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MEDA Resource Team Assessment Working Group
February 18, 2016
9:00am

On the call: Gus Byrom, Kathy McLane, Kim Porter, Gloria Hawkins, Dianne Lehm, Shannon Christianson, Tracy McIntyre, Paul La Chappelle and Gloria O'Rourke.

1. Outcomes from Sanders County return visit to set priorities

Gloria provided an update on the Sanders County Project and Prioritizing return visit by the MEDA Sanders County Resource Team. To encourage more participation, two meetings were held; one in Noxon the morning of January 21st and an afternoon meeting in Thompson Falls. When combined, about seven main issues were identified and prioritized. A list of volunteers was gathered; Jen Kreiner will follow-up with each newly formed working group.

2. Malta celebration/training

Once again, MT Dept. of Commerce is partnering with MEDA to take advantage of the one year return celebration of a Resource Team Visit. As mentioned in the previous meeting, the collaboration and training that took place in Big Timber was very successful. No doubt the same will happen in Malta on March 10 - 11.

3. Next "one year celebration" - Broadus?

As Livingston and Belgrade did not fully complete the Resource Team Assessment process, a visit could be made to Broadus (although more than a year has passed) to review all that the community has accomplished. Gloria will investigate further.

4. Pending Assessments: Deer Lodge - March 7th and 8th; Ronan - May 9 - 11 timeframe

Those on the RTA Working Group were encouraged to participate in either the March team or the May team. Tracy and Dianne are interested in Ronan; Gus will serve in Deer Lodge.

5. Follow-up on Community Capitals and ABCD training

Paul discussed the Community Capitals information and noted a community's social, political, and cultural availability is an important part of an assessment. In the future, the Working Group could determine where the Community Capital information fits with the Resource Team Assessment process. Regarding ABCD training, Paul said MEDA could

work with him to host a webinar through MSU. The webinar could provide information on both Community Capitals and ABCD.

6. Roger Hopkins' report for Sanders County - discussion of using this format

Those on the call had not had a chance to review Roger's report but offered to send comments to Gloria.

7. Wyoming/Idaho input - Michele, Kim

Kim explained Wyoming is no longer conducting Resource Team Assessments so much as working to help communities achieve their goals. Kim mentioned common issues such as beautification, housing, zoning, signage, and marketing are constant topics. Wyoming is exploring how to provide a toolkit on each of these topics and make it available to communities. Montana will be anxious to see what Wyoming does and how the information is organized and kept current. Anne Boothe said she would email toolkit examples.

8. Misc

- a. Information was shared on building a community hall.
- b. Next meeting will be March 17th at 9:00am.
- c. Gus shared an example of a California foundation taking an equity position so that University faculty could purchase homes.
- d. Agenda items: follow-up to Deer Lodge Assessment, Collective Impact, follow-up on ABCD Training and Community Capitals, Ronan and possibly Colstrip assessments.

- Idaho input - Michele
- Ideas for searchable database