

MEETING SUMMARY
Neighborhood Task Force
WEDNESDAY, February 19, 2014 - 6:00 P.M.
East Central Community Center

ATTENDANCE: Arlene Patton – Chairperson, Gary Pollard – Chairperson (RNC), Dave Burnett(NIT), Jeanette Harris (Logan), Michael Cannon (CHHS Board), Barbara Morrissey(Peaceful Valley), Fran Papenleur(CHHS Board/NWNA/CA), Alexandra Stoddard (NLNA), Kim Taylor (CHHS Board), Mary Ann Rapp (CHHS Board/Bemis/Hillyard), and E.J. Lannelli (Emerson Garfield)

STAFF PRESENT: Jonathan Mallahan (ONS), George Dahl (CHHSD)

Arlene Patton opened the meeting with introductions and an invitation for all present to share their neighborhood priority. Common themes/priorities shared during this discussion included: public safety, jobs, more businesses, youth crime, graffiti, clean-up, traffic calming, economic development, home rehab, parks, sidewalks, maintain housing stock, connections to services, homelessness and housing.

Arlene spoke to: The CDBG Program purpose – HUD program provides annual grants on a formula basis to entitle cities and counties to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low and moderate-income persons.

She shared the allocation chart for the 2014 neighborhood Program. Assured the group that the CHHS board was honoring the hard work done by the neighborhoods and moving forward with the submittal of the proposed projects.

George Dahl from the Community, Housing and Human Services Department presented changes to how neighborhood data is collected. Previously, the Community Development Department paid the Census Department to collect special census tabulations for defined CD neighborhoods. This data was used to qualify neighborhoods as low/moderate income; making them eligible for CDBG funds. HUD is now requiring that we use American Community Survey (ACS) data (limited sampling collected annually) to qualify census block groups. This change could result in neighborhoods with block groups that do not qualify as low/mod income. The CHHS and Neighborhood Services departments will work with each neighborhood to clarify what this means to their neighborhood programs.

Garry Pollard asked those present to share their thoughts on measuring success in their neighborhoods. Common themes included: neighborhood activity, infrastructure improvements, crime rate, housing inventory, sidewalks, economic development, clean-up, public perception, schools and public facilities that draw people into neighborhoods.

Those present agreed to pursue a short term 3 – 5 year proposed neighborhood program. Arlene suggested this would align with the required HUD's Consolidated Plan timeline and allow neighborhoods the opportunity to redesign the neighborhood program, as additional impact from the ACS data is known

Timeline for having a draft proposed neighborhood program is May 2014. CHHS board approval of the draft neighborhood program is scheduled for their June 4, 2014 Board meeting.

The next Task Force on CDBG Neighborhood Strategies meeting will be held Thursday, **March 13th** at the East Central Community Center from 6-7:30pm. Agenda to follow.