

**NEW COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE POLICY GROUP
JUNE 30, 2008 MEETING SUMMARY**

Policy Group Attendees:

Mayor Carl Brewer
Councilperson Lavonta Williams
Secretary Roger Werholtz, State of Kansas
Ed Flentje, City of Wichita
Susan Addington, Koch Industries
Gary Allsup (for Steve Weatherford)
Gloria Markuly (for Secretary Don Jordan)
Shari Gargin (for Secretary David Kerr)
Mary K. Vaughn, Housing and Community Services Department
Secretary Russell Jennings, State of Kansas
Lyndon Wells, Intrust Bank
Donald Beggs, Wichita State University
Commissioner Gwen Welshimer, Sedgwick County
Commissioner Kelly Parks, Sedgwick County
Hugh Tappan, Wesley Medical Center
Kim Hamlin, Central Northeast Association of Neighborhoods
Kevass Harding, US 259
Brian Black, Spirit AeroSystems

Pillar Group Attendees:

Margie Phelps, Children and Youth Pillar Group Chair
Chief Norman Williams, Safe and Secure Neighborhoods Pillar Group Chair
Rachelle Moody, Workforce and Economic Development Pillar Group Chair
Mark Stanberry, Housing for All Pillar Group Chair
Debbie Donaldson, Physical, Mental, and Behavioral Pillar Group Chair
Mary K. Vaughn, Housing and Community Services Department
Brad Snapp, Housing and Community Services Department
Emmalee Conover, Winfield Prison
Megan MacPherson, Wichita SRS
Mark Masterson, Sedgwick County Department of Corrections
Anne Duncan, Housing and Community Services Department
Sally Frey, Kansas Department of Corrections
Claudia Blackburn, Department of Health
Felicia Norris, Wichita Police Department
Gail Lotson, Housing and Community Services Department
Michelle Rucker, Housing and Community Services Department

Sandra M. Moore, Urban Strategies
Esther Shin, Urban Strategies

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Councilperson Lavonta Williams opened the meeting with a welcome and asked for introductions from Policy Group members since several new members had come on board as a result of additions from the previous Policy Group Meeting. Mayor Brewer was detained at another meeting and hoped to join the Policy Group meeting at some point.
- II. **Logistics** – Mary K. Vaughn thanked the new Policy Group members for attending. Ms. Vaughn informed the Group that binders would be sent to each member to hold all of the agendas, meetings summaries and handouts from each meeting.
- III. **Old Business** -
 - a. **Master Plan/RFP Update** – Ms. Vaughn reported that Keith Lawing and Anne Corrison have been serving on the Master Planning Selection committee along with City of Wichita staff to select a master planner. The committee has met twice to review the three proposals. Additional information has been requested of each applicant and the committee expects to meet on July 8th to make a final decision.

Councilperson Williams requested an overview of the Master Plan as a point of information for new Policy Group members. Ms. Vaughn informed the Group that the Master Plan would be the thread to tie the pillar group work and develop a comprehensive plan for the physical revitalization of the targeted neighborhood. City and State staff had an opportunity to visit communities that had undergone similar Master Planning efforts. Will this plan sit on a shelf? Hopefully not since all of the applicants have been asked to bring resources to the table and provide solid implementation plans. The Master Plan will ultimately come with a price tag and the State's re-investment funds will serve as one resource along with national foundations. The alternative is doing nothing which has a cost in the long term.

Brian Black asked if there would be private investment in the plan and will the Policy Group get to see the plan before it goes public. Ms. Vaughn reported yes, that they would expect to see private investment included in the plan and the Policy Group has been strategically established to serve as the core which must be engaged by the hired consultant. The hired consultant must also engage the community and acknowledge the work that has been done to date. Mr. Black recommended that the consultant work with the private sector since there is a great deal of fundraising already taking place within the City. Ms. Vaughn reported that in each member's packet of handouts, a roster of Policy Group members had been included.

- b. Summer Youth Employment – Ms. Vaughn reported that a summary of the program was included in each packet of handouts. The program is being conducted in partnership with the Urban League. Eight youth have been identified from the targeted area to participate. The youth will work for eight weeks, which is two weeks longer than last year's program thanks to the additional funds that were provided by INTRUST Bank. The youth started working on June 16 and are being paid minimum wage. The youth will be beautifying the community with a clean up and face lift. The largest funding source for the program is being provided by Sedgwick County. Councilperson Williams reported hearing positive comments in the community about the youth in the neighborhood.
- c. Pillar Group Reports – Ms. Vaughn reported that each of the Pillar Group reports is in a different color. Sandra Moore provided background on the pillar structure identifying them as the five priority areas that were originally established as a part of NCI. The Pillar Groups are led by staff from the City, County and State. These groups stay connected to what is taking place in the community. Included in each member's handouts was a set of baseline demographics that were requested during the previous Policy Group meeting. The demographics were developed in Ms. Vaughn's shop out of data from the Pillar Groups. Ms. Moore highlighted several pieces of critical data. The size of the targeted community is only 5% of the overall City population, but the household size is larger. The economic statistics compared to the rest of the city is dramatically different and reflects lower wages and higher levels of poverty, which is possibly linked to the low graduation rates and lower academic achievement scores. The housing vacancy rate is nearly double that in other neighborhoods. The demographics put into context the priorities of each pillar group. The Pillar Reports have also been standardized to measure outcomes.

Hugh Tappan requested clarification on the area represented by the crime data since the information was broken down by East, South, North and West. Chief Williams explained that the targeted neighborhood is primarily within Beats 43 and 44.

- Rachelle Moody, Chair of the Workforce and Economic Development Pillar Group provided her report (see attached). Susan Addington asked if neighborhood organizations have been identified to work with this population to connect to the new employment hotline. Ms. Moody stated that they are linking callers to existing resources. Commissioner Gwen Welshimer commented there is an unskilled workforce and few unskilled job opportunities. She stated that there are 40,000 people in the county needing academic support (GED) and USD 259 no longer provides GED training. The concern is that a training center is being

developed and residents are not prepared. Ms. Moody stated that Commissioner Tim Norton serves on the Pillar Group and chairs the Adult Basic Education Alliance for Visioneering and the pillar group is coordinating their efforts with the alliance. The Pillar took Adult Education out of their name to allow Visioneering to address the Adult Basic Education needs and avoid duplication. Mr. Kevass Harding stated that US 259 does provide GED training through the technical college, but decreased funding has limited their ability. The three major GED programs are for individuals between 17 and 21 years of age, with a gap for adult resources. KANSEL provides GED training to individuals over the age of 16, but their current capacity is at about 1000 people per year and funding is at capacity. There was a request for demographics against this population and existing program capacity. Visioneering may possibly have these numbers. Mr. Black stated that the issue is also about literacy and asked if it was possible to drill down on these numbers. Ms. Moody stated that literacy is a separate piece currently being addressed by the Literacy Alliance.

Mayor Brewer arrived and welcomed the new members and thanked everyone for their attendance. Mayor Brewer informed the Group that he had recently attended the Mayor's Conference and had discussed NCI with positive feedback from other mayors.

- Margie Phelps, Chair of the Children and Youth Pillar Group provided her report (see attached).
- Debbie Donaldson, Chair of the Physical, Mental and Behavioral Health Pillar Group provided her report (see attached). Ms. Addington requested an age breakdown for the targeted community compared to the rest of the City.
- Mark Stanberry, Chair of the Housing for All Pillar Group provided his report (see attached). Commissioner Welshimer suggested a course for maintaining property for renters and homeownership training possibly through Habitat for Humanity. Mr. Stanberry reported that the Housing and Community Services Department already has a partnership with Habitat along with several other agencies for homeownership training and counseling.
- Chief Norman Williams, Chair of the Safe and Secure Neighborhoods Pillar Group provided his report (see attached)

IV. New Business

- a. Mentoring Grant Application – Ms. Vaughn had forwarded the details of the application to the Policy Group approximately a month ago. Ms. Vaughn requested the participation of several NCI Policy Group members to serve on an Advisory Group to the Mentoring program. Councilperson Williams, Dr. Harding, Commissioner Welshimer and Ms. Addington were appointed by the Mayor to serve on the Advisory Group.
- b. State Reinvestment Funding Request – Secretary Werholtz re-stated the State’s commitment to the NCI effort even though the State would not fund the planning effort, they are expected to make an investment to the implementation piece. The ’08 budgets are closing down and the State is now entering the ’09 budgets with revisions and expected budget cuts of 1-2%. The ’09 final budgets are due in September. There needs to be a determination of the proper mix of funds to support the NCI effort. The prison population is currently stable and it is expected that the deferred expenditures will be invested in neighborhoods like 67214. Until the State knows the details of the Master Plan, the funding mix is unknown. If the Master Plan is not completed by September, then implementation funding requests will have to wait until the next fiscal year (2010) for investment which will make it more difficult for legislators to remember their connection to the initiative. The delegation of representatives for the targeted community is diverse and if they can be brought on board with the effort it would have a positive impact on marketing the necessity of supporting this community.

Ms. Vaughn stated that it was not likely that the Master Plan would be completed by September of ’08, but recommended putting together a small program with a budget to take to the State in September for approval. Ms. Vaughn requested 3-4 Policy Group members to serve on a working group to develop their recommendation. Ms. Moore suggested that Marshall Clements also serve on the working group based on his existing work with the State, which would be helpful in thinking through a strategy to take to the State and fit the timeline. This would be a staging for a larger ask upon completion of the Master Plan.

- V. **Policy Group Meeting Schedule** – Ms. Moore suggested a standard quarterly meeting schedule for the Policy Group with an expectation that during the Master Planning effort ad hoc meetings may need to take place with the consultants. This would put the next Policy Group meeting at September 11, 2008.
- VI. Mayor Brewer closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their participation and commitment to the NCI effort and the community.