



**Update: April 2016**

**Ally Partners:**

Ten more individuals are needed to serve as Ally Partners for the Getting Ahead graduates in June. Do you know someone at work or in the community that would make a good Ally Partner? Please refer anyone interested to a workgroup member or Nancy for an application.

**Getting Ahead:**

With half of the sessions completed, 88% of the investigators are still participating. In May, investigators will be completing a community assessment and calling identified community leaders for input.

Deb Kolb, Lee Borrer, Kathleen Breighner, Michele Walker, Dan Snyder, Dorian Birkholz, and Nancy Forlifer completed the lifetime certification for Bridges Out of Poverty and the Getting Ahead training.

Poverty is a reality for many individuals and families. But unless you've experienced poverty, it's difficult to truly understand. We have purchased the Community Action Poverty Simulation (CAPS) kit which helps bridge that gap from misconception to understanding. The Poverty Simulation is an interactive immersion experience that sensitizes community participants to the realities of poverty. More details coming soon.

**Policy Issues:**

Recent efforts focused on comparison of Maryland's Asset Protection Law to proposed models and advocacy for expansion of Maryland's Earned Income Tax Credit. A meeting will be scheduled with the Western Maryland delegation to discuss these and other issues impacting poverty.

**Culture of Health:**

Thanks to Tracey Clark at WMHS, the 3 minute video linked below was submitted as part of the Culture of Health Leaders Program application. It highlights barriers and solutions in our environment that the Resource Building Workgroup strives to address.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kp4NfcV-2A>

**Youth Engagement:**

Youth organizing and civic engagement are pathways to educational achievement and workforce development. By connecting youth and organizations from various sectors in the community, we can provide opportunities for youth to develop support networks, strengthen social capital, and gain "soft" and "hard" skills that will enhance potential for success. On the evening of May 3<sup>rd</sup> there will be further discussion of how to do this in our community.

**Upcoming Meetings and Presentations**

May 2	12-130pm	Resource Building Workgroup	Chamber of Commerce
May 3	12-1pm	PR Committee	Willowbrook Administrative Complex
May 3	630-8pm	Connecting with Youth	WMRMC Auditorium
May 10	330-5pm	Ally Partner Workgroup	WOC-Wellness Offices
May 17	530-630pm	Getting Ahead Workgroup	WOC-Wellness Offices
May 19	9-10 am	Policy Workgroup	County Office Building
June 8	8-10 or 11-1	Workplace Stability	WMRMC Auditorium/ ACM College Theatre

**For more information contact Nancy Forlifer, Facilitator at 240-964-8422 or [nforlifer@wmhs.com](mailto:nforlifer@wmhs.com).**

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