



Introductions and Updates – How organizations have adjusted priorities as a result of COVID-19

- **Portage County Business Council, Todd Kuckkahn-** Shifted to “Zoom-brid” events. Getting information out to businesses and advocating for them at the state level. Portage County Prosperity 2030 identified 7 hot issues in the community. Working with business leaders around uncomfortable conversations surrounding DEI.
- **St. Michael’s Foundation, Margo Willard -** Completed their Annual Report their Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) with Portage County; was impressed with the amount of work completed despite the pandemic. Mental Health has shown through as something that will have accelerated need and they are looking to find ways to support those efforts through COVID.
- **Portage County, Jeff Schuler and Mindi McCord –** County shifted to tele-work and pleasantly surprised at the smooth transition from office to home. Working on Prosperity 2040 and how to take a longer term view for the County. Paused now to figure out how to assist in the long range planning in the community and how to be a convenor for any long term planning. Exploring how the County can tap in and be apart of the larger efforts.
- **Sentry Foundation, Kalynn Pempeck -** Participating to get a pulse on the needs in the community and how Sentry can be a part of that as a community partner.
- **Stevens Point School District, Cory Hirsbrunner-** The District is distributing diplomas to seniors today in special drive through ceremony. Summer School has started with 530 kids in a face to face format that has gone very well so far. Monitoring what is going on in the community and state to make a decision regarding the reopening model for the upcoming school year.
- **Portage County Health & Human Services, Elizabeth Beck, Gary Garski –** Working on leading the Community Health Improvement Plan. AODA and Healthy Weight efforts continue, but much of the work was sidelined when COVID hit; 80-90% of efforts are focused on COVID. Youth Mental Health First Aid Training received funding; county is working with United Way to actively promote the training to the public. Training is August 13 & 14 – information will be shared to the group.
 - For questions or to receive the Youth Mental Health First Aid training flyer to distribute to contacts, email becke@co.portage.wi.us.
- **Central Rivers Farmshed, Jenny Riggenschach –** Partnering with Sib Pa through CAP Services to strengthen Hmong Families and assist the mobile pantry with fresh food. Efforts are going well and looking to explore collaboration with Operation Bootstrap. Hired an intern to better understand Hmong Farmers and what role Farmshed could play to assist them. Just signed the 6th business in their kitchen and seeing businesses start in this COVID time. Exploring how they can deliver education that meets nutritional needs that families have?
- **Wisconsin State Senator Patrick Testin –** Trying to help people grapple with what is going on at the state and federal level, specifically unemployment. Trying to serve as hub for partners. Dealing with the Verso Mill closing in Rapids. Trying to get stakeholders from State level to help us in some way (Find a new buyer, if there is interest, different industrial option). This will have a huge economic impact in Wood County (\$700 Mil, 10,000 jobs) as well as an impact in Portage County. Task force is trying to make sure families that worked at that mill are taken care of.
- **CREATE Portage County, Greg Wright –** Learning how to be a flexible organization that can respond to the needs in the community. What role can they create play with businesses or organizations to help move in a new direction. Helping consultants with providing local information and working to support projects and businesses after a consultant’s contract is up. PPE Face Shield project during COVID worked

with 37 hospitals across the state. Working with 5 police chiefs regarding reform with diversity. Bringing people together across county lines for conversations. Open to ideas/conversation.

- **UW Extension, Nathan Sandwick** – Adapted programming to address a variety of community needs to continue services and supporting efforts to hold open meetings on Zoom. Special opportunities to address emerging needs – including a program to help restaurants stay in business (tips on how to stay in business), Helping organizations with strategic planning – helping in the face of the unknown future and more. ‘Wait and see’ won’t work forever so how can they help plan in the unknown. Focus on community planning with local governments as partners.
- **United Way of Portage County, Mae Nachman, Lisa Falduto**– United Way continues to focus on connecting people in need to resources available in the county, including 211, outreach to municipalities, Community Emergency partners, COVID-19 Relief Fund and connecting volunteers with the opportunities available. Stepped up with communicating with programs they fund to support those they serve and their needs. Lisa Falduto reported on the Collective Impact/System change efforts through Born Learning & Mental Health. Mental Health Executive Team meeting to begin moving forward again.
- **Beloved Church – One Big Tent, Reverend Jane Johson** – Multiple congregations working together to identify ways to help. Although there are many outlets for resources, they are seeing many people who don’t know how to navigate the resources or system or don’t qualify but still need help. Hoping to create a navigating system that helps walk people through the resources and help fill in the gaps where people may not qualify. Trying to figure out a way so all resources aren’t put in silos and want to be in partnership with organizations. Hoping that faith communities will work more and more together to create a web. Open to any and all suggestions or recommendations. Churches currently involved in One Big Tent - Beloved, Good Shepherd, Holy Spirit Parish, Beautiful Savior, St. Paul’s United Methodist, St. Brons and Tapestry.
- **Good Sheppard Lutheran in Plover, Pastor Leah Woehr-Grande** – Trying to be in close communication with all organizations helping people. Intentionally stepping up to get better on DEI. Looking to continue and uphold the partnerships with their community.
- **CAP Services, Nicole Harrison** – Looking at different way to stream-line their work and allow their services be provided remotely, which has enhanced the accessibility opportunities. Continued providing in person services at the Family Crisis Center and the Discovery Childcare. Immediate response to COVID was facilitating Emergency Grants and providing services to small businesses (almost \$400k). Received funding through 2022 through the CARES Act to help meet the longer term needs in the community; currently conducting a needs assessment for near and long term assessment of community needs. Possibly hiring community assessment individuals to help people navigate the resources available to them. Trying to be flexible and adaptable.
- **Pacelli Catholic Schools, Larry Theiss** – Top priority is keeping kids safe and supporting their mental health. Looking into how to bring the kids back to school in the fall while keeping staff safe. Hoping to have students back in school 5 days a week face to face but also preparing if they need to go back to virtual learning if a pivot is necessary. Thankful for the support from community organizations during this pandemic.
- **Wisconsin State Representative Kristina Shankland, Emily Conklin** – Serving as a resource for community needs and participating in community calls. Has been on the calls regarding the Verso Mill closure. Happy to answer any state level questions.
- **Marshfield System Health Systems, Ciara Schultz** –Center for Community Health Advancement is looking at the social determinants of health – food, transportation, etc. Working to connect their patients with 211 to help connect those who have the needs with resources. Making sure patients have access to internet and are informed properly.
- **Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin, Erin Andrews** – Foundation office is open with staggered staff for social distancing. Pivoted focus to COVID relief through a partnership with United Way

for the Portage County and Waushara County leaders for relief efforts in Waushara County. Made changes to support our grantees (released restrictions on grant money, shifted priorities, shortened the grant timeline). Community Grants cycle is open now until July 31st; will offer a second grant cycle open January 1-31. Foundation grants provide operational support for nonprofits as well as programing. Looking to focus on avoiding silos in the community and being able to convene where needed.

Communication/Collaboration/Collective Impact/Systems Change

- Terminology and Goals – In the interest of time, this topic will be addressed at the next Community Summit

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion efforts

- **PCBC**– Wants to continue to keep the DEI conversation going even when the media attention slows down. Considering a summit this fall that includes a panel and break out sessions to start having uncomfortable conversations about the topics. Stepping alongside other organizations to make these issues a large priority. Resources are available in One Drive.
- **CREATE Portage County** – A lot of people on the call are doing work on DEI. Eye to Eye is program CREATE is offering that includes conversations around inclusivity. Greg has experience in organizational change around DEI and is willing to help organizations continue to work on these issues. Currently, working with different police departments for reforms in policing. Looking to create pledges to do better work in the community and offering a coach to each organization to have a resource to talk to and provide ideas and support. Encouraging everyone to back up your DEI efforts with data; is your data reflecting the changing nature of our community? Who are your granting to? Who is presenting in the community?
 - [https://education.uw.edu/cme/view#:~:text=I%20have%20identified%20five%20dimensions,structure%20\(Banks%2C%201995a\).&text=Students%20also%20learn%20how%20to%20build%20knowledge%20themselves%20in%20this%20dimension](https://education.uw.edu/cme/view#:~:text=I%20have%20identified%20five%20dimensions,structure%20(Banks%2C%201995a).&text=Students%20also%20learn%20how%20to%20build%20knowledge%20themselves%20in%20this%20dimension)
- **Beloved** – Coordinating a multi-congregation effort around Sacred Ground program, a 10 session course to learn about anti-racism and will have an impact in the community. This is an opportunity for anyone to be more educated on the topic.
- **Central Rivers Farmshed** – Have been focusing on listening and asking intentional questions about yourself and your organization, as well as the governance practice. Their Board is seeking guidance from people of color who are connected to food insecurity and farming. Working hard to ensure that questions asked are grounded in trust and education. What does our community need to look like to make diverse populations feel comfortable living here.
- **Portage County** - County Board is creating Diversity Committee and released the Joint Declaration on Racism and Marginalized Communities in Portage County: <https://www.co.portage.wi.us/home/showdocument?id=29894>. They invite organizations to sign in support of the Declaration.
- **Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin** – Community Foundation is trying to be intentional about how we are tackling DEI issues internally as an organization and externally as a funder. Asking our grantees on how they are addressing DEI within their organization. Looking to create a resource on website to report on ongoing DEI initiatives in the community. Please notify Erin if you are involved in/aware of ongoing projects.

Next Steps

- Who is missing from the table?
 - Email Erin Andrews (erin@cfcwi.org) if you have anyone who should be apart of this conversation. Identified to invite to future summits: Municipal representation, Woodlands Church, Aspirus

- When these summits began, it started as Community Change Check-Ins, it has now turned into a conversation regarding how organizations can come together to further our community. Group agreed it should be a quarterly conversation. Will look at a September/October Meeting date.
- Future Summits: Quarterly