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Greaterchathaminitiative.org

**Greater Chatham Initiative
Youth & Support Services Committee Meeting
Held at the Urban Partnership Bank
7801 S. State Street, 2nd Floor, Chicago, IL 60619
Friday, October 6, 2017 – 10:00-11:30 a.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Program Coordinator Ashley Casiello. Casiello welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. Individuals in attendance introduced themselves:

Ashley Casiello, GCI
Charlene Campbell, COFI
Walidah Tureaud, UChicago Medicine
Jeff Baker, DuSable Works
Kristina Williams, The Bleu Den
Terica Middleton, GCYC
Ayoka Mota Samuels, GCYC
Jeanette Foreman, Foreman and Association
Tracy Occomy, COFI

September 8, 2017 Minutes were reviewed and ratified.

COFI Planning Grant Update

GCI's Executive Committee agreed to pay COFI \$13,000 to plan and implement a principal RJ training event, and a parent leadership training event with Greater Chatham elementary school administration and families. The principal event will be held on Monday, October 16th from 8:00 am – 12:30 pm at the Urban Partnership Bank, and the parent event will be held the following Monday, October 23rd, from 6:30-8:30 PM at the Gary Comer Youth Center. The project will also include a brief needs assessment surveys for school administration, one-on-ones to discuss school climate and needs concerning restorative justice, and it will allow GCI to form relationships with the schools in the area.

Restorative Justice Events

GCI partnered with ReCAST to hold a restorative justice (RJ) event in Chatham on Saturday, September 30th in order to introduce youth to the idea of RJ, the work on RJ currently being done in their communities, and to host workshops and break-out sessions on how to practice RJ themselves. Committee members are waiting for Octavia Tyson from ReCAST to attend the next committee meeting to hear an overview on how the sessions went.

Photo Contest Update

GCI's photo contest has concluded, and GCI is looking for judges to help choose the top three winners. A rubric for judging was distributed to committee members. If interested, please contact Ashley Casiello at ashley@greaterchathaminitiative.org.

Whitney Young Library

The Whitney Young library has been closed since September 9, 2017 to begin construction. The library will remain closed for approximately 18 months as it works on reconstruction and improvements. Residents are advised to travel to neighboring libraries for interim services, but we are looking for community organizations to step up and offer services that will not be provided due to the library closure. The Gary Comer Youth Center has memberships for youth to participate in after school activities, as well as memberships for adults. Youth memberships cost \$35 for a year, and adult memberships cost \$75 for a year. Any other organizations with the ability to offer interim programming for children, teens, computer access, and/or workforce development services should contact ashley@greaterchathaminitiative.org to make their services known.

Park Districts

The committee members discussed how the park districts could help by offering services and a space to meet for any programs operating during the period of the library's construction. This led to a conversation about the accessibility and safety of the parks in the Greater Chatham area. Some committee members reported facing resistance when attempting to implement programming for teens, while others noted that they were each being told different things about the application process and what sort of programs were eligible to take place at the parks. GCI will be in contact with residents, committee members, and the Chicago Department of Public Health to survey the community about their experience with the parks and issue a streamlined guide for how to use the parks to host outside programs. We will also make note of which parks have infrastructure needs met in order to be safe for use. Committee members are asked to fill out the following survey: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf8YGuAtqOGvkc86zWifa1bgrArxe3RzN7umoRefxq8gyFKew/viewform>

Harvest Fest

On October 27th and 28th, GCI will be hosting its first annual Harvest Fest in celebration of the organization's birthday, and to bring attention to the creation of a Downtown Chatham. That Friday, the 27th, GCI will be targeting school-aged children by inviting elementary schools and local daycare and early childcare centers to participate in a field trip at the event. GCI will charge \$5 a head, and attendees will receive access to all of Harvest Fest's activities for this price. Activities include a haunted house, a hay maze, face painting, pumpkin decorating, a petting zoo, and much more. On the 28th, families and community members are invited to attend as well. Vendors selling food and merchandise will be present on this day. GCI is looking for volunteers to help each day, as well as in advance for Harvest Fest preparation. If interested, please contact Ashley at ashley@greaterchathaminitiative.org for more information.

Social Lab

Nedra Fears, Executive Director of GCI, and Ashley Casiello, GCI staff, attended a Master Class on Social Labs at the Chicago Community Trust. This class introduced a new way to implement programming and go about obtaining funding for programming with the mission of creating systems-level change. Committee members were sent information about a current South Side Social Lab in Bronzeville, and were asked to provide their opinions on the process, and suggest if and how the concept might work in Greater Chatham. After reviewing the process with committee members, all present agreed that they would like GCI to explore how to bring this concept to Greater Chatham.

Internships, Apprenticeships, and Job Offerings for Youth

GCI is looking to expand its network of youth employment opportunities. If you or anyone you know has any information on available internships, apprenticeships, job offerings, and/or other employment opportunities, please contact ashley@greaterchathaminitiative.org.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am. Youth and Support Service meets monthly on every first Friday. The next Youth and Support Service Committee Meeting will be held Friday, November 3rd from 10:00 – 11:30 am at the Urban Partnership Bank.