

Parramore Task Force
Social Services & Education Subcommittee
Task Team 2 – Social Service Providers
Tuesday, February 10, 2004 10 a.m.
Callahan Neighborhood Center
Conference Room

Meeting Notes

Members Present: A.C. Cowans, Hudie Stone
Members Absent: Terry Delahunty, Beverly Morgan
Guest: David van Gelder
Staff: Lisa McCoy, Susan Harris

Susan Harris called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. Members were reminded that questions for the social services survey for the focus groups are due to Mrs. Harris on February 11, 2004. Lisa McCoy suggested having Brian Butler, the Task Force chairman, send all the subcommittees a reminder about the questions. Mrs. Harris will follow up on this with Brenda March.

A.C. Cowans asked what would happen if we don't get any questions from the other subcommittees or task teams. Ms. Harris stated that staff would need to draft some questions for the task team and then the Social Services & Education Subcommittee to review, edit and approve.

David van Gelder informed the task team members that he produced and mailed a questionnaire to all the property owners with property values of \$150,000 or more. The purpose of the survey was to solicit input about the neighborhood from this specific property owner group. The deadline for returning the survey is today, February 10, 2004. Mr. van Gelder is willing to share the results of this questionnaire with the task team and the Parramore Task Force.

Members discuss how to define social services. It was agreed that social services may be defined as free or sliding scale fees for programs and services that provide for the needs of people with no or limited resources, which will improve the quality of life of these individuals and families.

Members discussed questions for the surveys and decided on the following questions:

1. Are you aware of the social service agencies located in Parramore?
2. Do you use social services?
3. How do you feel about the social service agencies located in Parramore? (list the agencies by type – homeless, health, jobs, others)
4. Do you know if your neighbors use social services?
5. Do you know if neighbors that need social services, but don't use the services?
6. Do you feel there is an impact on you and the neighborhood by having social services located in the neighborhood? (using a scale of 1 to 5 - very negative, somewhat negative, negative, somewhat positive, positive and very positive)
7. Are there any other impacts on your life that we haven't asked you about?

Members discussed the importance of hosting a number of focus groups that are representative of the neighborhood. Members agreed that the following focus groups should be conducted:

1. homeowners
2. renters/tenants (may need to visit launder mats, etc.)
3. senior citizens
4. social service agencies
5. businesses
6. neighborhood associations
7. youth/teens

Mrs. Harris will draft the survey and send it to the task team for review. After review and input from the task team, Mrs. Harris will send the survey to Veronica Anderson, the subcommittee chairman, who will forward it to Valerie King with UCF. Ms. King has volunteered to review the survey to ensure validity and that the questions are easy to understand for the participants. Plans are to have this accomplished before the subcommittee's February 25 meeting.

Mrs. Harris informed the task team that it needs to present its three final recommendations to the Social Services and Education Subcommittee on Wednesday, 2/25.

Members discussed the recommendations and focused on the following:

1. Conduct focus groups using a survey to gather feedback and input from the neighborhood about the social service needs and the impact of social service agencies located in the neighborhood.
2. Extend the timeline of the subcommittee to allow the subcommittee to accomplish its tasks.
3. Support the establishment of a one-stop social service center funded by the City and County. This center would provide "triage" type services for the homeless, mentally ill, people with drug/alcohol problems, and others in need of social services.

Mr. van Gelder recommended using CRA funds to fund the one-stop social service center.

Hudie Stone asked if the next task team meeting being held on Tuesday, February 24 at 10 a.m. could be moved to 11 a.m. She has a Homeless Services Network meeting that will not be over until 10:30. Mrs. Harris will e-mail the task team members about the time change and send out an e-mail confirming the time change to 11 a.m. once she gets feedback from the other task team members. At the February 24 meeting, the task team is going to need to finalize its recommendations.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.