

Thrive! Living Wage Coalition Meeting and Potluck Dinner

Minutes June 25, 2014 5:30 PM

Present: Mo, Betty, Mia, Tim

5:30 – 6:00 **Updates:**

Thrive! table set up at Bayfield “Yard Sale”: received 25 endorsements and had lots of great conversations (Darren, Cherry and Mo)

Mo met with Kirk Komic (Rochester Hotel). He would like to be a Thrive! business spokesperson. He referred Mo to Bryan Dear (The Payroll Department) who is interested in being certified as a LW employer.

Mo has upcoming meetings with VOA and CHAC.

Betty will discuss Thrive! at the Caring Communities Coalition (CCC) First Thursday in Aug.

Scott Kadera came on board as our web designer. Mia and Tim Walker are working on website with Scott and will be doing the maintenance of the website. Scott listed details of items that need to be completed to get the website up in 2-3 weeks. Assignments were made to complete items.

Mo discussed Thrive! with Jo Keck, director of the Small Business Development Council (SBDC). Joe committed SBDC to provide counseling to TERP Aspiring Employers re making a plan to pay a living wage. SBDC has grant funding to provide up to 5 hours free counseling to each employer.

Total Endorsements: 192

Pride Picnic June 21. Kathy and Betty staffed the Thrive! table and circulated through the crowd – got 65 endorsements! Way to go.

6:00 – 6:30 **Dinner** – enjoyed our summer bounty

6:30- 7:00 **Presentation/discussion**

Mia provided instruction on using Google Docs & Facebook

Mo presented information on how we calculated the Living Wage using the Region 9 EDD formula and compared this to methods used by EPI and MIT. We discussed items in our calculation that perhaps should be excluded (entertainment) and items that are not included in the calculation but should be (utilities, basic cable, internet, phone). Mo will work on this.

We discussed the importance of making the community aware of the living wage for families, which is considerably more than that for a single person. We also discussed the issue of part time employment.

Thrive! Employer Recognition Program: We need to complete forms and then do a mock application review to work through the process. Then, we will consult with Just Economics and Western Mass re questions we still have on the certification process. Mia, Tim and Betty will be on the Certification Task Force. Mo and Marsha will be on the Certification Committee. Mo will contact Kathy to see if she will also be involved.

Next meeting: July 23, 2014 at the UUFD Fellowship Hall, 419 San Juan Drive, Durango. 5:30 PM