

Power of We Consortium
Leadership and Practice Committee
Minutes – March 23, 2011

Present: Cathy Babcock, Joan Nelson, Dennis Neuner, Mary ZumBrunnen, Katie Ellero, Jim Zachs, Cindie Alwood, Ron Eggleston, Peggy Roberts

AmeriCorps Programs - Update:

- **AmeriCorps*VISTA:** Mary provided a brief written and verbal update on the VISTA program. One VISTA member will soon be ending his year of service and is looking for employment; suggestions were offered by the group.
- **AmeriCorps State:** Katie offered a verbal update on milestones within the program. Both VISTA and State programs are facing potential cuts in fiscal year 2012 as the federal legislature considers deep cost-cutting legislation.

Capacity Building Program:

- Four new organizations have been selected for the 2011 Capacity Building Program including: Friends of Fenner, NAMI Lansing, Hometown Housing Partnership, Inc, and St. Stephens Community Church – Greer Community Center.
- Jim Zachs has offered to create an online Capacity Building Resource Library on the PWC website. He explained his concept and LPC members offered ideas for this new service for nonprofit organizations.
- The LPC's *Connections* capacity building e-bulletin was displayed by projector for all to see the newest format in relation to the old format. The PWC's VISTA member, Serg Ruiz, re-designed *Connections* a few months ago and suggestions for further improvements were accepted from the LPC. One suggestion: highlight the various sections in different background colors and/or change the headers to better differentiate between sections.
- The LPC was asked to support a survey of the readership to determine if the content and format are user-friendly and valuable. Draft questions were provided for feedback. It was decided that Mary would forward the questions to a prof at MSU whose class could review and refine the questions to be of survey-quality. The survey would then be put out to the readership.

Review of LPC Work Plan:

- A brief review of the LPC's Work Plan took place to determine what areas have been accomplished and what areas need attention.
- Two members suggested that continued efforts to support the creation of a nonprofit development center should be encouraged. Peggy provided an update that the next meeting of the exploratory group would be meeting on March 24th and updates would be provided to LPC.
- It was suggested that Jim Zach's work on the online resource library be added under capacity building.

Investors Steering Committee update:

- On March 22nd the ISC certified the selection process for the 4 new organizations accepted into the Capacity Building Program for 2011.
- ISC is also overseeing the PWC's Sustainability Campaign for 2011, and soon into 2012. Due to the extreme budget cuts facing the Ingham County Health Department, the PWC's

major financial contributor, and many other supporting organizations, the campaign is no longer focused on growing the PWC's infrastructure, but rather on simply trying to maintain the status quo.

Resource Sharing:

- Friends of Fenner representative Ron Eggleston reported that Fenner is undergoing a name change to "Fenner Conservancy". Efforts will be made to begin to make this common knowledge.

Next Steps/Next meeting date: Since several people are not able to attend the regularly scheduled LPC meeting in May, there was a suggestion to move the meeting to June 22nd and then cancel the July meeting. Therefore, the next LPC meetings are:

June 22, 2011,	10:00-12:00
September 28, 2011,	10:00-12:00