

Minutes

Franklin Volunteer Network, June 12, 2009

Present: Lana Whittemore, Abused Women's Advocacy Project, Janet Smith, Women, Work & Community, Lisa Laflin, United Way of the Tri-Valley Area, Pauline Rodrigue, MSAD #9, Judy Rawlings, Sexual Assault Victims Emergency Services, Judith Frost, Western Maine Community Action, Tania Gage, Western Maine Community Action, Becky Perkins, University Maine Farmington, Glenn Gordon, Community Concepts Transportation, Pam West, Dennis O'Neil, Farmington Rotary, Joan Moes, Literacy Volunteers, Carlene Wilbur, LEAP, Inc.

Welcome and Introductions

Lisa Laflin (United Way) opened the meeting and welcomed all. Each person in attendance then introduced him or herself.

Peer-to-Peer Network grant/Maine Community Foundation grant

Lisa announced that Trudy Hamilton, SeniorsPlus had applied for and received money from this grant and was willing to share with the Franklin Volunteer Network. Lisa also applied for the grant on behalf of the network and should be hearing soon. They want to give \$1000 to county so the prospects look good. There are also several trainings involved in the grant that grantees are invited to attend including the Blaine House Conference on Volunteerism and the National Conference on Volunteerism.

Lisa is also looking in to applying for the Maine Community Foundation Networking grant on behalf of the FVN which is a grant of \$7500.

Identify training opportunities

The group did a brainstorming of trainings that they would find beneficial.

- Retention of volunteers
- Customer service training for volunteers
- Releasing Volunteers or directing them to other opportunities
- Sensitivity training geared to target populations – Glenn has recently attended several good ones geared toward poverty.
- Train the trainer for customer service was suggested and each representative of each organization described the trainings they currently provide their volunteers
 - Community Concepts – 16 hour customer service training
 - SAVES – 40 hour training

- Literacy Volunteers – 30 hour training
- AWAP – 18 hour training plus shadow current volunteer
- MSAD #9 –depends on the job
- UMF – the supervisor of the volunteer provides the training
- WMCA – all get a confidentiality piece and then individualized training with program they are volunteering with.
- Western Maine CA\$H – 40 hours for tax preparers (all in tax law and preparation) either on-line or in a classroom, 2 hours training for greeters and coaches then paired with experienced volunteer.
- LEAP – new, volunteers don't yet work with consumers but work on projects and fundraisers. Trying to move into having them work with clients.

Month of Caring, September, 2009

Everyone is encouraged to get their participation agreements in ASAP. Fax to United Way at 779-0577 or bring them into the office.

Stuff the Bus with School Supplies was suggested as a big project to offer during the month.

Logistics

- United Way will put it on the website, take calls and refer
- Members were encouraged to extend the invitation to participate to those groups not in attendance. We don't want to leave anyone out.
- New projects are encouraged, we want them to connect to the network. The group then discussed future (not this year) projects that we might want to consider like, Franklin County's Got Talent. Aroostook County United Way does an Aroostook Idol contest as a big fundraiser every year. Lisa will get their manual.

Marketing/Media

- It was suggested that we name a champion to help with the marketing. Bobbie Hanstein of the Daily Bulldog was mentioned as was Paul Gilbert, Rep. from District 87, Pam West, Mountain View Chocolate Shoppe and Rotary, and Gary Perlson, retired from MSAD 58. Members will contact them to see if they are willing and available.
- What do we want for our message? Members are asked to e-mail information used to recruit volunteers to Lisa. Julia from SAVES and Cindy Brophy from WMCA were volunteered to work with Lisa on the marketing.

- The end of July was set for all materials for marketing: testimonials, press materials and what you are doing throughout the year.

Evaluation

- We will contact Maine Commission for Community Services to see what they do for evaluation.

Volunteer Recognition

- An ice cream social at the UMF, North Dining Hall sometime in October was suggested. Different types of gifts were suggested and it was discussed we could give different gifts to volunteers depending on the number of hours volunteered.
- Dennis volunteered to work on the logistics of an Oct. recognition event.

Next Meeting

Friday, July 10th at 8:00 at UMF, North Dining Hall, C