

Thrive! Union

Meeting Minutes

Date: June 12, 2019

Location: Union County Department of Human Services, 2330 Concord Ave., Monroe, NC

Meeting Facilitated By: Keith Adams

Attendees

Name	Agency	Email	Phone Number
Lillie Seels	Union County Community Action	lseels@uccainc.org	704-283-7583
Karis Manus	Union County Community Action	karis.manus@uccainc.org	704-283-7583 ext. 0243
Crystal Robinson	Union County Human Services	crystalc@co.union.nc.us	704-296-4489
Steve Ramsey	Union County Human Services	Steve.Ramsey@co.union.nc.us	704-296-4320
Ivy Allen	United Way	ifallen@uwcentralcarolinas.org	
Dina Smith	Alliance for Children	dsmith@theallianceforchildren.org	
Lori Spruiell	Union County Public Schools	lori.spruiell@ucps.k12.nc.us	704-296-0152
Lisa Cooper	Union County Charities & Service Awareness	charityawareness@commonheart.org	704-776-1215
Dennis Thompkins	Common Heart	Dennis.Thompkins@commonheart.org	704-776-6792
Corey Tossas	Common Heart		
Mary Garceau	David's Backpacks for the Homeless	davidsbackpacks@gmail.com	704-207-9367
Ashley Burts	UC Health Department	Ashley.burts@unioncountync.gov	704-296-4878
Sandy	Common Heart		
Keith Adams	Common Heart	Keith@commonheart.org	704-458-3744

Welcome and Introduction – Keith Adams opened the meeting and allowed a time of introductions for attendees, as well as agency updates.

- UCCA's pilot program PROPEL (Professional Readiness Opportunities for People Engaged in Learning) will be starting in July 2019. The program will offer early childhood education classes on-site at the Winchester Center.
- United Way's Day of Caring will be coming up in August. Over 1000 volunteers will spend 3 hours doing yardwork, etc. for families in need as well as helping local nonprofits.
- Common Heart's graduation ceremony for the Getting Ahead Program will be June 13th. The Firecracker Run will also be held on July 4th. One of the Getting Ahead graduates was recently selected for a scholarship to attend the upcoming conference in Indianapolis.
- David's Backpacks for the Homeless recently partnered with the Community Shelter of Union County and was able to help another friend experiencing homelessness to obtain housing. This makes for 11 individuals total who have been able to move from homelessness to housing.
- The Health Department recently partnered with the Union County jail to provide Hepatitis A vaccinations for those who are incarcerated.
- UCPS recently completed state monitoring for the Title I and McKinney-Vento Act Programs.

- The steering committee attended a meeting with the Rotary Club this week to present on the work of Thrive! Union. The presentation seemed to be well-received.

Subcommittee Presentations

• Duplication of Services

- A representative was not available for this subcommittee. Keith Adams led the discussion based on the updates from the last steering committee meeting. The subcommittee has not yet selected a Chair and Co-Chair due to the members fluctuating from month-to-month. They have also discussed changing the focus from “Duplication of Services” to “Coordination of Services.” They have discussed using existing resources such as Aunt Bertha or Phil’s List to gather information regarding agency services. They have also discussed possible ways of sharing information for coordination of services, such as through the Charity Tracker database.

• Gaps in Service

- Lisa Cooper presented for the Gaps subcommittee. Lisa was selected as the Chair of the subcommittee and Karis Manus was selected as the Secretary.
- The subcommittee has discussed gaps they are aware of in their own organizations. They have also worked to develop a draft survey of approximately 5 questions to distribute to those in need in order to identify the most pressing needs in the community. Narrowing the survey to these five basic questions will hopefully ensure a greater number of responses.
- Based on feedback from the coalition, the following suggestions were made:
 - For question 1, adding an option for “services not available”
 - For question 4, defining “serious emergency” or removing the word “serious”
- In regard to community outreach and survey distribution, the following suggestions were made:
 - Translating the survey into other languages
 - Documenting when and where information is captured and being intentional to include rural areas such as Wingate and Marshville
 - Using outreach methods such as: setting up a booth at events, knocking on doors, visiting churches, senior centers, DHS, etc.

• Community Engagement

- Lillie Seels presented for the Community Engagement subcommittee. They have selected Crystal Robinson as the Chair, Steve Ramsey as the Co-Chair, and Ashley Burts as the Secretary.
- Crystal and Steve were able to attend the Rotary Club meeting with the steering committee.
- The subcommittee has met by conference call and is working together outside of the coalition meetings to create a spreadsheet of key partners. The list has approximately 180 identified key partners and they are now working to populate the list with contact information for each partner. They are also working on developing an approach to ensure community partners receive a consistent message when they are contacted.
- Time was allowed for other members of the coalition to provide any contact information they have for the key partners they work regularly with in order to help populate the list.

Closing Discussion – Keith Adams discussed the possibility of Thrive! Union hosting other events such as a poverty simulation for community partners, or a social gathering, to increase awareness and connectivity within the coalition.

Next meeting: July 10, 2019. Location: UC Department of Human Services, 2330 Concord Ave., Monroe, NC.

