

Fox Valley United Way
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
8:30 am –10:00 am
Tuesday, November 7, 2023 – Via Zoom

1. Call Meeting to Order--CEO Deborah at 8:35a
2. Roll Call
Board—Laura, Mark, Joe E., Terese, Mansa, Karen, Joe D., Stacey, Maria
Absent—Michele, Kelly
Staff—Deborah, JD and Lisa joined towards the end of the call/meeting
3. Approve Minutes – October 2023 – motion passed to approve
4. Chairman of the Board's Report
5. Chief Executive Officer Report
 - Yvette and Adrianna from SPARK have been with us a month, and they are a working out well.
 - Dunham Meeting—Their Board of Directors denied our grant application for SPARK. This decision was based on wanting to see more data that proved that SPARK outcomes were more positive to proving preparation for more Aurora children for kindergarten. We have invited Dunham executives to meet with us at our office to dive deeper into their data needs and outcome expectations. Additionally, this will be a great opportunity to introduce them to Rosa and they will get an opportunity to get to know her and learn about her expertise.
 - Deborah & Rosa met with Executive Team of the YWCA Metro Chicago to connect and introduce them to Rosa. The Y has funded SPARK's Play-Learn-Connect initiative in the past and wanted to get a feel for the transition of the program. They now have a part-time presence at the Financial Empowerment Center in Aurora and look forward to a continued partnership with SPARK. They provided \$19,000 last year.
 - Michele Clark facilitated a meeting for us so Deborah and JD could meet with Valeria Loera of the Neighbor Project and Toshia Moss with the City of Aurora, who both represent the Aurora Financial Empowerment Center. Their discussions centered around the work of all three organizations how aligned we all are to the mission of ALICE. We look forward to more collaboration to come on that front.
 - October was filled with many meetings and lots of good collaboration.
 - Holiday Assistance intake interviews took place the during the week of October 16th through 27th. Approximately 70% are new families and referrals from other agencies. This provides a good opportunity to connect these people with other FVUW services.

- We will be scheduling a team-building retreat in late January or early February with Consultant Marianne Renner. Funding for this was paid out of Community Saturation Grant money in FY 2023. The objective will be to unify the FVUW and SPARK teams after all our new hires.

6. Committee Reports

- Finance—Kelli and Mark met to review the August and September Financials. Mark reports our cash is in a good range. Receivables are much higher than last year at this time, which is good. A/P and accruals are comparable to the prior year. SPARK is in a good position right now.
- Audit Progress—Deborah is finalizing all requested items.
- There will be a check-in meeting with auditors scheduled for 11/7
- Report on SPARK: grant contracts will be sent to the auditor
- Fiscal Agent Request—FVUW was requested to be fiscal agent for Bright By Text for their grant application. Their programs are focused on children ages birth to five in the State of Illinois. We have agreed and will receive a fee for this.
- Nominating Committee: We have a new candidate brought forth by the committee. Mark and Stacey will be meeting with Diane McLaren. She would be joining the executive team of SPARK. She lives in Oswego, and previously on the school district #308 Board. She is also a doula. Diane will be making her final decision after these meetings. Deborah will then present to the Board as an official nominee. A motion by Maria was seconded by Joe E. and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Program Updates

- SPARK—There have been a lot of new activities and collaborations. Rosa has been busy organizing these programs and events:

Community Baby Shower

African America Health Coalition

Distribution over 30 items to new moms or expecting moms

Halloween Activities

Freeman Elementary School

3-5pm Bags Distributed 150 to spread the word about SPARK

VNA

4-7pm Bags Distributed 200

Play Groups continue at 3 locations:

1. EOLA Library: Play Groups Tuesday 10-11:30 am
2. New England Church (World Relief): Play Groups Friday from 9:15/11:00 pm
3. EOLA Community Center: Wednesdays, Opening Doors Group for parents 9:00-11:30am.

Developmental Screenings

New Contractor – Mayra Cantu – trained in Ages and Stages and Social Emotional Screenings previously as a SPARK employee. These will be held at several new locations

- **Staff, Internships and Volunteer**—Two students from Aurora University School of Social Work at the master's level. Their internships will be running from January to May 2024

8. Development—JD Ostergaard reported on some past and future events:

- Good Morning Aurora aired on 10/20
- Giving Tuesday coming up next week on November 28th
- Wahlburgers Fundraiser is on Wednesday November 15th in St Charles
- Holiday Assistance—Interviews are complete and we begin to sing up sponsors for the children. It would be great to find some businesses to run toy and blanket drives, gift card drives. The City of Aurora, Rush Copley Healthplex and the Old Second Bank have confirmed so far.
- Campaigns—The City of Aurora campaign started yesterday, November 6th. We will be presenting three more times to them. The Timpkin campaign is going well and they have extended their dates! The Earthmover Credit Union broke their record for the highest participation so far. Roquette has a campaign starting later this month.
- We have added a Campaign Toolkit to our website.

9. Engagement—Lisa Foydel reported on some of the projects she's working on:

- Women United—There are 11 members and right now they are focused on making the Power of the Purse Golden Ticket event successful. To date 41 tickets have been sold so *get the word out and share on your socials* please.
- Power of the Purse proceeds will be allocated to The Neighbor Project. Their focus is on financial literacy to homeownership. Rick Guzman, their executive director will be our guest speaker. The event will be held at Society 57 on Thursday November 30th from 6:00-8:00pm.
- 211 call volume is up to the highest number since the service began in 2018. We receive \$33,000 from the State of Illinois and \$60,000 from Kane County to support this work. Our mission is to market this service better in the northern region of Kane County.
- United For ALICE—We are all invited to join the Women United Book Discussion scheduled to be held on Sunday February 4, 2024 at Society 57. The book is about the hard work, low wages, and a mother's will to survive by Stephanie Land. The author is ALICE.
- Lisa and Deborah will be attending an ALICE conference in February,
- Joe Donar reported he held a successful 5K fundraiser. They had a great turnout and raised over \$800! Thank you Joe!

10. Next Meeting Date—Thursday December 14, 2023

11. Adjournment—9:45a