

NEW COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE POLICY GROUP
April 24, 2008 MEETING SUMMARY

Policy Group Attendees:

Mayor Carl Brewer
Councilperson Lavonta Williams
Secretary Roger Werholtz
Ed Flentje, City of Wichita
Susan Addington, Koch Industries
Donald Beggs, Wichita State University
Anne Corrison, Knight Foundation
S. Edwards Dismuke, KU School of Medicine
Jim Garner, Department of Labor
J. Russell Jennings, KS Juvenile Justice Authority
Don Jordan, KS Social and Rehabilitation Services
Angela Lampey, Workforce Alliance
John Moore
Lyndon Wells, Intrust Bank
Sharon Keating, KS Department of Commerce
Mary K, Vaughn, Housing and Community Services Department

Marshall Clement, Council of State Governments
Sandra M. Moore, Urban Strategies
Esther Shin, Urban Strategies

Pillar Group Attendees:

Brad Snapp, Housing And Community Services Department
Gloria Markuly, Wichita Region SRS
Michelle Rucker, Housing and Community Services Department

- I. Welcome and Introductions – Mayor Carl Brewer opened the meeting with a welcome, followed by introductions from Policy Group members. Mayor Brewer expressed his thanks for everyone’s attendance and commitment to NCI’s public/private partnership. Mayor Brewer stressed that this was a critical time for the city and the region to do something positive. Mayor Brewer stated that the NCI effort is presenting a rare opportunity to address the cycle of problems occurring in the targeted community. He then raised the question of “What are we as a city going to do with this unique opportunity?” Mayor Brewer commented that economic growth is occurring in the region which is providing a number of opportunities that can be built upon with this process.

II. Global Update – Ms. Sandra Moore provided a background on the process. Ms. Moore re-stated the objective of NCI’s vision: The City of Wichita, Sedgwick County and the State of Kansas have joined together to launch the New Communities Initiative. The initiative is designed to:

- Provide quality housing for all incomes
- Expand employment opportunities for those needing and seeking jobs
- Enhance the learning environment across all age groups
- Reduce the conditions of blight /Revitalize the neighborhood
- Address and positively impact quality of life issues
- Develop nurturing opportunities for children and youth

All for the purpose of supporting and enhancing successful families and sustainable communities.

Urban Strategies was engaged by the Council of State Governments to work with the City of Wichita to improve the working relationship between the three sectors of government (city/county/state) and to support the growing public/private partnership to address the 67214 zip code.

Urban Strategies has been supporting the work of the five pillar groups that were formed to address the priorities that were developed out of existing information pools and data. Ms. Moore highlighted several key pillar group projects, which are attached in the March Pillar Group reports.

Ms. Moore reported on the City’s presentation to the legislature in March with CSG and Urban Strategies.

III. Current Status – Master Plan RFP – Ms. Mary K Vaughn provided a report on the current status of the Master Plan RFP process. Attached is the written report. Ms. Vaughn stated that no local developers had responded, two of the three responses came in under \$250,000 and components of the RFP were attached to her report. A full copy of the RFP was requested, which Ms. Vaughn provided during the meeting. Ms. Vaughn also reported that one of the applicants had reached out to several local organizations as a part of their response. There was a question regarding the lack of responses from local organizations and if that was significant in any way.

Mayor Brewer requested baseline data within each pillar group. Ms. Moore stated that this would be requested in each pillar group’s report for the next Policy Group Meeting.

IV. Current Status – Funding – Mr. Marshall Clement informed the Policy Group that to date the staffing support from CSG and Urban Strategies has not been funded out of local dollars, but national foundation support. He stressed the national interest of the NCI project and the bi-partisan support around prisoner

re-entry programming to support revitalizing communities. Mr. Clement has been working with the national OSI to reach out to local foundations to support the Master Planning effort as well as national foundations. Mr. Clement stressed the importance of integrating the current NCI work into the Master Planning process, and national and local foundations would be approached to fund specific pieces of the Master Planning process and the implementation of the plan. Secretary Roger Werholtz stressed again the State's commitment through the cost savings that will be used to support local communities (67214 as a pilot) and is looking to Wichita to serve as the first model community to receive resources from the prison cost savings legislation and then move to other communities around the state, like Kansas City. But Secretary Werholtz also stressed that the ex-offender issue should not be the center of the NCI project, instead the supporting of distressed communities.

Ms. Susan Addington asked how much the State is looking to contribute. Secretary Werholtz said while there is not a specific number, it will be in the 7 figures and will depend on what the Master Plan looks like.

V. Open Discussion

Ms. Anne Corrison asked whether or not aligned funding had been considered and not pooled funding. Ms. Moore stated that aligned funding was already taking place through the work of the pillar groups. The Pillar groups have been operating on shared resources for their projects and have now come to a point where additional resources are needed.

Mr. Moore asked for detail on the work force hotline calls. Ms. Moore stated that there were over 200 calls specifically from 67214 and the calls themselves were not significant, but the follow up and Ms. Rachelle Moody, the Adult Education and Economic Development Pillar Group chair had provided that information in her most recent report.

Secretary Werholtz followed up by stressing the importance of identifying what success means and how will it be measured. Secretary Don Jordan also wanted to stress the importance of not pushing the 67214 problems out to another community. Ms. Moore agreed, and stated that the evaluation piece will be critical to track both success and the concern Secretary Jordan raised.

VI. Discussion Points

- a. Ms. Vaughn asked Policy Group members to review the RFP and to send their thoughts on key components of a successful proposal
- b. Ms. Vaughn has recommended the addition of a Policy Group member on the RFP selection committee. Mayor Brewer recommended Ms. Corrison to be appointed by the City Manager to serve on the committee. She accepted and will represent the Policy Group on the selection committee.

- c. Mayor Brewer raised the issue of expanding the Policy Group to include key community and civic stakeholders. Recommendations included: Steve Weatherford, Brian Black, a representative from Cargill, the YMCA, Cessna and a neighborhood representative. The Mayor is also seeking updates to the board membership from the County and USD 259. It was also suggested that Holy Savior church be asked to participate on the Policy Group which will provide a link to education and the faith community. Replacements will also be sought in cases where Policy Group representatives have left or are leaving. Ms. Vaughn provided a chart with current membership and proposed membership.

- VII. Closing Thoughts – Mayor Brewer closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their time and commitment, and continued involvement on the NCI project.