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**Community Advisory Board**

**Minutes for March 13, 2020**

* **Welcome/Introductions**
* **Schools:** 
  + **Bester Elementary School**
    - *South End 21 total enrollment:* 87
    - *School Based Health Clinic total enrollment*: 223
    - *Wellness Wednesdays:*  The concept was developed at the BCOH October Steering Committee Meeting.  We have had ups and downs with attendance, even though the parents chose the topics.  This committee also meets with the school-based wellness committee to provide streamlining.  Looking forward to a stronger group next year.  The Community Free Clinic, Health Department and the Jack E. Barr Center have been wonderful expert partners! Family Involvement
    - *Walking School Bus total enrollment:* 180. Two new Ambassadors: Laura Wilson at Maryland Ave and Alexis Broder at Frederick Manor. Average of 60 students participating weekly Dec/Jan/Feb with January and February events happening inside the gym at Bester Elementary. Theme: Go BIG or Go Home with local guests who make a big difference in the community (Hagerstown Fire Department, local recruiters office, 96.7 DJ Ryan Smetzer)
  + **E. Russell Hicks Middle School**
    - *South End 21 total enrollment*: 41
* **Family Involvement**: he South End 21 Program offers Family Fun Fridays the third Friday of each month from 5-6 PM in the school Café. The typical evening consists of a meal, (walking tacos, pasta evening, etc.) and an activity for the students and family members to participate in together. Some of the activities have included; painting kindness rocks, artist led paint night, BINGO, etc.  The parents and family members have indicated on numerous surveys that they really, really enjoy the evening and look forward to them each month.
  + **Open Positions:** Site Coordinator at ERH, Program Assistants
* **Families:** 
  + December, January, February: total of 38 referrals and 19 successful transitions

December: 30 families,137 individuals

January: 43families, 194 individuals

February: 42 families,194 individuals

A total of 267 home visits and 685 service connections

* **Community:** 
  + South Side Community Block Party
    - September 19, 2020 at City Park with Fall Fest
    - Music and activities suggestions: Suggestions included a scavenger hunt with QR codes, karaoke contest, using local talent
  + Better Together
    - Suggestions or areas of need in the community
  + South End Walking Loop: ~~Kick off March 20, 2020!~~  Update: as of 3/16/2020: This activity has been postponed in the interest of public health during the Covid-19 outbreak.
  + Community Enhancement Projects:
  + Crosswalk Design Contest at Bester Elementary School: students in 4th and 5th grade have been invited to submit their concepts for crosswalk designs. Two winners will be selected and designs will be painted on the crosswalks located at the entrance to the school at S. Potomac St and Mill St. Update: as of 3/16/2020: deadline for submission extended due to Covid-19
    - Community Art projects – Hager Park was identified as a potential location. Comments included representing diversity, positive character traits, incorporating early learning (sensory path), protective factors, and neighborhood recognition
  + Scheduled Pantry on the Go – April 8, 2020 (tentative)

 Open Discussion, Community News and more

A short discussion on the Covid-19 situation was held. Comments included:

* WCPS has indicated the Meal Machine will be in operation to serve those under the age of 18 years old with a breakfast and lunch meal. (Note: as of 3/16/2020 Governor Hogan’s office stated they have applied for a waiver to also serve dinner. www.mdsummermeals.org will be updated regularly)
  + St. John’s Episcopal Church is slated to host a Community Café on March 28, 2020. This may shift to be a take-out only event. Update: as of 3/16/2020: This activity has been cancelled in the interest of public health during the Covid-19 outbreak.
* Food pantries plan to remain open at this time.
* Reminder to be aware of safety for children in the community and online.
* Essential for communities to work together to support each other
* Office of Consumer Advocates will be conducting food drops weekly over the summer Update: as of 3/16/2020: This activity has been postponed in the interest of public health during the Covid-19 outbreak.
* Salvation Army is looking to expand services in the future by providing skills courses and more resources for older adults – looking to hire staff for their community center to increase capacity of those that they can serve

**Next meeting date: June 12, 2020 at 5:30pm at the Washington County Free Library**