can share your skills and you can leverage in order to receive skills you need. Gave some examples. Trade time rather than money.

- 1 – Every person has something to offer others and their community.
- 2 – Everyone's time is equal in value.
- 3 – Everyone can earn time dollars.
- 4 – Everyone benefits from having relationships within the network.
- 5 – Everyone's needs can be met.

How it works:

Membership organization. Outline different skills you have that you are willing to share with someone. Alli explained this.

One hour of service is equal to 1 time dollar. This is put into an account using an online system and is tracked by earned, spent, balance. Most experiences are done online.

Shari – how many people do you need to time bank in order to operate? Alli - largest group is in Reading, Philadelphia is opening up. Best if there are a large number of people in the group in order to have a variety of exchanges.

Kathy Fogel – how is the time tracked? Alli - New members get 2 time dollars automatically in their online account which is how it is tracked.

Benefits of Time Banking:

- Builds authentic relationships.
- Builds skills and confidence, particularly to try new things.
- Provides social opportunities.
- Sharing of skills.
- Great for families to do together.
- Helpful to staff.
- Counts towards community participation.
- Can be used as discovery and employment launcher.

Exchange Ideas:

Offers – something you offer; Requests – something you might need. Spoke on examples of offers and requests.

Lisa would model change with the implementation of social distancing? Alli

- social things can be done virtually. Getting groceries for people, dropping off at the person's door. Went over some items that can be completed even today. Tasks where you need to go into the person's home might be able to be done virtually online.

Main areas:

- Berks Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia counties.
- Would like connections in order to expand. Most time banks are in the southeastern part of the state.

Sign up steps:

1 - Attend an introduction.

2 – Complete online profile.

3 – Pay \$25.00 membership fee or 2 hours of service (would not receive time dollars).

Lisa – is there vetting? Alli – no, but ask people to self-disclose. Discussed ways people would get to know and trust each other.

Contact - asmale@kencrest.org

J. Nelson – is it ok to share your information. Yes, as long as you let them know it is a grant

Shari Brightful invited Alli Smale to stay for the rest of the meeting.

Shari Brightful asked new people who joined the call to say hello, Ramona Griffith
Chris from JEVS

Update from Philadelphia BVRS:

Shari – Everyone is adjusting to new norm, tele-working. We were one of the first groups to stay at home in order to keep staff healthy and safe. Much work went into accommodating people in order for them to work from home. We have some critical function staff who go into the office twice a week to open mail, etc. Staff are checking in with customers because they are scared and need emotional support along with completing daily functions of the job.

We have checked in with providers, who is open and how to provide services. Discussed funding with providers. The protocol has slowed down the process but we are moving forward. Some providers are not currently making services available and we are purging those purchase orders.

We have been able to close some cases, there are customers currently working. We will continue to work together to support our consumers.

Wayne Trout said he believes you and your team should be commended in this difficult and ever-changing environment.

Damon Johnson

We are working together to do critical function work. Rotation schedule for managers to go in with clerical.

We had a person start in the fiscal position February 3, 2020. Will be having a meeting with BVRS to discuss sharing of duties.

Went over what BBVS staff is doing during this work from home time.

Waiting list – in January only received 1 on the list. We do not know how many we will get on May 1, we have a total of 50 people on BBVS's waiting list.

Jr. and Summer Academy is cancelled, may do virtual.

Goals 53 – need 5 more to meet target goals for the year.

Alexander Shay:

Social work interviews were put on hold.

Summer programs discussions in place for virtual training.

Information from Members and others on the call:

Lynn Heitz

ASB – Since 3/13 have been providing braille and access technology instruction. This week they are starting support groups, a men's and women's group. ASB was left out of the pipeline from Harrisburg regarding providers.

Lynn asked about providers that are providing services and are closed but are not considered essential, how is the information getting out to these providers since they are not open. Shari Brightful said they are sending out by email.

Informed Damon Johnson and Alexander Shay that ASB does have an open purchase order. Everything is done, supporting documentation is in the office and they do not have access. How do they get reimbursed. Alex asked if Lynn, Damon and he can have a phone call.

ASB is doing i-phone training. Can do AT training if they already have JAWS installed on their computer.

Hopes that everybody stays safe and well and is tired of sitting on her couch.

Shari Brightful:

Asked if anyone on the call wanted to share information.

Shari said she just heard about meal train which she thinks is a great idea.

Joan Nelson

Thanked everyone for all you are doing for support of the customers.

Just started building resources, links and techniques and wanted to know if they can share the resources with everyone. Having live chats. Shari Brightful said thank you and she will share with the committee.

Shari:

Ending comments - feels this meeting is needed, especially now. Next meeting will be virtual, how about June even though they are usually quarterly. Will send out a doodle to see what date people are available. Alex asked what days of the week are preferable. Kathy said Mondays seem to work.

Meeting adjourned at 11:29 A.M.