**Meeting Minutes**

**Community & Faith Based Subcommittee**

**Governor’s 2020 Census Task Force**

**Thursday January 2, 2020 9:00 am – 10:00 am CT**

**Online via Zoom**

**Present:** Andrea Werner (Community Action – Bismarck), Beth Fyling (Community Action-Jamestown), Louise Dardis (Governor’s Census Task Force Chairs), Gabbi Proffitt and Kevin Iverson (ND Dept of Commerce), Dana Schaar-Jahner (NDANO), Andrea Olson (Community Action Partnership of ND), Megan Jenson (United Way Cass Clay), and Kirsten Dvorak (ARC of Bismarck), Jessica Thommasen and Karen Olson (LSS), August Saah (Centre, Inc).

**Introductions and Roll Call.**

**Census Task Force Update**. Louise provided an update. Our committee is doing well as are other subcommittees. Information is being disseminated across the state. Super Studios has the media contract and their initial designs have been released. The group saw the first drafts.

**Census Training on Feb 3, 2020.** Bismarck State College Energy Center from 10:00 am-3:30 pm. Will be a review and overview of the Census for CCCs and all people involved in the Census. Two group targeted: 1.) Communities, organizations and task force members that have all been active. 2.) Cities who haven’t done anything yet. One-hour Create-a-Thon to discuss how to engage HTC populations. Free of charge and open to the public, lunch will be provided. All subcommittee members are encouraged to attend. Generalized learning session for all.

Draft materials from Super Studios were reviewed. Initial thoughts are to ensure we are inclusive of people with disabilities. How will these materials address the barriers that people face such as literacy, vocabulary, and how to address to security. The Census Bureau will possibly be producing materials that address these barriers.

**Outreach to Faith-Based Organizations**.

Our committee is still working to engage faith-based organizations. It was agreed that we need to make it easy as possible i.e. give them the bulletin to insert into their newsletters. Catholic Charities. Refugee community has a lot of churches that August is willing to tackle.

Engaging Faith organizations across ND was discussed. Dept of Commerce has a flyer specific for churches. Jamestown Lutheran and Catholic churches are active; they’re comfortable posting information in their bulletins. Dana will reach out to the faith-based NDANO members and Chris Dodd. There are monthly pastor meetings in West Fargo and it is assumed they happen across the state. Catholic Charities and LSS may also have connections. Linda is willing to meet with them. The nationwide faith-based Census weekend is scheduled for March 27-29.

**Outreach Efforts**.

Community Action – Website is live with Census info. Two emails via the statewide listserv have gone out and shared with the group. Initial conversations with clients are beginning to lay the foundation that the Census is safe.

LSS – will start to conduct outreach in January and February. A staff committee will be involved with the Census as well. The New American Director will also be involved. Will push out materials to their clients.

NDANO – Info on the website. Have been spreading the word about Census since last April. Host webinars for non-profits to understand why it’s important. Will also disseminate info to their members from Super Studios. ND Community Foundation will also share some information.

UWCC – Will host informational session in February. Engaged volunteers are also willing to help with outreach for agencies.

ARC – Ramping up efforts in January and February. Thrift stores will hand out flyers to reach clientele. National chapters have engaged local chapters as well.

Louise reiterated that she is available to help educate staff.

August and Louise will collaborate on meeting with church leaders in the New American community.

**Events**.

* ND Community Foundation Picnic in AZ – March 1, AZ
* ND Autism Spectrum Disorders Conference – April 29 and 30, Bismarck
* ND Association of Community Providers – Date is TBD, Fargo
* ND Homeless Coalition and Continuum of Care meeting, Feb 5, Dickinson
* Student Senate activities

**Next Meeting**. Thursday February 6 2020 at 8:00 am MT/9:00 am CT.