

Iowa Literacy Council Meeting
5/18/2012
Corinthian Baptist Church, Des Moines, IA

Attending: Anne Murr, Archie Willard, Dale Amunson, Phyllis Hinton, Carolyn Smith, Sandra Smith, Robert Wiederholt, Tony Timm, Alex Harris and special guests:
Paul Hasel (Ann's father) and Joyclyen Joseph (interested community member)

A special thank you to Carolyn for being our host for the day and providing chocolates!

Tour of Church and Free Medical Clinic

Dr. Julius Conner hosted a tour of the free medical clinic at Corinthian. The clinic offers services to people who don't have health insurance or the resources to pay for vital medical services. The clinic is part of the free Clinics of Iowa Network and was started in 1994. The original intent of the clinic was to improve childhood immunization rates in the Corinthian neighborhood.

More important points about the clinic:

- All of the staff volunteers their time.
- Corinthian Baptist Church provides space for the clinic
- There is a large network of organizations that help to support the clinic including Blank Children's Hospital, Drake University College of Pharmacy, Iowa Department of Public Health, and many more.
- The clinic is open Saturday mornings.
- The clinic provides many services including routine physicals, basic immunizations, diabetic testing and education, etc.

Tour of the Corinthian Community Technology Center

Twila Wood hosted a tour of the center. She retired from DSM Schools and now works for the community education department and teaches classes at the technology center. She talked to us about how the center is currently being used and plans for the future.

The center opened in March of this year and has been working with senior citizens on computer basics. (She said most seniors just want to learn how to use email.) She wants to offer some classes to the congregation and to get the Sunday School started using the technology. The center has a memo board that she demonstrated as well.

More important points about the center:

- Vacation Bible School will be using the center
- DMACC contributed the computers!
- There is also an Iowa Workforce Development access point in the lab (2 terminals) but Twila said they have never been used.
- A consortium of 10 local McDonalds restaurants also contributed.
- The idea for the center came from the current pastor. Some Corinthian members don't have the \$ for computer classes so he identified the need for the center. He also wants to support teen use of technology.
- Here is a nice story about the center:
<http://midcityconnection.com/2012/03/16/community-technology-center-now-open/>

Grant Review Work; Alex Harris

Alex told the Literacy Council about a possible opportunity for the council. There is an opportunity for a mini-grant process for a Family Literacy Grant. The mini-grants could be applied for by an organization that is AEFLA (Adult Education and Family Literacy ACT) eligible.

In a nutshell the council would help with these steps/topics:

1. Help define family literacy
2. Help identify best practices
3. Help identify measurable results (Define measurable outcomes as they relate to this grant process)
4. Review grant applications and help with the process of awarding grant monies.

There will be two possibilities as far as size of grant awards coming from this work. One will be a 40-50 k award; the second will be 10 k awards. The one used will be determined by the availability of funds.

After much discussion, it was decided that the group is interested in this project but wants a year to ramp up and do the work. (Or at least there were no statements that indicated anyone was against taking this project on.)

First steps will be for Phyl and Alex to write a project plan (with timeline for the next fiscal year. July 2012-July 2013) Grant proposal will be due August 2013.

The council members will, in the meantime, review the AEFLA law and identify groups who are already working on family literacy in Iowa. We need to think about speakers for our group who might help educate us on what is already happening in this area. What works, what doesn't, etc.. **The council members need to bring this information to the meeting in July.**

Due to this work, there will be additional proposed meetings for next year.
Meeting dates next year:

July 27:

September 14: (state Library, Phyl will arrange)

November 2: (Tony will host at new shelter)

February 1: 2013

March 8:(LaShell will host at IPTV)

June 7:

(Two additional meetings planned to handle the scope of work on the grant process. Subject to need.)

Round Table Sharing

- Phyl mentioned the success of the ALWI conference
- Carolyn read a note that she wrote about the New Readers Conference on Health Literacy. The conference was at Methodist in April.
- Archie talked about the new Readers of Iowa and gave a brief history of the group. He mentioned there have been 23 conferences since the groups formed.
- Tony gave an update on the new shelter building. This September they will move in to their new location. They are trying to sell the old building.
- They have 14.5 million dollars committed and have almost reached their funding goal.
- The new building is 43, 000 square feet.
- New building will have 46 work stations for GED. They will be a Workforce Development access point.
- They have a healthcare clinic, a clothes closet, great new kitchen and many other valuable resources for the clients.

Closing note:

Ann will be the new chair of the literacy council next year and a new note taker will be identified soon.