

# Community Relations Committee: Meeting Minutes: October 15, 2013

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**12:00-2:00pm**

**Cathedral of Learning, Room 156—the Croghan/Schenley Room**

**Attendees:** Kim Barlow, *University Times*; Denise Chisholm, Occupational Therapy; Laurie Cohen, CRC-CO-Chair, ULS; Megan Fabbri, OPDC; Lovie J.J. Foster; Co-Chair, CRC, Social Work; Patrick Loughlin, BioEngineering; Penny Morel, Immunology; Tricia Nowalk, Family Medicine; Kannu Sahni, Community Relations; Trevor Smith, CHS; Pam Toto, Occupational Therapy; John Wilds, Community Relations; Mary Davidson Williams, OBID; Thea Young; Family Medicine

- Co-Chairs Laurie & Lovie welcomed guests and members
  
- **Affordable Care Act (ACA)—Pitt/UPMC Roll-out to Oakland uninsured**
  - Presenter: Tricia Nowalk, PhD, *Associate Professor Department of Family Medicine, Project Director, Matilda Theiss Health Center*
  - Pitt Dept. of Family Medicine and the Matilda Theiss Health Center applied for and received a grant to hire and train an outreach team to enroll uninsured patients/clients in a healthcare plan
  - ~20 hours of online ACA training with special emphasis on privacy and security
  - 5 people trained, 3 working—need to hire 2 additional people
  - Outreach team has a schedule of its enrollment outreach dates and locations (handed out at meeting; more handouts of the schedule are available)
  - Some key points:
    - A person must apply in order to determine their eligibility
    - There are penalties if not enrolled
    - Pitt/UPMC team's goal is to enroll 200 uninsured clients
    - There are/were glitches with the ACA enrollment website
    - Takes about an hour to enroll
  
- **OBID update on the Anchor District Forum and Startup Oakland Kickoff**
  - Presenter: Mary Davidson Williams, *Marketing & Communications Coordinator Oakland Business Improvement District*
  - Anchor District Forum
    - Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2-5:30pm
    - Topic: A conversation with Anchor Institution and Community Service Corporation Leaders
    - University of Pittsburgh Campus-Alumni Hall/Connolly Ballroom
    - For more info or to RSVP (not mandatory): 412-683-6243, x.19, or [mary@oaklandbid.org](mailto:mary@oaklandbid.org)

- Technology Startup Campaign: <http://onlyinoakland.org/startup/overview/>
- **Oakland Planning and Development Corporation**
  - Presenter: Megan Fabbri
    - Town hall meeting October 17, 2013
    - Home Buying Workshop October 21, 2013
- **Oakland Forever 2014**
  - Presenter: Trevor Smith
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Oakland Forever event will be held in September 2014, 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Oakland
    - Exciting opportunity to get involved: Recruiting now for volunteers for the Oakland Forever 2014 Planning Committee
- **Community Relations**
  - Presenters: Kannu Sahni and John Wilds, Phd
    - Many successful events supported the department and university's goals to build relationships and strengthen communication between local residents, students, and faculty
      - Block Parties (9/11/13: S. Oakland, 9/19/13: N. Oakland, 9/26/13: Central Oakland)
        - ~50% of N. Oakland Block Party attendees were Point Park students
      - Day of Caring (9/24/13)
        - 24 project sites and 44 projects in Oakland, Homestead, and East End
        - ~400 participants (students, faculty, staff, community, alumni)
      - Student Guide
        - Tremendous success!
        - May become standardized part of Pitt system for orienting students to campus living
        - Lots of great publicity nationally—will likely be a model for other universities
    - November/Upcoming
      - Food drives for people and pets/pet shelters
        - Kick-off 10/31/13...runs through November with the finale 12/1/13 at the Pitt Women's Basketball game
        - November 8-22, CBS radio will be talking about human and pet hunger
      - Winter apparel drive—seeking socks and other items
      - Christmas Day at Pitt—seeking toys and other items
    - Chancellor Search
      - Have received input on desired characteristics from students, faculty, and alumni
    - Construction
      - Installing environmentally-friendly boiler behind Trees Hall
        - Related, reconstructing stairs to the Petersen Events Center
        - Will be complete by the end of the year

- 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue
      - Nordenberg Hall
        - Will soon house PNC Bank
      - PNC building will become Starbuck's
      - New railing and wider sidewalks have been put in
    - Engineering building construction is underway
    - Graduate School of Public Health building is nearly complete
  - Partnering w/CHS to do a "Renter's Rights" student workshop
    - Will educate students about their rights as a tenant
    - Will educate students about landlord rights
    - Legal advice
    - Dates are tentative—possibly the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> weeks of November
  - Bates Street
    - Western PA Conservancy has eliminated many of the foreign/invasive plant species and treated the area
    - Next step is to plant trees
  - Plant to Plate and Oakland Food Pantry
    - Great successes taking place in feeding local residents
    - CHS staff/CRC member Trevor Smith is instrumental in these efforts (Fabulous work Trevor!)
    - <http://www.pitt.edu/~sorc/plant2plate/>
    - <http://www.chscorp.org/foodpantry>
- **School of Social Work Civic Engagement Community**
  - Needs Halloween candy for goody bags for local youth
  - Please take candy to 2217 Cathedral of Learning by 4pm 10/24...*final day to be "sweet"*
- **Institute of Politics forum: "The Future of Our Libraries"**
  - November 1, 2013
  - <http://www.iop.pitt.edu/libraries/Invitation%20Agenda.pdf>

**Hope to see you all Tuesday, November 19, 2013**

**Tentative meeting place: CHS in Oakland...don't miss video viewing**

**RSVP by Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup> to Lovie Jackson Foster: [lj10@pitt.edu](mailto:lj10@pitt.edu)**