



Visioneering Wichita
Racial Diversity, Opportunity & Harmony Alliance
(RDOH)
Meeting Notes

May 1, 2008

Attendees: Gennelly Pacholski, René Tario, Lavonta Williams, Kendall Heier, Gail Finney, Gary Blevins, Mohan Kambampati, Barbara Chamberlin, Ed Bricknell, Maria Bias, Nora Rodriguez, Brenda Dietzman, Deann Smith, Terri Moses, Jeff Usher

Introductions: Deann Smith, United Methodist Open Door

Review and accept minutes from last meeting: The April 10, 2008 minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Comments: Diane Longfellow reported on a recent conversation with Henry Luke. Henry suggested that community presentations regarding the most recent survey, since there was limited improvement, might not be beneficial. Instead, Diane provided strategies from the Visioneering Wichita handbook for participants' to review. Alliance members were asked to find strategies that would move the needle on closing the income gap.

RDOH – Perception Survey: Brenda Deitzman presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the recent survey. Brenda interpreted the data and pointed out that there were gains in several areas. Scores improved in the following categories: a) low income individuals; b) minorities; c) business opportunities for minorities; and d) persons without a college degree. Overall, the scores have improved, somewhat, due to the efforts of Visioneering Wichita. One example would be the Minority Business Initiative. Brenda will finalize the presentation which will then be posted on the VW website. A slide has been added "What is the Alliance doing". Brenda asked for ideas about what other alliances are doing.

Brenda provided information about a recent program entitled 'Study Circles.' Sue Castille, Diversity Kansas, is interested in locating funds for this initiative. Brenda suggested that RDOH reach out to our community partners in an effort to secure volunteers and funding for this proposed project.

Brenda mentioned the need to get Vision Partners more involved. The alliance plans to send out a letter asking: (1) what are you doing as a Vision Partner; (2) how is it progressing – list successes; (3) what can the RDOH alliance do for you; (4) what can you do for the RDOH alliance. Barry & Terri will draft the letter.

Review, Revise & Refocus: CCSR staff discussed this upcoming effort to celebrate the fifth anniversary of Visioneering Wichita! Currently there are 481 ‘vision partners’ for Visioneering Wichita.

Commitments

WHO	WHAT	WHEN
Participants	Review strategies that were provided prior to the next meeting	Ongoing
Participants	Bring one ‘actionable step’ to the next meeting	June 19th
Lavonta Williams	Will contact Department of Education or Denise Wren, USD259 for graduation rates	June 19th
Leadership Team	Attend next Leadership Team meeting	June 5th @3:30 pm

Follow up:

- **Leadership Team Meeting:** Thursday, June 5th @3:30 pm [CCSR Bldg.]
- **RDOH Alliance Meeting:** June 19th, 2008 3:30 [CCSR Bldg.]
- Diane will send reminders to Leadership Team members and Alliance members