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**Greater Chatham Initiative
Youth & Support Services Committee Meeting
Held at the Urban Partnership Bank
7801 S. State Street, 2nd Floor, Chicago, IL 60619
Friday, July 7, 2017 – 10:00-11:30 a.m.**

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

Ashley Casiello, GCI
Jacquelyn Eadie, Project Increase
Octavia Tyson, Chicago Department of Public Health
Senyah Haynes, Gary Comer Youth Center
Anthony Coleman, Gary Comer Middle School
Diara Fleming, Chicago Cares, Inc.
Destiny Spencer, One Summer Chicago
Carlita Cookbey, One Summer Chicago
JP Paulus, Do-Gooder Consulting
Jeanette Foreman, South Shore Works
Nicole Bridges, GCI
Keith Alexander, GCI
Gaylord Minett, GCI

COFI Planning Grant Update

The planning grant for COFI was rejected by the MacArthur Foundation for funding. GCI altered the planning grant and submitted it to the Executive Committee for funding. The new grant requested \$13,000 to hold two restorative justice training events, one for elementary school principals and administration, and another for parents. The grant request would also fund the creation needs assessment surveys for school administration, allow for one-on-ones to discuss school climate and needs concerning restorative justice, and allow for GCI to form relationships with the schools in the area.

Photo Contest Update

GCI is holding a photo contest for the youth in the community. Residents and community members aged 12-18 are asked to pick up a disposable camera, take pictures of what they find to be beautiful in their community, and return the used camera to GCI. All participants' photos are eligible to be used in GCI promotional materials, website, etc. and will be credited. Additionally, there will be three cash prize winners. The contest will run from August 21, 2017 until September 21, 2017. Winners will be announced in October and celebrated at the Harvest Fest.

Whitney Young Library

The Whitney Young library is scheduled to continue its programming through the summer. The date of construction has yet to be determined, but is expected to start by the end of the year. GCI will keep its committee members updated on the construction dates. We are also looking for community organizations to step up and

offer services that will not be provided due to the library closing for construction. The Gary Comer Youth Center has memberships for youth to participate in after school activities. 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.

Youth Programming and Events

The committee would like to see more programs for youth centered around teaching entrepreneurial skills. They suggested having a center near the Boombox!

The Seventh Day Adventist Church recently hosted a Chicago Teen Town Hall. Before the event, youth were anonymously surveyed about issues affecting them, and these survey responses were turned into questions for the event. At the town hall, youth were broken up into groups to discuss their answers to these questions. Topics ranged from cyber-bullying to self-harm and domestic violence. This event could serve as a template for future youth town halls in the Greater Chatham area, and possibly be joined with actions such as follow-up panels and workshops demonstrating concrete ways to handle the concerns of the youth.

GCI will also be holding a youth-focused summit on community policing to assess how the residents in the community wish to be policed, and how officers can better serve the community.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am. The next Youth and Support Service Committee Meeting will be held September 8th, 2017 from 10:00 – 11:30 at the Urban Partnership Bank.