

Camden County Workforce Investment Board Faith-Based Task Force

March 6, 2008
Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Rev. Tony C. Evans, Sr
Gary Divens
Rev. Eric Dobson
Denise N. Velazquez-Marrero
Rev. James C. Jones
Robin Widing
Melody Dickinson
Linda Winfield
A.D. Lingo
Leona Tanker
Carole Misinkavitch
Donna Johnston

I. Debrief from Meeting with the Camden City Mayor and COO

On February 7th, Jack Gallagher, Linda Winfield, Leona Tanker and Father Joe met with Mayor Faison, Judge Davis and Brett Waters to brief the Camden City Leadership on the TMCC project and Faith-Based Collaborative concept. The meeting was very successful and the support received from the City laid the groundwork for the WIB to work closely with the City on this project in the future.

Linda Winfield was given a contact of who to work with at the City and will forward this information to the WIB.

II. Discussion on and Determination of Best Strategies for Gaining FBOs' Consensus

Moving forward with the momentum gathered from the Mayor's meeting, the Task Force discussed the best strategy for moving forward and taking the FBO Foundation Collaborative for Community Transportation to the faith-based community. Attendance has been limited at best at the meetings where the WIB has tried to convene all of the FBOs at one time, and the Task Force agreed that although many ministers would be interested in participating in the Collaborative, their busy schedules frequently come between them and attending this type of meeting.

Therefore, the Task Force proposed the following strategy:

- The WIB will reach out to specific associations and conferences (see below) with a letter requesting a meeting to discuss the FBO Foundation Collaborative.
- Specific members of the Task Force agreed to follow-up with these organizations and meet with them at the time and place best for the organizations.
- At those meetings, the Task Force members will walk the FBOs through the FBO Collaborative, including incentives for participating.
 - Help each association understand what services can be provided through the Collaborative and what the requirements are for providing each services. (The matrices that have been developed will support this process.)
 - Determine what process is needed to reach out to their conferences' constituencies.
 - Secure MOUs with the appropriate representatives from clergy association.
- The rationale for this strategy is to begin to build the support base for the collaborative concept and begin the FBO sign-up process. The associations touch large groups of churches and will self-identify the key people who should be involved, instead of the WIB trying to identify and convene the appropriate people.
- After the meetings with the associations/conferences have concluded, the key parties have been identified and the faith-based community is familiar with the FBO Collaborative, it may be appropriate to reconvene all of the FBOs in a larger meeting at one time.

Task Force members volunteered for the above responsibilities for the following organizations.

- Bethany Baptist—Rev. Jones
- Ministers Conference of Woodbury and Vicinity—Rev. Jones
- Concerned Black Clergy—Rev. Jones
- CCOP—Linda Winfield, Father Messina
- Association of Hispanic Pentecostals—Denise Vasquez ??
- Pennsauken/Merchantville—Rev. Dobson
- AME—Tony Lingo
- AME Zion—Rev. Evans
- Winslow Township (forming, Pastor Kevin Scott contact)—Rev. Dobson
- Bethany Baptist, Lindenwold/Abundant Harvest—Rev. Evans

Recognizing that this list was developed on the spot at the meeting, it may not be inclusive of all key associations. Reverend Evans will help identify additional organizations to which the WIB should outreach.

Reverend Jones will be attending the Bethany Pastors Meeting on Saturday, March 8th and offered to advocate for the FBO Foundation Collaborative. Denise is revising the Concept Paper for distribution at the meeting and will work with Rev. Jones to ensure he receives it.

III. Update on Camden City Resolution

Tony Lingo circulated a draft resolution authorizing an MOU with the WIB to go before City Council. This resolution will officially authorize the WIB to work with the Department of Health and Human Services and move forward in developing the incentives being explored in the Concept Paper.

To assist Tony with preparing the resolution to go before City Council, the WIB will prepare a cover letter to the Mayor and COO, attach a list of the Camden City Initiatives Committee membership and attach the tentative vehicle inventory list.

Moving forward, Tony Lingo has offered to keep the Task Force and Camden City Initiatives Committee advised on the status of the resolution.

IV. Next Steps

The following action steps arose from this meeting:

- The WIB will draft letters requesting to meet with the faith-based associations/ conferences named above, as well as any additional organizations identified by Rev. Evans.
- Members of the Task Force will follow up with the associations to secure a meeting and meet with the associations to discuss the FBO Foundation Collaborative.
- Denise has offered to revise the Concept Paper and will work with Reverend Jones to have it at the Bethany Ministers meeting.
- The WIB will work with Tony Lingo to provide the necessary documentation for the City Council resolution. This includes preparing a cover letter and submitting the CCI Committee list and tentative FBO vehicle inventory.

Jack Gallagher, Leona Tanker and Father Joe will meet with Bishop Gallante to discuss the FBO Foundation Collaborative on April 11th.

The next Camden City Initiatives Committee meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, April 3rd at 9:30 am at the One-Stop Conference Room.