

La Plata County Thrive! Living Wage Coalition
March 13, 2017 Meeting Minutes

5:30 – 6:00 Introductions and Updates

Attendees: Steve Krest, Darren White, Nancy Fisher, and Kaitlin Fischer

Maureen will resign from Director position by June 1 at the latest, but will continue to be actively involved.

Maureen was interviewed about living wages for a UC Denver “Massive Open Online Class” (MOOC) called “Become a Sustainable Business Change Agent.” This four-part class targets people who are early in their careers or still in school and who want to make positive changes in the world. Maureen’s video clip will be in the fourth part of the series.

TERP Policy Change: Living Wage Employers residing outside of La Plata County who have employees in La Plata County can now be certified. Only the La Plata County branch is eligible for certification.

-Darren suggested we include a question in the TERP application asking if the actual employer is outside or inside La Plata County. Kaitlin is updating the application soon, so will add this in.

TERP Procedure Change: Clarification that food benefits toward the living wage may only be included for the at-cost value of the food, rather than the retail value.

2/27/17 Steering Committee (SC) Meeting

- Liz Ross and Sarah Wilhelm unanimously elected to serve on the SC
- TERP Application Fee approved
 - Non-profits, Faith Communities, and 1-10 Employees: \$50
 - 11-25 Employees: \$75
 - 26-50 Employees: \$100
 - 51+ Employees: \$150

There was a general discussion of how many employers fall into each category. The majority of employers have 1-25 employees, followed by 26-50 employees and then 51 or more (only a few are this big).

3/1/17 SC Member Peter Tregillus gave a presentation on Economic Inequality at Powerhouse Science Center as part of Our First 100 Days.

3/3/17 Women’s Resource Center March for Wage Equality. Darren, Nancy, and Steve marched with the Thrive! banner in downtown Durango, organized by the Women’s Resource Center. A picture with the Thrive! banner was on the front page of the Durango Herald.

Nan, Pat, and Kaitlin are assembling TERP acceptance packets this week.

3/14/17—Tomorrow! TERP Review Committee will review new Employer Recognition Program applications. Suggestions were made to see if an ad can be placed in the Durango

Telegraph and Durango Magazine. Darren said he could do an email blast announcing and listing all 100 employers.

3/15/17—This Wednesday! Darren White is giving a presentation at UUFD at 7 PM on “Next Steps to a Living Wage” (focus on SB 99-014.) This is part of Our First 100 Days.

-Darren found great information on the topic from the Colorado Center on Law and Policy.

3/17/17 4 PM Indivisible Durango Meeting re: Immigration

3/30/17 Durango Green Drinks 5-6:45 PM at Carvers. Hosts are the Sustainability Alliance of SW Colorado (SASCO) and Great Old Broads for Wilderness.

4/8/17 Growing Partners’ Homegrown Retreat in Ignacio

4/10/17 Next Coalition Meeting as well as TERP Committee Meeting and Steering Committee Meeting

5/11/17 1st Annual TERP Employer Luncheon at the Ore House—Volunteers Needed!

-Nancy would like to volunteer; Darren can possibly volunteer.

6:00 – 6:30 Potluck Dinner

6:30 – 7:30 Discussion and Brainstorming

4/17/17-4/21/17 Dine Out Durango: Five Days for a Living Wage Fundraiser with TERP food and drink employers: 81301 Coffee Roasters, Eolus, Fifth Street Eatery, Ore House, Ska Brewing, and Zia’s. Be sure to invite 5 friends! Let Kaitlin know if you would like a color version of the poster.

-Darren suggested putting up acknowledgement cards with Dine Out Durango fliers so that customers who patronize these businesses for the fundraiser can indicate that. Is there another way customers should tell businesses they are attending as part of the fundraiser?

-Nancy is going to send the flier to a group she is involved with to see if they can hold their monthly dinner during Dine Out Durango.

-More Publicity ideas: Our First 100 Days Calendar, KSUT Calendar (Mo did this already!)

Committee Sign-Up and Check-Ins Regarding 2017 Roadmap Planning Tasks

- Fundraising: solicitation of individual donations, planning fundraising events, grant writing, and more.

Meeting attendees suggested Liz Ross to possibly lead this committee. There was discussion of looking into the UUFD Share the Plate again.

- TERP: Kaitlin will add information about TERP employer job postings to the application (for new employers and renewals) and to the April e-newsletter. Kaitlin should also update TERP materials to reflect this new added value of program participation.

Kaitlin updated attendees about a possible new partnership with Cooking Matters to discuss Thrive! with their program participants. Cooking Matters Program Manager Erin Jolley suggested that a needed service is knowing which employers are friendly to Spanish-speaking workers. Kaitlin could add this (optional) question when employers submit job announcements. Kaitlin could talk with Compañeros about this idea.

- Education: Possible Event Ideas that came up were:
 - 1) Reflecting on personal beliefs regarding the value of work of certain jobs over others. Darren suggested Thrive! focus on the people in undervalued jobs and their need to earn enough to support their families; should incorporate personal stories. Nancy felt this tied in to the lack of availability of jobs in the area; there is not always the option of finding something “better.”
 - 2) Showing a one hour PBS segment on income inequality called “Park Avenue: Money, Power, and the American Dream.” Possible locations are the Durango library or Noble Hall at Fort Lewis. <http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/films/park-avenue/>
- Advocacy: Indivisible Durango has an Income Equality Committee of which 3 Thrive! members are a part. Indivisible is tracking legislation that they do not want to pass such as the National Right to Work Act, Taylor Act, and American Health Care Act, which have significant connections to income inequality. Tele-meetings are the third Monday of every month.
Also, the labor initiative wing of the Democratic Party reorganizes every two years, and this just happened.