



Meeting Minutes

EVENT | LaGrange Partners

DATE | February 14, 2023

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Present | Amanda Torres, Bonita Byman, Brittany Gilger, Cathy Parks, Cheri Perkins, Daniel Foster, Denise Landers, Emilee Fincher, Erica Cook, Greg Giczi, Heather Thiel, Jackie Christman, Jenna Overmyer, Jenna Anderson, Jennifer Kennedy, Julie Poertner, Justine Warren, Kathy Dunafin, Kevin Showalter, Laurie Sherck, Leanna Martin, Lisa Eicher, Martha Savage, Meggan Testin, Mike Marturello, Miranda Kinney, Pam Deetz, Rachel Morrison, Ron Sherck, Sara Patrick, Sonya Nash, Steve Sherck, Tammy Stafford, and Viviana Guzman.

Welcome, Leanna Martin: We are excited to host LaGrange Partners, we plan to continue building connections and awareness about organizations and services in LaGrange County. Special Thank you to Pam Deetz with the Community Health Clinic as she guided this group previously.

We will resume bi-monthly lunch meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (next: April 11). Each meeting will include an opportunity for each attendee to share news and current programming or resources. If you have a resource to share, you may provide it to me before or after the meeting and I will be sure to include it on the resources page (prefer pdfs or links to websites or documents).

You will be able to access meeting minutes, agendas, and resource documents through Foundation's website: lccf.net/LaGrangePartners

Roundtable

Leanna Martin, LaGrange County Community Foundation: Spring Community Impact Grants are open, the deadline to apply is April 3. Typical grant request amounts range from \$5,000 – 25,000. You must be a 501(c)(3) and can apply in 6 areas of interest: Arts & Culture, Education, Recreation, Environment, Health & Human Services, and Community Development. To apply visit: lccf.net/community-impact-grants. Grant Workshop will be provided Feb. 23 in the Community Room, 5:30 -6:30. We will walk through the application process, examples of budgets, and tips on how to tailor a strong story. Please register by Feb. 22 online at lccf.net/events.

Steve Sherck, Agape Missions: Homeless shelter with three apartments in LaGrange. Raise funds by fundraising with Masters Hand BBQ. Looking for another house, to expand in another community possibly, Wolcottville or Topeka. Rustin Krapfl is president and Beth Bezee is program manager.

Laurie Sherck, LaGrange County Community Foundation: Scholarships are due Feb. 15. We also administer the Lilly Scholarship.

Emilee Fincher, LaGrange County Economic Development: Founders Forum in Topeka, entrepreneurs' discussion. LaGrange Leadership is wrapping up and had LaGrange leaders present at the meetings. Plan to host LaGrange Leadership in the fall, anyone is welcome to learn more about LaGrange and leadership.

Emilee Fincher, Main Street LaGrange: Community Meeting next month, watch for invites & dinner by donation.

Heather Thiel, Catholic Charities: Looking to expand mentor/mentee program into LaGrange, looking for volunteers. Utilities assistance is available, rent, utilities, food, gas cards, etc. applications can be found online.

Kathy Dunafin, Elijah Haven Crisis Intervention Center: Getting ready to open an office in Angola. Offering two licensed therapists.

Cathy Parks, Children First Center: Prevention and intervention services. April is child abuse awareness month, seminar being offered at Kruse Education Center to rejuvenate staff, invites will come. June 9 golf outing at Cobblestone for fundraising.

Jenna Anderson, Thrive by 5 Early Childhood Coalition: Recently merged with LaGrange County. Increasing capacity of quality childcare. Determining how to increase capacity in LaGrange County. Emerging providers event to be held on Feb. 23 in Albion, open to anyone who is interested in childcare, how to nurture that interest and help them become professional leaders. Currently there are two childcare centers in LaGrange County: Rainbow Years Learning Center that has 75 spots and expanding with additional 25 and Imagination Station with 16 spots. Data shows there are 985 children needing care in LaGrange County.

Denise Landers, Crossroads United Way: Kids United Parade, during Corn School will raise money to focus on kids. Read United programs in all the schools, volunteers read the books and donated to classrooms. Kindergarten readiness program getting ready to launch in LaGrange County.

Amanda Torres, Geminus Child Care Resource and Referral: Meeting with businesses on the importance of early childcare. Offers help with licensees on opening a childcare facility and other resources. Provide data on childcare.

Jenna Overmyer, Geminus Child Care Resource and Referral: Help families with finding quality childcare, also offer resources for housing insecurity, assistance in rental assistance, diapers, anything a family may need. Partner with resources as well.

Bonita Byman, Children First Center: Work with DCS providing a home based case management and partners with SCAN. Parenting classes offered free.

Rachel Morrison, Children First Center: Provide education to schools about shaken baby syndrome, high school & middle schools. Prenatal classes in the hospitals.

Meggan Testin, Children First Center: Healthy Families, development support for families for first 3 years. Community resources help and referrals.

Martha Savage, Before5: Education to parents on child development and positive parenting. Provide information to library, tips on building relationships with their child. Prenatal class at Parkview LaGrange.

Sonya Nash, Shippshewana and LaGrange County Convention and Visitors Bureau: Online event calendar is available for community events.

Pam Deetz, Community Health Clinic: Building a new facility in Shippshewana, late summer early fall to move in. Follow up newborn screenings. Fundraiser April 28 in Topeka Livestock Building to support operations.

Tammy Stafford, St. Martin's Healthcare: Dental, family doctor, behavioral counseling for uninsured or under insured. Plan to provide a mobile unit next month or April in LaGrange County. Currently in Garrett, mobile unit to come to Topeka Pharmacy and the Community Health Clinic. Plan to have a schedule next month.

Viviana Guzman, Purdue Extension: Finance, nutrition, health and wellness and human development education. Currently providing education to the county employees and working with JDAI.

Brittany Gilger, Purdue Extension: Provide the 4H program in LaGrange County. Partner with schools on vaping education and leadership for youth.

Jennifer Kennedy, Head Start: Provide 3-5 years old, income based, childcare service. Enrolling for next year, March is enrollment. New playground recently purchased. Providing families with resources.

Lisa Eicher, Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority: Assistance with housing. Taking referrals 14-24 years old, job placement, food assistance, so student can remain in school. Currently assessing resources and gaps in resources and report back to Department of Education and Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority.

Sara Patrick, LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce: Partnering with Work One on HR roundtable. Field of Dreams Career Expo for all LaGrange County students partnering with Northern Indiana Educational Service Center. Next month hosting Connect Her Conference, for women.

Miranda Kinney, LaGrange County Department of Child Services: Connecting and providing families with referrals.

Greg Giczi, PBS Michiana WNIT: Childcare and early childhood education, provide five different programs on 27 different channels. Seeking a volunteer for a representative on the Community Advisory Council.

Justine Warren, LaGrange County Department of Child Services: Biggest needs domestic violence, substance abuse, housing, and connecting them with resources.

Julie Poertner, Crossroads United Way: Taking letters of intent due on Sunday, focus on kids, kids education, health, and financial stability. Kids United for ages 18 and under and Stable Households. Needing reports from previous grants. We only fund programs. EFSP funding is available, \$7,500, apply for food pantry, rent or utility assistance.

Daniel Foster, WorkOne: Working closely with Chamber, work with local employers on their hiring needs and offer employee training. Work opportunity tax credits, retraining, employment training grants. Work with the state, Workforce Development.

Erica Cook, LaGrange First Church of God: Organizing events and projects, like the Tree Festival raised money to support Elijah Haven. Encourage our church congregation to serve our community.

Cheri Perkins, LaGrange County Council on Aging: Recently ordered two new vans. Offer activities at the Senior Center and food pantry, Community Harvest food bags delivery program.

Mike Marturello, Mongo Community Development Association: Breakfast on April 8 at the Mongo Fire Department. Focus on safety within the community. Developing sidewalks with EDIT funds (\$5,000/year) to access the town park.

Ron Sherck, Salvation Army: Provide rent, utility, and food assistance. A mobile unit looking for collaboration or partnership, to do the food distribution and looking for location for an onsite case worker.

Kevin Showalter, Indiana Youth Institute: Provide cafes and workshops in communities, Feb. 27 in Steuben County and Feb. 28 in Allen County, both on food insecurities. Working with Lilly Foundation on Strengthen Youth Programs in Indiana (SYPI) grant, providing information sessions on this grant and workshops as well on how to apply for funding.

Jackie Christman, Impact Institute: Offering free classes for 16 years and older to those needing to finish their high school diploma, have funding to provide the test for free through June. Partner with WorkOne to work on individual's skills or training. Also help with college opportunities. Provide education at the Wolfe Community Building in Shipshewana and at the LaGrange Library.

Next meeting April 11.