MEDA Resource Team Assessment Working Group
August 10, 2016
9:00am – 10am

On the call: Abbie Phillips, Gus Byrom, Gloria Hawkins, Kim Porter, Craig Erickson, Paul Lachapelle, Shannon Christiansen, Anne Boothe, and Gloria O’Rourke.

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Report from Abbie Phillip
   Abbie shared that there is really no good way to describe what Kettering does in an elevator speech – unless the elevator ride is a long one. Social democracy is the foundation of its work, as well as increasing public engagement involving social issues. Abbie said the agenda in Ohio was incredible with about 300 people from around the world. Abbie was privileged to visit with people from Africa and Asia about community development in their countries. Deliberative Dialogue was a key topic Abbie learned from which helps communities move forward. Researchers present wanted to benefit from the conversations in the room. MT, WY, ID all participated and pondered how this tool could be applied to the assessment process. The Kettering website has more information on framing issues.

3. Report from Kim - follow up with deep dive on student response
   Kim asked the schools to cooperate with a return response regarding “there is nothing to do in this town” issue with a question that asked if responders would be willing to be a part of the solution. Over 3/4ths of the people said yes and included their phone numbers. A meeting is planned later this month to utilize the information. Facilitation of the meeting will be with students and adults, perhaps separately, and then together. The goal is to engage people who signed up to assist.

4. Discussion of Boulder Assessment - should we do it?
   As so much work has already been done in Boulder, Gloria asked for thoughts on either not doing an assessment there or changing the assessment process to meet Boulder’s needs. The Resource Team’s role
could be to assist the community in implementing the master plan. It would be critical to work with the city and county and work with Janet. Kim suggested bringing in the ABCD training to build capacity. The 20 Clues to Rural Community Success would be excellent as well. Abbie mentioned a talk with Lori Higgins and Warren Vaughan regarding capacity which was to offer training in assessment communities on leadership to find skills to address the needs identified. Anne emphasized the need to make sure the team members were selected carefully to make sure their expertise matched the categories identified. Gloria H suggested not overloading the community. Craig said if groups are identified, why not put a resource team member with that expertise to each group and work one-on-one with them.

Gloria is meeting with project leaders via conference call on Monday and will suggest these alternatives.

5. Misc.

- Multi-State Grant Ap to study our three state resource team process is in the works. Lori Higgins is the lead on the USDA grant.

- Seeley Lake has a team visit planned September 19th and 20th. Gus said the team needs to be aware of the pending vote on support for funding to approve a wastewater system. The area received an incredible grant, but still needs a loan which would cause rate increases of about $100 per month. Craig suggested Missoula County has representation or gives background on the sewer project to the team. Steve Troendle has worked very hard on the project. Craig also noted a resort tax has been tried in the past but the vote failed – to fund this project. It will be important for the team to be informed on the sewer project prior to the visit. Call Craig P at Great West.

- Consider a seminar on a resort tax. Big Sky, Whitefish, etc., providing information on the benefits.

- Anne Boothe shared Chinook and Ft. Benton are interested in a resource team assessment.

6. Next Meeting
The next meeting will be September 8th; 9am.