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**Greater Chatham Initiative  
Youth & Support Services Committee Meeting  
Held at the Urban Partnership Bank  
7801 S. State Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Chicago, IL 60619  
Friday, May 5, 2017 – 10:00-11:30 a.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Executive Director Nedra Fears. Fears welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. Individuals in attendance introduced themselves:

Timothy Bridgmon, GCC  
Nedra Sims Fears, GCI  
Kristen Strobbe, WITS  
Ernest Sanders, St. Sabina Employment Resource Center  
Carl Lewis, Brown Park Advisory Council  
Nicole Bridges, GCI  
Diara Fleming, Chicago Cares  
Susan Peters, U of C Medical Center  
Ashley Casiello, GCI

COFI Planning Grant Update

The planning grant for COFI had been submitted to the MacArthur Foundation, and is awaiting review. The planning grant is to provide funds for COFI to convene local elementary school principals and administrators, collect data on school climate and behavioral challenges, and assess the willingness of local schools to participate in a larger restorative justice pilot program.

After-School Survey Status Report

It has been difficult reaching schools, churches, and other entities providing child care and youth programming. However, we have made progress in reaching out to the parks about their programming, and to our partners. Any information regarding youth summer jobs, camps, and other opportunities will be posted on our website and circulated to committee members and the community at large.

*Discussion:*

- Reach out to aldermen and other elected officials to push survey out to their constituents
- A lot of organizations are hesitant to provide this information if they don't know who we are. Provide an "ethical bribe" – allude to possible additional funding for youth/respective programming if they complete the survey
- Send volunteers to health fairs and other community events to collect information. Be sure to offer incentives (pens, cups, other handouts)

Retail Thrive Kid Zone Update

GCI is holding a community charrette to pick an iconic art piece for Downtown Chatham on July 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 – 10:00 am, and July 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1:00 – 4:00 pm. Youth are encouraged to attend and give their input on what they

would like to see representing them and what they would like to see in a Kid's Zone. The Kid's Zone will occupy a four-block area within the pilot zone for Downtown Chatham. The Kid's Zone is meant to offer amenities catered towards families with young and school-aged children.

#### On the Table

GCI is holding an On the Table discussion about the class divide in Greater Chatham on May 16<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 at the Urban Partnership Bank, and is looking to have 20-30 people attend across generations.

#### Summer Youth Job Opportunities and Programming

GCI distributed a survey to partners asking them to provide any information they had on youth summer job opportunities, summer programming, camps, internships, etc. This information has been distributed to committee members and posted on the GCI website, [www.greaterchathaminitiative.org](http://www.greaterchathaminitiative.org).

#### Recommended Future Initiatives to Explore

- Brown Park would like to solicit funds to open a field house
- Create programming to bridge the gap between seniors and youth through mentoring, technical training, and other forms of knowledge exchange. Possible partnerships for this programming include libraries, churches, and the parks
- Define proper park utilization, and increase positive usage of parks. Possibly consider having park facilitators head these initiatives

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am. The next Youth and Support Service Committee Meeting will be held July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 10:00 – 11:30 at the Urban Partnership Bank.