

**La Plata County Thrive! Living Wage Coalition**  
**Feb. 13, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

**5:30 – 6:00 Introductions and Updates**

What change would you most like to see regarding living wages?

Attendees: Steve Krest, Nan Uhl, Mark Swanson, Ilona Hruska, Mike Rustad, Pat Rustad, Sarah Wilhelm, Kaitlin Fischer- *a warm welcome to Nan, Mark, and Ilona, first-time coalition meeting attendees!*

Steve Krest would most like to see Colorado law change to allow communities to establish their own minimum wage. Nan Uhl is also interested in changing the law at the state level and first got involved with Thrive! during the Colorado minimum wage campaign. Mike and Ilona are new to working on living wage issues but are interested in learning more and getting involved. Mike Rustad also worked on the minimum wage campaign and would like to see all people in our community earning a living wage to be able to afford to live here. Pat Rustad would really like to see the federal minimum wage raised (from \$7.25) as well as the local minimum wage.

1/13/17 Our First 100 Days Kick Off. Thrive! had table. Collected 55 endorsements, 1 volunteer.

1/14/17 Standing on the Side of Love March – Thrive! members marched with Thrive! banner

Maureen and Mia working on Policies and Procedures

Maureen working on plan for educational event in September on Early Childhood Care and Education

2/27/17 Steering Committee Meeting

3/15/17 Maureen giving presentation at UUFD at 7pm on Next Steps to Living Wages (focus on SB 99-014.) This is part of Our First 100 Days.

4/17/17-4/21/17 Dine Out Durango Fundraiser with TERP food and drink employers

5/4/17 Employer Recognition Program Luncheon at the Ore House – volunteers needed

Week of March 6 – Volunteers needed to help with Employer Acceptance packets. Pat, Nan, and Ilona volunteered and Kaitlin will get in touch with them directly.

Thanks to Steve, Nancy and Ross for helping with outreach for TERP—22 employers were visited as of 2/13/17.

Everyone reflected on who they can personally reach out to about joining TERP...We still need 7 more employers to apply to reach our goal of 100! Volunteers, please reach out and let Kaitlin know so she can follow up!

TERP acknowledgement cards were available for attendees to take and use to help our employers realize the value of being Living Wage certified by Thrive! We have our first application renewal coming up this July!

Sarah Wilhelm shared that the Fort Lewis College chapter of the American Association of University Professors is working on the issue of living wages for adjunct professors.

### **6:00 – 6:30 Potluck Dinner**

### **6:30 – 7:30 Discussion and brainstorming**

Sarah Wilhelm – SC candidate

Sarah Wilhelm has a PhD in Economics from the University of Utah and a BBA from the University of Michigan. For the last 16 years, she has worked providing public policy analysis and lobbying for shared prosperity, including minimum wage policy. Sarah played a role in discussing the effect of minimum wage on individuals, including children, with the Utah and Montana state legislatures. She also conducted research for a West Virginia advocacy group that was successful in raising the state minimum wage, and worked with Grand Junction, Colorado to write an article regarding Colorado minimum wage. One fact Sarah shared is that companies typically spend about 30% of their payroll on hiring and training, an amount which could be put instead toward retaining workers by paying higher wages. Sarah currently works as a Research Analyst at San Juan College.

“I am excited about the opportunity to be on the steering committee because, since I moved to Durango in 2013, I have had limited opportunities to work on public policy. Increasing wages would reduce insecurity, spur the economy and provide shared prosperity for our community. These goals have been the cornerstone of my professional and volunteer activities throughout my career.”

*Sarah Wilhelm was unanimously recommended by meeting attendees to Thrive!’s Steering Committee.*

Confidentiality – Kaitlin read Maureen’s statement and there was a general discussion about being more mindful outside of meetings about not sharing sensitive, personal information. Some examples were shared of when this has come up in the past or could potentially come up.