

Thursday, September 6, 2018

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COMMISSIONERS KICK OFF COUNTY-WIDE POVERTY ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGIC PLAN

An initiative is underway in Franklin County aimed at studying the causes of poverty specific to Central Ohio, and at creating a plan to address them with a coordinated, community-wide effort. The Franklin County Commissioners have engaged Moore Strategic Consulting to lead the data analysis with other local partners, and formulation of the plan. Helping to direct the project will be a steering committee made up of community leaders from across Franklin County, and heading the team for the commissioners is Job and Family Services Director, Joy Bivens.

The commissioners issued a request for proposals in early 2018 that would include a review of national poverty mitigation trends and methodologies, identification of local challenges and available local resources, and facilitation of the steering committee and its work. In it, the county noted that while some indicators, like county-wide unemployment at less than 4%, are encouraging, the poverty rate remains close to 17%. More distressing still are the racial and other disparities—the poverty rate for African Americans is twice the county average, and a quarter of all children in Franklin County are living in poverty.

The project's steering committee is made up of community leaders from all walks of life and all backgrounds, including faith leaders, academics, social workers, executives, community activists, and residents who have lived in poverty themselves. The steering committee will be chaired by Trudy Bartley, Associate Vice President for Community Relations in The Ohio State University Office of Government Affairs, and divided into working groups for studying individual aspects of the challenge and solutions, such as data analysis, available resources, best practices, and community engagement.

The project is expected to have several phases, beginning with analysis of the current landscape in Franklin County and the aspects of poverty that are unique to this community. Later phases will include a study of nationwide best practices, an accounting of resources available locally, and finally a community-wide plan to marshal those resources to use the right methodologies to address the unique challenges.

[Commissioners' Request for Proposals](#)
[Trudy Bartley Bio](#)

Steering Committee:

- Bishop Timothy Clarke, First Church of God
- Robert Chilton, CEO of Impact Community Action
- Chad Jester, President Nationwide Foundation
- Carla Williams-Scott, Director of Department of Neighborhoods for the City of Columbus
- Chelsea Klosterman, Investigator III, Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services

- Charleta Tavares, CEO of PrimaryOne of Health
- Charles Hillman, President and CEO of Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority
- Charles Spinning, Executive Director Franklin County Children Services
- Christie Angel, President and CEO of YWCA Columbus
- Dan Sharpe, VP of Community Research and Grants Management, the Columbus Foundation
- Dangelo Wheeler, Community Member
- Denise Robinson, President and CEO of Alvis
- Dorsey Hager, Executive Secretary Treasurer, Columbus/Central Ohio Building and Construction Trades Council
- Dr. Seleshi Asfaw, Executive Director, Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services
- Elizabeth Martinez, President and CEO Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio
- Jane Grote Abell, Chairman of the Board, Donato's Pizza
- Jane Leach, Executive Director, Future Ready Columbus
- Joanna Pinkerton, President and CEO Central Ohio Transit Authority
- John Stanford, Interim Superintendent, Columbus City Schools
- Kenny McDonald, President and Chief Executive Officer Columbus 2020
- Lisa Courtice, President and CEO, United Way of Central Ohio
- Lisa Patt-McDaniel, CEO Workforce Development Board of Central Ohio
- Matt Habash, President & CEO, Mid-Ohio Foodbank
- Melvin Brown, Superintendent Reynoldsburg City Schools District
- Michael Corey, Executive Director, Human Service Chamber of Franklin County
- Michelle Heritage, Executive Director Community Shelter Board
- Moses Hayelom, Co-owner Flavor 91
- Nadia Kasvin, Co-Founder and Director of US Together Inc.
- Nana Watson, President NAACP of Columbus, Ohio
- Rebecca Butler, Senior Vice President, Columbus State Community College
- Stephanie Hightower, President and CEO Columbus Urban League
- Trudy Bartley, Assistance Vice President 1130 Gahanna Parkway
- William Murdock, Executive Director MORPC
- Winnie Alemayoh, Co-owner Flavor 91
- Zach Woodruff, Director of Economic, Development and Public Service, City of Whitehall

Steering Committee Meetings will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Columbus YWCA at 65 S. Fourth Street.

- Sept. 11, 2018
- Oct. 30, 2018
- Dec. 18, 2018
- Jan. 15, 2019
- Feb. 12, 2019

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