

Theme Meeting February 22, 2010

The following is a bulleted summary of the Teams meeting for the Community Stakeholder Roundtable, that occurred on February 22, 2010 at the Cambridge Center.

Present: Judge Jeff Reed, Vince Ozier, Fr. Dave Ross, Walt Kinsey, Chief Garlock, Catherine Garlock, Dan Reiff, Steve Johnson, and Dave Berger.

The purpose of the meeting was to try to map those areas of Stakeholder Priorities that Teams might work together on, and avoid duplication of effort.

Walt Kinsey (Education Team) commented that he believed joint efforts with the Accountability Team regarding community information pertaining to the courts would be beneficial. He mentioned as well that Paul Nardini, a member of the team, is working on educational efforts pertaining to law enforcement in the school setting.

Judge Reed stated that the Accountability team has not done any community forums, but rather is focused on creating a board for hearing complaints about the justice system in Allen County. Once that is formed, he acknowledged the need for a cooperative effort with the Education Team for the conduct of community forums.

Chief Garlock (COP) stated that their team had conducted two community forums. The second one involved Allen County Prosecutor Juergen Waldick and many of the questions that arose pertained to his role. The COP team would like to work with the Education Team on a community forum focused on the courts.

Vince Ozier (Diversity) noted that the team wants to conduct a community poll and is interested in whether the other teams have also thought about any need for community input that might be incorporated into such a poll. In particular, he noted the need to have minority community data on issues relating to employment in the public sector.

Fr. Ross and Steve Johnson (Communications) outlined the recent luncheon meeting that occurred between the media and safety services. It was noted that there were a couple of flash points, that the discussion became constructive by the end, that differences in media ethics and operating methods emerged. There was a sense that the group was too large and that perhaps for future discussions a smaller group should be convened. Fr. Ross noted that the community sometimes assumes that it has a right to all the information about persons or situations, but the public agencies and officials often have reasons for being discrete in their information release. There

was a discussion about the differing attitudes of broadcast reporters to newspaper reporters, and other related matters. Chief Garlock noted that at the second community forum on illegal drugs citizens who attended and participated were explicit that they did not want the media present for fear of retaliation that might occur from others in the community.

At the conclusion, there was a consensus that two opportunities present themselves for inter-team cooperation: community forums and community polling.