

Downeast Community Partners (DCP)
Meeting of the Board of Directors, July 28, 2020

Called to Order: 5:11 PM	Via Zoom	
Roll Call and introductions		
Roll call: Ruth Sousa, Charley Martin-Berry, Betsy Fitzgerald, John Harris, Jonathan Thomas, Lisa Veazie, Wayne Hanscom, Barbara Clark, Walter Kumiega, Grant Lee Quorum present Staff Present: Mark Green, Kevin Bean, Melissa Mattes, Anne Ossanna, Rose Honders, Stacy Brown, Bobbi Harris, Sarah Nugent, Dale Basher, Hook Wheeler Guests: Carol Rupp		
Presentations		
<p>1. At Home – Rose Honders Two sheets prepared and sent to all board.</p> <p>At Home is member-based. The largest part of At Home was facilitated by volunteers. A bit of a problem now. We foster aging in place safely at home. Members do pay a fee, sliding scale. Lowest cost is 12.50 a month. Same access to services that a full paying member (\$3,000 a year)</p> <p>Guaranteed services listed. Do a lot of small around the house type chores – volunteers and staff are masked and cautious, social distancing when working with members in their house.</p> <p>Volunteers all are background checked, all volunteers and contractors are vetted.</p> <p>Core services provided to our members – transportation is biggest need, with volunteers not wanting to do transportation, huge shout out to Cheryl in Transportation Services for getting members to the doctors, dentists, podiatrists. I couldn't do it without them.</p> <p>Home and safety assessments – Info on local resources Home health visits - biggest thing that we provide that other programs do not provide or offer. RNs go in twice a month, take vitals, med reconciliation, evaluations; helps to keep the members healthy. Professional visits – wellness visits – Anne has been awesome, doing meal prep for several people, including one of our members. Member looks forward to the visit each Monday.</p> <p>Question: Only 4 drivers right now?</p> <p>Yes, only 4 now. Pre-COVID, had access to about 50 between Blue Hill and MDI. People are scared. There are other things they will do, but not transporting people.</p> <p>Question: What region do you serve? Blue Hill Peninsula and MDI. Would serve more, but need to recruit volunteers, but not sure how to do that mid-COVID.</p>		

Question: What is the makeup of the members, financially?

Roughly 50% above poverty rate, and 50% below poverty rate.
Most costly part of At Home is the nurses, but they are invaluable.
Majority of members are between 80-90 years old.
13 members on MDI, rest in Blue Hill. Females outnumber males, 36-12.
Medical and grocery are neck in neck as most visits.

2. CSBG – Stacy Brown

Community Services Block Grant, makes us a CAP. In 2015, they came out with new standards, DHHS. Required each year to do a self-assessment on these standards, then state comes in every three years to monitor us. They were here last August. Just got report back. 69 pages of standards and notes! Statewide goal was to have CAPs meet 85% of standards. DCP got 97%, our highest score ever. Improvement plan attached to meet the two standards we missed on. They have given us a year to correct, which isn't a problem.

We received fewer comments than ever before, we should be able to meet 100% of standards by next monitoring visit.

Comment: Well done!

Question: We don't have to do anything for another year?

We have to do the annual self-assessment and submit documentation.

Comment: Put it in the win column. This is huge.

3. Needs Assessment – Bobbi Harris

When COVID crisis happened, we got additional funding from CSBG, which came with a lot of reporting. DCP formed a COVID task force, members came from each division. Congratulations to all of them, they did a bang up job!

Assisted 535 families, total 1375 individuals, age range is 0 to over 70. 33 veterans were assisted, and 221 disabled people were assisted.

We distributed \$67,000 in food cards (restricted grocery cards) and 800 meals at a value of \$5,300. We also delivered 1200 personal hygiene items, with a value over \$12,000. This is mostly baby and adult diapers

Through all of this, we have had to give Stacy demographics, so we began calling people and surveying them on their needs and how we can help. These phone calls became quite in depth, and are really wellness checks, which Stacy can count in CSBG.

So far we have made about 600 calls. A lot of them, we are on the phone for half

an hour or so. People are so grateful that we have called.

The messages we are hearing are powerful, especially when gathered together into one document. This is some of what we have heard:

HOW HAVE YOU BEEN AFFECTED BY COVID 19?

“Isolation scared to go out in public.”

“I stay inside and have COPD. I don't go anywhere.”

“Sick of wearing damn masks.”

“Lots! Isolated! Job laid off”

“I only go once a month to grocery. I can't see my grand-kids.”

“Bored stiff! Only go to grocery store or doctor.”

“Afraid to catch it (virus). Worried about contact with other people.”

“Depressing at times, families can't get together.”

“Lost job, hotel decided not to reopen. Husband has COPD.”

“At first I was annoyed like everybody else. I don't complain, it wouldn't do any good. I keep knitting for family and great- grandchild.”

“Confused.....too much news.....worry about what is going to happen.”

“I suffer from PTSD and depression. Worried about my home, the country, and such divided politics.”

“A nuisance, can't go out to have her cup of coffee in the restaurant, even if she goes out only once.”

WHAT IS YOUR PRIMARY CONCERN FOR YOUR FAMILY?”

“Hopes country doesn't have a recession, want free internet that works good. Would like to look around on the web.”

“The way the country is going, finances, but I try not to think about it.”

“To find a vaccine that so that the virus doesn't return.”

“We aren't going to see the end of this for a while. If we get it we get it. It is hard on the kids.”

“Family is so far away. Will it ever end, rethink how my days go, will anything ever be the same?”

“Afraid it won't be completely over. People hoarding things.”

“Is this ever going to end? Shake-up in the economy? Is there going to be a place for everyone?”

“That we can go out and go to dinner, spend time with family, and do what we want to.”

“What does it mean for the future will prices go up and out of sight? Worried about late payments....will companies insist on their money right now?”

“I don't think it is ever going to be over. People won't be as friendly and outgoing as before.”

“When will it be over and get back to normal? Will things be normal again? Not being able to touch people because of social distancing.”

“I don't see it ending at all. People aren't taking precautions.....opening up too soon.”

“Mental health-School needs of four kids is overwhelming”

“What if vaccine doesn't really work? What are the percentages of small business that won't make it? Walmart and Amazon have taken over. How are small businesses going

to survive?”

“Will the people on unemployment be able to survive without the extra \$600 per week?”

“Will the country be able to build back up?”

WHAT IS YOUR PRIMARY CONCERN FOR YOUR COMMUNITY?

“Financial – with the loss of tourists.”

“I’m afraid they are going to destroy the police. People with anxiety are scary.”

“I just want everyone to function as law abiding and respectful people.”

“People will continue to check on each other and be caring.”

“Appreciate what you have....I want people to be peace, love, and together.”

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE COVID STIMULUS FUNDS SPENT?

“Oil barrel filled before winter.”

“Pay bills, put food on the table.”

“Using little at a time to meet needs.”

“Go to individuals and not big corporations.”

“Helped put oil for heat, would like to get another one.”

“Help people get back to work help with bills and taxes.”

“Paid property taxes, light bill, that was a good thing.”

“I haven't gotten it yet. I will buy food and fix my car.”

“For the hungry, schools and those with small children.”

“To strengthen the economy for people that need masks etc. small businesses.”

Task force meets again this week, to discuss what the future will hold, will things happen all over again? We want to get prepared this time, not be so reactionary.

Mark: These calls were made by existing employees, good foundation for needs assessment, and to help us figuring out how to help through the rest of the pandemic.

4. Introduce guests

Carol Rupp: Jonathan Thomas is my step dad. I am a technical writer, recently relocated after years on the west coast. Expected to be able to line up writing jobs, but the pandemic has changed things. I find time hangs on my hands, so wondering if I can use my skills as a volunteer, thought I would come here and learn more what it is all about.

Wayne Hanscom: Blueberry grower in Roque Bluffs. Fire chief, assistant fire chief, firefighter in Machiasport. Brought here by Betsy.

III Items for Board Action

1. Resolved to approve the Board Meeting Minutes from 6/30/20

Discussion: None

Action: **Barbara** made the motion to approve the minutes, **Walter**

seconded. **Motion passed.**

2. Resolved, to approve the Community Action, CSBG Work Plan for the period of 10/20-9/21.

Discussion: Stacy presented budget last month, gave a quick write up on each section. CSBG requires expansion on that, gave them more detail, and tied back to strategic plan and needs assessment. In board packet.

Action: **Ruth** made the motion to approve the work plan, **Jonathan** seconded. **Motion passed.**

1. Resolved, to nominate Dorthea Crowley of Addison to represent the low-income sector for Washington County on the DCP Board of Directors.

Discussion: Dorthea has served for three years as elected low-income representative sector. She is also treasurer. Under our new by-laws, board nominates, then we put a notice in the paper to see if anyone else wants to run. If so, we hold an election. If not, Dorthea would take the seat.

Action: **Walter** made the motion to nominate Dorthea Crowley, **Jonathan** seconded. **Motion passed.**

IV Reports

1. President's report: Been working my way through the executive director and board self-evaluation process. It is illuminating! Board still has not gotten the ED evaluation yet, but it is forthcoming. If you have not forwarded your board self-eval, please do so. Exec committee will meet, They will evaluate ED. Grant Lee has accepted leadership of the governance committee.

2. Executive Directors Report– Mark Green

Exciting few weeks, Sara Gideon visited the Recovery House yesterday, arranged by Healthy Acadia.

Last week, heard on the MCH grant which we have been working on since last September. Were successful. Now we officially are in both counties.

Today we heard that we got \$240,000 to support Nurse Bridging, expanding into Hancock County.

Interior work on recovery house nearly done, meeting tomorrow, hope to be setting an opening date. Looking for someone to manage the house. Looking at alternatives to a House Manager if we can't find one. Going through a naming process, so far have a two page list. Also will name it tomorrow.

New RFP out – Working Cars for Working families – CAPS working on this legislation for a couple of years. It is more complex than we thought,

public transportation, and brokerage component. Penquis will take the lead, but DCP is the only one that has experience dealing cars, so we will have strong role.

Sad to report that Hook is leaving, been here only a couple of years, but a critical two years, and he has done much to bring this organization together as one.

Dale – update on Tiny House –
Being delivered on Thursday. Set in place on Monday between 8 and 9 am Goodwin construction donating the crane. Three guys from Mass coming from the school, one will remain to complete things and get it buttoned up. Plans changed due to COVID 19, we will learn more about extra work needed when we see it.

As soon as a few weeks ago, weren't sure that we would be able to get it here.

Bobbi adding that this has been partnership that has worked unbelievably well, but it has been a lot of hard work. Dale has done a huge job working with MSM and Assabet, if this team didn't work well together, this would never happen.

School has done an amazing job building the home. Everyone has worked really hard on this team.

Already talking about how we will work the next one, what have we learned. Hope to do another one, perhaps with one of the local schools.

3. Development Committee Report – Ruth Sousa

We missed Barbara at our last meeting, so she doesn't get to do this.

Mark sobered us up right away, reminded us that a lot of people are losing their summer income, expect higher than normal demands on services.

Met Megan, she's a ball of fire! She has created a program to have oil companies deliver flyers with oil deliveries and bills explaining THAW and asking for donations.

Megan is working on a Development program for each division.

Joe Stockbridge won the FC raffle; Barbara sold the most tickets.

Working on the Development plan, but waiting for board self-eval piece from Betsy's process. Want to use the results to guide board activity.

4. Finance Directors Report – Kevin Bean
All received narrative

Cash remains very good, shy of 2.3 million in bank, receivable good, up slightly, surplus is now 217,000. Part of PPP affect. Continue to use it to pay majority of transportation staff, large percentage of ECE, these are ones tied more to child care program. Additional personnel covered by the program are in Elder Services. Basically any of the contracts which are exposed to the effects of the virus, \$471,000 remaining to be spent, expect it to go through all of July and tail end of August; we have until the end of the calendar year to use it. Rules have changed several times, who knows if the new funding will make more change.

Revenues are 4% over budget, expenses are dead on where we want to be for this time of year.

Other items to comment on: \$19,000 away from hitting budget for SEED. It has been slow the last two months, not as confident as I was that we will hit goal.

Transitioning into our budgeting phase for FY 20-21. A lot to consider – Bobbi alluded to it earlier – looking into fall, winter spring, think about the future of the virus and the second wave, be interesting to see what comes. Expect added costs, and reduced revenue. Stacy is holding our feet to the fire to get the budgets done.

5. Head Start Director's Report – Melissa Mattes

Report in packet, highlight a few things. Working on budget, a bit of the moving target. May have to relocate 2-3 programs, because schools don't have space, due to COVID 19. Committed to providing services to all who are enrolled and eligible. Office of HS has been clear that there is leeway on how we provide services, and to how many. Less stress, but still working out how to provide service.

The latest senate bill does not include funds for Head Start, if you are willing to, please write to senators tonight, ask them to include HS.

Early Head Start and Child Care Partnership grant, HS directors have decided to apply for this as a state. Funding amounts are less than expected, not sure what it will mean to us.

We are open, growing classrooms, adjusting practices, will not exceed 12 in preschool classroom, 6-7 in IT, adjusting class sizes, this will hit the child care budget. Rest will be served remotely.

Question:

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Have any of the public schools reached out about child care solutions?

Yes, Calais has been most active asking what will we do with children when they are not in school? This is the only town we have heard from.

Schools are worried about spacing, we can do some adjusting , because shifting schedules are not good for children, especially small children. How do we do this?

How can we support parents (including staff) who need to find child care when children are not in school?

6. Parent Policy Council Minutes from 7/21/2020

7. Other :

Board Members:

I am just boggled about how COVID has changed the world, and how staff has been able to juggle and shift and change to serve people. Kudos to staff.

Thankful to be in Maine where we have few cases of the virus.

Thanks to Hook for helping us navigate a difficult couple of years. Appreciate your help on all of the changes in the last few years.

Hook: the group here is amazing, so dedicated and experienced. You are in good hands.

**Business meeting adjourned at
6:20 pm**

Walter made the motion to adjourn. **Ruth** seconded

Respectfully submitted, Sarah Nugent, Manager Communications and Resource Development