

Voyage Forward

Journey to Success

“Quality of Life” Destiny Driver Committee

Notes on Meeting April 21, 2016 - Falls Public Library conference room

- I. Welcome and Introductions: Attending were Diane Adams, Dianne Briggs, Deb Lagen, Danielle Schermerhorn, Ariel Schmit, Douglas Skrief with guests RaNae Whitbeck and DeAnna Winge
- II. Brief Review of Voyage Forward and the Quality of Life Driver. Welcoming guests RaNae Whitbeck, Koochiching County Health and Human Services, and DeAnna Winge, Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency.
- III.
 - A. Reviewed first meeting conversation on concerns such as schools, activities for kids and home care.
 - B. Reviewed status of local Boys and Girls Club: not determined to its future.
 - C. Received verbal report from Skrief on Youth Engagement Survey results. The committee will look forward to their full release.
 - D. Concern over available daycare for pre-schoolers was again voiced, recalling its serious economic impact in attracting and retaining young families to the area. RaNae Whitbeck offered information on the opportunities and impediments of Family Child Care and Child Care Centers. International Falls has 22 sites, Littlefork 2 and Northome 1. A countywide “mini Baby Boom” is currently being experienced. Three current day care sites may be closed in the near future. Evening daycare options have not been well attended. Youth can be trained in babysitting. Liability issues and lack of support at large sites (business)/college) have been obstacles in past. Start-up- and ongoing- funding are an issue as well as training and licensing.
 - i. Group will bring forward need for center and providers. Ariel Schmit offered to talk with The Journal regarding an article to bring attention to the issue.
 - ii. A “Mommy Group” was proposed (e.g. “MOPS for moms with pre-schoolers”).
 - E. Youth and Wellness Centers were discussed, citing examples in Perham, Detroit Lakes and Grand Rapids. These groups could present in Koochiching County on their experience. Senior Centers that attract younger elders to an attractive facility could be researched. Stakeholders might include RRCC, Backus Community Center and parent involvement committees.
- IV. Next Meeting: May 2 at 5:30 p.m. Location to be announced.