

SAG Minutes from April 2, 2007

Welcome and introductions by Evelyn Whitmer

Time was given for people to read and approve minutes from Dec. 11, 2006 meeting.

Minutes were approved.

Successes in the Douglas community was talked about by Carol Huddleston and Rhea Morales. Both said the collectiveness that Douglas has as a community is a success. Turning Point networking meeting is going strong. More training on how to engage and keep people/agencies involved is needed. Also more training is needed for leadership. The Community for all ages is still a group that is working towards making Douglas a better place to live and have families.

Lourdes F. talked about the on going diabetes walking group. The group members have brought attention to the problems in the community such as sidewalks in need of repair, and better street lighting needed to the city leaders.

Time was spent on working towards developing ideas on the next steps members want to see this SAG group moved towards. Members split into groups and wrote ideas of the problems, troubles, lacking services, and the directions they would like to focus on with the SAG members.

Ideas brought forth included being a Healthy Community with intergenerational involvement. Communication seems to be a problem between the schools and the general public. There needs to be a youth component to the SAG membership to hear what the younger generation feels is missing in Douglas. Employment, socialization and health care are all problems that need community involvement.

Group 1 & 2 topic was youth issues-- a center for older youth is needed. Interaction with older persons with opportunities for art and music exposure is needed. Prevention of at risk behaviors and the introduction of health issues directed towards the youth age group is another concern voiced by these groups

Group 3 focused on economic issues. All the issues discussed are tied together with economics. Health systems, community growth, school issues, jobs, sustainability of not of profit organizations all depend on a strong economic base in the community.

Group 4 topic was communication and collaboration between different agencies, and people to people about the ongoing activities in the community. A visitor center might be a good idea, or a resource list of what is available in Douglas for services. A positive, passionate individual is needed to lead the effort. Someone who could identify leaders in the community and focus on bringing people together.

Community updates

Anita Woods come from the community garden in Elfrida asking for letters of support for a grant she is working on from the Department of Agriculture. The grant would help

low-income families learn about small raised-bed gardens in their own yards. They are working towards sustainable agriculture/projects.

Lourdes is in the process of writing a grant working with SEABHS for community well-being.

Sister Mary Kirkendroff agreed to be co-chair of the SAG.

Evelyn Whitmer read a letter from Douglas School district about the school tax credit program. The district thanked the group for the effort to mail out letters to inform people about the school tax credit donation. There was an increase in the amount of money donated this year over last year.

The next meeting will be May 9, 2007 at 3:30 pm after the CARE fair meeting.