



Healthy Pontiac, We Can!

Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2022

Members Present:

Anita Barksdale	St. Joseph Mercy Oakland
Lisa Braddix	Greater Detroit Area Health Council
Judith Cox	Pontiac Regional Chamber / Mindfulness Institute
Paola Nkwuzor	Honor Community Health
Elizabeth Crenshaw	Honor Community Health / Wayne State University
Justin Daniels	Pontiac Promise Zone
Jonathan Fuller	Oakland County Health Division
Benjamin Goldstein	OUWB School of Medicine
Anisha Hanna	Pontiac Collective Impact Partnership
Diann Hayes	All Saints Episcopal Church, Produce Market
Raya Hollis	Pontiac Promise Zone / Oakland University
Susana Jackwiewicz	Gary Burnstein Community Health Clinic
Corey James	Alliance & Coalitions for Healthy Communities
Kathalee James	Pontiac City Council / Friends of Pontiac Parks
Jen Janhevich	Blue Cross Complete
Cheryl LaFluer	CNS Healthcare
Dianne Lee	PACE Southeast Michigan
Jennifer Lucarelli	Oakland University
Kelli Marshall	Blue Cross Complete
James McQueen	Lighthouse at Oakland
Renee Metcalf	GCFB Cooking Matters
Coco Moulder	Pontiac Promise Zone
Bobby Maldano	St. Joseph Mercy Hospital
Paola Nkwuzor	OU Pontiac Initiative Parent University
Austin Oard	Oakland Community Health Network
Brenda Ortega	Centro Multicultural La Familia
Kristina Ottenwess	Oakland County Health Division
Margarita Ovalle	Centro Multicultural La Familia
Leona Patterson	Lancaster Community Life Ctr-Lancaster Cooperative in Pontiac
Samino Scott	Pontiac Collective Impact Partnership
Jim Schafer	Oakland County Economic Development
Katelyn Smoger	Farm at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland
Virginia Uhley	OUWB School of Medicine
Kristen Wiltfang	OC Economic Development & Community Affairs
Debbie Wisser	Oakland Community Health Network
Michelle Wogaman	All Saints' Episcopal Church
Jose Ybarra	Pontiac Community Foundation
Coleman Yoakum	Micah 6 Community

Staff Present:

Signa Metivier	Oakland County Health Division
Jessica Williams	Oakland County Health Division

1. Introductions & Partnership Updates

L. Braddix welcomed members to the virtual meeting of Healthy Pontiac, We Can! at 1:03 p.m. on February 8, 2022.

Members provided agency updates. Send agency events and updates to Jessica Williams, williamsjr@oakgov.com between meeting dates.

2. Gardens, Healthy Food Access & Sprout Fresh Food Store – Coleman Yoakum

C. Yoakum, Executive Director of the Micah 6 Community provided a presentation on the work they have been providing in the Pontiac community over the last 10 years. He said he moved into Pontiac in 2012 and in 2013 started purchasing vacant lots for community gardens. Today they are managing about 1.25 acres. They have two, two-season greenhouses and are getting ready to build their third, a four-season green house. He said they grow a couple thousand pounds of food each year. In 2017 they opened their produce store Sprout on West Huron to provide fresh produce year-round. To reach more of the Pontiac community they began pop-up produce farm stands with the first at OLHSA on Thursdays, followed by the Pontiac Library, both Pontiac senior centers, Community Housing Network, and St. Joseph Hospital. He said they were serving about 30 customers at the store and 100 community members through the pop-up stands a week, before COVID-19. Because in person work was suspended due to COVID they pivoted to delivering produce to clients. They are currently delivering to OLHSA families, Community Housing Network had them deliver to clients in Unity Park, and they are partnering with an agency to deliver produce to Afghan refugees. They have reengaged with their pop-up produce stand partners and will begin transitioning back to in person work and are looking for more partners, who have on site clients, to host pop-up markets.

3. Vision for Pontiac Parks & Friends of Pontiac Parks – Kathalee James

K. James shared a presentation on the Pontiac Parks informing members there are 33 parks in Pontiac: eight community parks, ten neighborhood parks, 13 mini parks, and two linear parks. For the first time under the new Pontiac parks master plan, which runs through 2025, the two linear parks which includes the Clinton River Trail will be covered for maintenance. She said Crystal Lake Park and Steed Park are both closed, and Galloway Lake Park is currently undeveloped. K. James shared information on the 2022 park major projects and objectives. Three of the projects are public and privately funded: Mattie McKinney Hatchett Park redevelopment, Pontiac Skate Park project, Pontiac city wide spring cleanup. Other projects and objectives are Murphy Park improvements, Clinton River Trail extension from Pike into downtown Pontiac and Murphy Park to Opdyke Rd, Cherry Park redevelopment, Murphy Park warming center, Beaudette Park bathrooms, and Hawthorne Park bathrooms.

K. James shared information on the Pontiac *Parks Alive* Champions. She said each group will commit to plan and sponsor a minimum of one park cleanup and one park enhancement per year. She said the three parks they want to focus on for *Parks Alive* Champions are South Kiwanis Park, Rotary Park, and Shirley St. Park. She shared photos of Motor/Montana Park, Charlie J. Harrison, Jr. Park, and Optimist Park which both had/have champions keeping it clean and maintained.

K. James said she would like to see more events in the parks like, art shows, a fall festival, and winter festival. She said the long-term ambition is to see a spray park in the City of Pontiac for children and families to enjoy.

4. Workgroup Updates

J. Williams provided an overview of the responses to the HPWC Workgroups survey. She said nine responded to work first on healthy eating, five on physical activity, four on additional strategies (identified at Dec. meeting), three on access to health care, and two on neighborhood safety. She shared with members the strategies that the healthy eating and physical activity

workgroups will be focusing on and will contact members who identified those as strategies they want to work on. She said co-chairs L. Braddix and E. Crenshaw, along with herself decided to start the workgroups where the momentum is strong and will convene these two work groups before bringing together the other work groups which are included in the strategic plan.

J. Williams shared her email, williamsj@oakgov.com for anyone who would like to join one of the two work groups.

5. COVID-19 Updates

J. Williams shared a slide with information on booster eligibility, sites for testing, and immunizations in Pontiac. She told partners the information is also included in the HPWC! Newsletter.

6. Adjournment

J. Williams adjourned the meeting at 2:23 p.m. The next HPWC! meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. The April meeting is virtual.

Minutes submitted by: Signa Metivier

Approved by: Jessica Williams