

**Greater Chatham Initiative  
Health & Support Services Committee Meeting  
Held at the Urban Partnership Bank  
7801 S. State Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Chicago, IL 60629  
Friday, November 3, 2017 – 10:00-11:30 a.m.**

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

Tracy Caccamo-Cordero – CDFI  
Cristina Flynn – Chicago Department of Public Health  
Cathie Marshall – Community Organizer  
Melba Sims Evans – CDFI

*Excuses Absent:*

Approval of the October 3, 2017 minutes was postponed until the next meeting, December 3, 2017.

**GCIC Issues**

In partnership with GC, CDFI held two parent leadership and restorative justice training events, one targeted towards the area's elementary school principals, and the other targeted at parents of elementary school students. The principal event was held on Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm. Representations from CDFI, GC, Tawana Elementary, Neil Elementary, and the Gary Comer Youth Center were in attendance. Tawana expressed that they had implemented school-wide restorative justice techniques, but that getting the parents involved, both through buy in and overall engagement, was more difficult. Without parent support, the schools and parents are at odds with how to deal with matters of discipline.

On Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm, CDFI hosted its second training session for the area's parents. Attendance was very low, with only three parents from the area coming out to the event. CDFI invited youth at GCIC to cover the event and participate in a prayer circle. GC is currently in discussion with CDFI to determine how the partnership will proceed.

**BeCANT, Chatham and Justice Restorative Justice Events Report**

GC partnered with BeCANT to host a restorative justice event for youth in Chatham on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. 24 participants came out to learn more about 8 practices and the work being done in their community. Although turnout was smaller than they had hoped, the events were deemed successful, with many youth asking their approval of the event and interest in learning more about how they can participate in restorative justice efforts.

**Harvest Fest Report**

On October 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, GC hosted its first annual Harvest Festival. Turnout was roughly 100 people over the two days, and events included a haunted house, a photo booth, pony rides, a printing press, a hay maze, pumpkin painting, and children's activity stations. Although we had hoped for more people to attend, we received wonderful feedback from those who did. Residents were excited for the new foundation, and for an organization to be getting use to the empty space.

**Holiday Events**

For December 9<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>, GC has rented the foundation on 71<sup>st</sup> Street with the hopes of getting on a small-scale holiday event for community residents. Ideas for such an event include inviting pop up seasonal vendors such as Christmas tree vendors, merchants with seasonal food such as hot chocolate and cider, decorating the foundation and having community residents to take pictures, and having a photographer so that families can take professional holiday photos.

**Relationship Building: Local Events, which Impact GC's Practice**

After recognizing how harmful the both the Harvest Festival and CDFI principal and parent trainings, GC has decided to put a greater amount of focus on relationship building with local institutions and organizations. To foster better relationships, GC will create projects for its committee coordinators. These projects will then go