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MEMORANDUM
COUNTY OF ERIE
DEPT. OF SWANEKAMP

TO: Mark C. Poloncarz, Erie County Executive
Maria Whyte, Deputy County Executive

FROM: Benjamin M. Swanekamp, Executive Assistant-Health

DATE: November 12, 2015

RE: Initiatives for Stronger Community-July 2015 Reports

In July 2015, departmental staff provided periodic reports on the 49 initiatives comprising Initiatives for a Stronger Community. This memo will summarize the reports and highlight the successes already achieved as well as any areas of concern. The reporting period is 2015 Q2.

Please refer to the attached spreadsheet for a complete listing of the initiatives and the status of each. A full compilation of the reports is also available for your review.

Completed Initiatives

To date, 6 initiatives have been completed, representing 12% of the total. Completed initiatives are: Convene Pay Equity Roundtable, Strengthen Partnership between CPS & Schools, publish annual community resource guide for youth programs, collaborate with stake-holders to improve kinship process, complete chronic neglect study and incorporate finding into child welfare response, and establish a New Americans Advisory Council.

*Since this summary was compiled some additional initiatives have been completed including initiative 4.7 Establish and Assisted Enroller Program and initiative 1.12 Establishment of the Welfare Advisory Board. A full description of newly completed initiatives will be in the Q3-Q4 2015 report which will be issued in the winter of 2016.

In Progress Initiatives

34 of 49 initiatives are in progress, representing 69% of the total. There are initiatives in progress in all four sections. 10 of the in-progress initiatives are at least 75% complete so the total number of completed initiatives in on track to increase by January 2016. These include initiatives like 4.14, establish a Health Home-Jail pilot, and 2.9 Co-locate a mental health counselor in CPS.

See the attached spreadsheet for notes on individual projects including suggestions by initiative supervisors.

Initiatives Not Yet Begun

9 initiatives have not yet begun, representing 18% of the total. These initiatives are generally evenly distributed through the four sectors of the plan.

Areas of Concern

There are no areas of concern to report at this time.

Conclusion

Of the 49 initiatives, a total of 40 (81%) are completed or underway. Substantial progress has been made the plan was launched and even more progress is expected by the next reports in January of 2016.

Initiative Number	Initiative Name	Lead Department	Partners	Resources Secured	Notes	Overall Status
1.1	Pivot Pilot Programs with the child care resource network and the Amherst Chamber of Commerce	ECDSS	CCRN, Amherst Chamber of Commerce	100% secured from Amherst Chamber of Commerce	Meeting with employers about PIVOT and attending job fairs.	60% complete, on track for December 2015.
1.2	Strengthen Connections Between ECIDA and Existing Workforce Development System	ECIDA	WIB, WDC			
1.3	Educate Employers on the benefits of hiring individuals with disabilities	ECOD	ECEOO, Personnel Department, BNP, ACESS-VR, WNY Employment Consortium, WNY Independent Living			
1.4	Develop Employment Opportunities for individuals returning from State Prison	ECDMH	NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, Reentry Task Force, Spectrum Human Services, Center for Employment Opportunities, WDC, ECC, Mental Health Peer Connection	Yes, 100% from NYS DCJS	Administration support at upcoming NYS DCJS Job Summit could be helpful.	On track to be completed in June of 2016.
1.5	Issue Executive Order - Reducing Barriers to employment for people with criminal records	County Executive's Office	Personnel, Purchasing, ECPD, Central Police Services, ECEEO, Center for Employment Opportunities			

1.6	Convene Pay Equity Round Table	Erie County Commission on the Status of Women	ECDSS, Erie County Workforce Development, the WNY Women's Foundation, Veterans One-Stop Center, American Association of University Women, Junior League of Buffalo, Women's Business Center at Canisus, Planned Parenthood WNY	Yes.	Possible follow up by examining the City of Boston's "Boston Compact" model.	Complete, and successful.
1.7	Implement Executive Order #13: Pay Equity Certification on County Contracts	ECEEO	Erie County Attorney's Office, Division of Purchase, and all County Departments	Still Working in development	Intro. Letter in development. Review W/Mike Szukala & County Attorney.	Target to issue review letter Fall 2015 with follow up in Fall of 2016.
1.8	Issue Executive Order Expanding Civil Service Outreach to Include a broader population	Department of Personnel and ECEEO	ECDSS, ECPA, ECVSA, ECOD, United Way of Buffalo and Erie County, People Inc., Amvets Posts, Buffalo Erie County Public libraries, NAACP	No.	To properly roll out this process additional manpower would be needed.	80% complete, Mindy will continue to plug away.
1.9	Rental Rehabilitation Program	ECDEP	Erie County DCBG Consortium, United State Department of Housing and Urban Development	$138,000 pending from CDBG -2015 grant application to HUD		Contract from HUD expected in July, 2015. This will allow DEP to do outreach to landlords within Consortium area.
1.10	New Rental Housing Incentive Program	ECDEP	Erie County HOME Consortium, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development	$75,000 pending from 2015 HOME Investment Partnership grant application submitted to HUD.		Contract from HUD expected in July, 2015. This will allow DEP to do outreach to nonprofit developers within Consortium area.
1.11	Erie County Fair Housing Law	ECDEP	Department of Law, ECOD, Housing Opportunities Made Equal, County Legislature			
1.12	Re-establish the welfare advisory board as a poverty committee	Office of the County Executive	Various Erie county Departments, ECCCCCCCCF		Board has begun meetings.	10% Complete.

2.1	Expand partnership with say yes to education to enhance child well-being for Buffalo Students	ECDSS	BPS, Say Yes, Catholic Charities			
2.2	Expand mental health clinic satellites in Buffalo Schools	ECDMH	Say Yes, BPS, ECDSS, ECDOH, Treatment Agencies, NYSOMH, Foundations	90% of the funding has been secured from NYSOMH, and various external foundations.	Proceeding well with monthly meetings.	Well ahead of schedule. Phase II should be complete by December, and the whole project should be complete by the end of 2016.
2.3	Strengthen partnership between CPS and schools when educational neglect is suspected	ECDSS	ECDOH, Erie 1 BOCES, Erie 2 BOCES, BPS, UWBEC	Yes, utilizing existing county employees.		100%, caseworkers are now embedded in schools.
2.4	Universal Developmental Screening and community support for young children	ECDSS, CCRN	Early childhood providers, ECDOH, Health Foundation for Western & Central NY, UWBEC, Early Childhood Direction Center, 2-1-1 WNY, Early Intervention medical organizations, community based health and human service providers	100% from various community partners including United Way and Child Care Resource Network		40% complete, aiming for March 2016 completion
2.5	Reduce Placements in detention and treatment facilities through an intensive community asset program	ECDSS, ECPD	Hillside Family of Agencies, Third Sector Capital	Yes. Fully funded through Pay for Success, a NYS program.	Will be rolling out across all of NYS around the same time.	45% complete. Should be fully complete by February of 2016.
2.6	Publish annual community resource guide for youth programs	ECDSS	EDCMH and ECDP, Family Court and Voluntary Agencies	100% secured via Youth Bureau		100%, completed in May. Will be updated annually
2.7	Collaborate with stake-holders to improve kinship process	ECDSS	Family Court, Voluntary Agencies, Casey Family Programs and Attorney's for Children and Parents			100% Complete. Heidi Epstein of the Casey Foundation completed the project in September.
2.8	Lobby New York State for CPS Reform	Office of the County Executive	NY Public Welfare Association and New York State Association of			Lobbying events planning for November 2015.

			Counties			
2.9	co-locate a mental health counselor and a CASAC in CPS	ECDMH and ECDSS	Mid-Erie Counseling and Treatment Services, NYS OCFS	100% secured via Preventative Dollars funding.	Staff are hired, in place, and doing home visits. Regular meetings of the working group occurring.	70% complete, and should be fully implemented by the end of 2015.
2.10	Complete chronic neglect study and incorporate finding into child welfare response	ECDSS	UB School of Social Work	Yes. Fully funded through Pay for Success, a NYS program.		100% complete, final report received from UB Social Work.
2.11	Develop and deliver an education curriculum to teach Children and their families how to have "Healthy Families and Healthy Relationships"	ECPA	ECDSS, Erie County Coalition Against Family Violence, Child & Family Services, Crisis Services, Family Justice Center & Hispanics United	Not yet. Currently no identified funding source.	Need approximately $10,000 to properly implement.	20% complete.
3.1	Reinvigorate and Expand Healthy Choices Food Initiative	ECDOH	WNY Chapter NYS Restaurant Association, UB/SUCB School of Dietetics, Local Restaurants, Local Health Plans	30% of the funding has been secured from community partners.	Confirmed UB intern Summer 2015; Connected w/ SUCB to utilize dietetic students to promote nutritional. /healthy choices F2015. May recruit restaurants near BNMC incl. Allentown and the Fruit Belt, for Healthy Choices.	20% complete. This will be a rolling program, trying to constantly add new restaurants. 3 new ones recently.
3.2	Provide and Promote Healthier Food in Neighborhoods underserved by major supermarket chains	ECDOH	BECFPC, ECDEP, Local Supermarkets, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Eat Smart NY, Healthy Kids-Healthy Communities, SUNY Buffalo	County funding needed, approximately 675 dollars for the first round.	Two interested bodegas are on board, P.O.'s need to be processed but no account to pay out of.	20% Complete.
3.3	Increase Participation in SNAP program to prevent hunger	ECDSS	Food Bank of WNY, Local Food Pantries	100% secured rom DSS/ Food Bank of WNY and Food Pantry staff		50% complete, next phase of outreach to be complete by October 2015.

3.4	Expansion of Stay-Fit Dining Program	ECDSrSv	Senior and community centers, refugee community stakeholders, community activists, Meals on Wheels of WNY, Ken-Ton Meals on Wheels, the Town of Amherst, Senior Services Advisory Board Members	100% secured.	Main obstacle is that potential new sites don't have enough seniors to meet program requirements.	5% complete, but aiming from completion at the end of the 1st quarter of 2016.
3.5	Increase the availability of reimbursable chronic disease self-management and diabetes self-management classes	ECDSrSv	Niagara County Office for the Aging, Catholic Charities, Health Foundation of Western and Central New York, P2 Collaborative, UWBEC, Erie and Niagara County Senior Centers	Yes, 100% secured from Title III.	Accreditation is pending which will allow for Medicare Billing. Establishing predictable set of core location for program schedule.	25% but aiming to wrap up by early 2016
3.6	Increase the availability of fall prevention programming in Erie County	ECDSrSv	BCBS, Independent Health; Univera, local senior centers, the Erie County Step Up to Stop Falls Coalition	Yes, 100% secured from CSE grant	Consultant hired to implement program.	25% complete. Ongoing for the next 6 months.
3.7	Erie County Million Hearts Campaign	ECDOH	US DHHS, Catholic Health, Local Health Plans	50% Secured from community partners.	Initial surveys are complete, and heart disease mortality zip code maps have been developed.	25% complete, ongoing through the end of 2016.
3.8	Mr. Fitness Active Aging Video Clips	ECDSrSv	DISS, Mr. Fitness	Yes, 100% secured from Title III B.		20% complete. Concepts developed for each video, next step is to hire videographer
4.1	Establish a New Americans Advisory Council	Office of the County Executive	Erie County Legislature, Resettlement Agencies			100% complete, advisory committee appointed, press conference complete
4.2	Assess Service access for individuals with limited English proficiency	Office of the County Executive	County Departments, Resettlement Agencies			20% complete, draft assessment tool completed and shared with Deputy CE.
4.3	Increase languages spoken by employees to	Personnel Department	ECDSS and Resettlement Agencies			

	reflect language diversity in community					
4.4	Implement Microenterprise child care for refugee communities	ECDSS	CCRN, Buffalo State College Small Business Development Center, Journey's End, Jewish Family Services	100% secured from Journey's End and the Child Care Resource Network	Journey's End is applying for additional funding to continue refugee enterprise training.	55% complete, on track for December 2015 completion.
4.5	Implement a consumer-directed home care program for old adult refugees and immigrants in urban settings	ECDSrSv	Local Refugee Resettlement Agencies	Previously identified funding source is no longer available.	Most of the target individuals for this project are on Medicaid, and are ineligible for this Medicare funded program.	5% complete
4.6	Assist Faith-based communities in rural Erie County to start and maintain older adult group respite programs	ECDSrSv	Faith-Based Organizations	100% secured from Community Services for the Elderly	Early successes have already been highlighted by Monroe County and at a conference in Albany.	30%. 3 of 10 contracts are signed with faith-based organizations and program are up and running.
4.7	Establish an assisted enroller program for public benefit programs	ECDSS	BECPL, Faith-Based Organizations, Food Bank of WNY	Partial. Manpower secured via UB interns, would like additional funding to purchase laptops or tablets for staff to take into the field. Working with Oshei foundation to secure monies.	Project vision has changed. Now a partnership with UB School of Social Work to give interns direct experience in assisting clients.	20% complete. Training program for interns complete, they are now working in the field.
4.8	Assist Older Adults to Access Buffalo Senior Centers and Stay-Fit congregate dining sites	ECDSrSv	Buffalo CarShare; Salvation Army	$9,000		50% complete
4.9	Establish a short-term community based peer respite using a "Living Room" Model	ECDMH	Having Options Made Easy, BPC, Behavioral Health Service providers, NYSOMH	Yes, 100% of NYS Office of Mental Health	Three full beds occupied, aiming for 5-7 beds in total.	85% complete.
4.10	Pursue the expansion of broadband internet access	ECDEP	Erie County DPW, Erie County Legislator Pat Burke, National Grid			

4.11	Improve the coordination and delivery of care for mentally ill individuals in contact with the criminal justice system	ECPD and ECDMH	Law enforcement agencies, Crisis Services, Mental Health Providers, the Courts, ECDSS, NYSDCJS	100% secured from NYSDCJS	Buffalo B District and Amherst police have been trained.	50% complete with initial trainings. Going forward there will always be a need to train local police in Crisis Intervention Teams.
4.12	Reduce Housing-Related Problems for those with behavioral health issues	ECDMH	BPC, ECMC, Buffalo Federation of Neighborhood Centers, NYSOMH	100% from NYSOMH	Full occupancy will be the next milestone. Finding appropriate apartments in key.	78% Complete. 28 of 36 Beds occupied.
4.13	Establish professional/peer mobile support teams to help those discharged from psychiatric inpatient facilities transition to community-based services	ECDMH	Suicide Prevention and Crisis Services, ECMC, Mental Health Peer Connection, BPC, NYSOMH	100% from NYSOMH	Clients who accept assistance have very low re-admission rates, but many refuse service.	80% Complete.
4.14	Implement a health home-jail pilot	ECDMH	Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors, Erie County Sheriff's Office, Area Health Homes	100%. Free technical assistance.	Since July 10th a list of inmates match Health Home lists is sent out three times a week.	75% Complete.
4.15	Training programs on benefits allotted to veterans	ECVSA	All Erie County Health and Human Services Departments, Personnel Department, Contract Agencies			
4.16	Comprehensive outreach plan to better reach the again and disabled population in Erie County	ECDSrSv	Senior Services Advisory Board, Erie County Long Term-Care Council, Erie County's EISP Case Management Contract Agencies, the WNY Evidence-based Wellness Council	Yes, 100%.	Matt Davidson PR point contractor.	20%, Matt Davidson PR firm is rolling out comprehensive communication strategy.
4.17	Service Animal Awareness Campaign	ECOD	Commission for the Blind, Wounded Warriors, WNY Heroes, Olmsted Center for Sight, National Federation for the Blind, WNY			

			Independent Living, NYS Commission for the Blind			
4.18	Establish a data clearinghouse for Erie County Human Services	DISS	All Health and Human Services Departments	100%	Met with and received presentation from leading municipal data website developer	10%. New Erie.gov home page launched. Exploring contracts with data clearinghouse providers.