

La Plata County Thrive! Living Wage Coalition

May 12, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Maureen Maliszewski, Lauren Patterson, Mia Carrasco-Songer, Lynn Griffith, Brooke Frazer

UPDATES:

5/7/15 MM met with Roger Zailneraitis, La Plata Co Development Alliance. Would like to have workshop for employers who are not paying a living wage but would like to. He will follow up with the Small Business Development Center at Fort Lewis

5/8/15 MM met with Pat Senecal, Celebrating Healthy Communities. Discussed their organizational structure and strategies.

Deb Ruddell and Helen Gregory are working on housing costs for Region 9 Eco Dev District. Deb and MM will calculate living wage early June. If Living Wage Rate is increased, it will go into effect July 1.

MM will present about Thrive! to De Colores luncheon meeting at Lost Dog on June 2.

MM will be giving presentation about TERP at UUA GA in Potland, OR. on June 25.

MM interviewed college political science student interested in internship during summer. She needs to get OK from her prof.

TERP – currently 3 applications for review in July. Brooke will make concerted effort to put TERP committee volunteers to work.

Mia and Brooke will present on Thrive! to the Restaurant Association

DISCUSSION/PLANNING

Volunteers:

Tabling –

June 6 Bayfield Yard Sale – Mo and Nancy Fisher

June 13 Durango Farmers' Market – Mo, Pat Rustad, Lauren Patterson

June 27 Gay Pride – Kathy Hall, Lynn Griffith

NEED:

Volunteer Coordinator

Fundraising Coordinator

Decision Making Grid: Reviewed and approved. Will be incorporated into bylaws.

Reviewed Thrive! Action Plan. All agreed that the plan is appropriate. We discussed specifics of each section:

- Build a Coalition – Important to also sustain the Coalition. Discussed importance of and ideas for keeping volunteers engaged and getting low wage workers engaged.
- Education – ourselves as well as various sectors of the community (employers, workers, policy makers, faith-based groups, etc). We agreed to continue to try to have a 15-20 minute educational presentation at each Coalition meeting. Suggestions included: calculation of the living wage; how to do outreach such as when tabling or when discussing wage issues with friends & neighbors; the recent NPR “This American Life” piece on “...changing your mind”.
- Employer Recognition – Brooke presented a 3 year plan (will put on Google Drive).
- Advocacy – We discussed strategy about using social media (such as our newsletter) to communicate national and state actions on wage issues. Now is not the time. Will continue discussion as we make progress in researching policy issues.