

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY CHAPTER  
OF  
THE LINKS, INCORPORATED  
FACET MINUTES & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

**COMMITTEE/FACET NAME:** Health and Human Services

**MEETING DATE AND TIME/ATTENDEES:** March 29, 2016 5:45pm –6:45pm: Mary Graves, Mary Spells, Dianne Young, Claudia L. Edwards

**ACTIVITY/ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- **Oral Health Quiz**

We had planned to administer an Oral Quiz at the March chapter meeting for health awareness activity in recognition of March as Dental Hygiene month. We decided to postpone... the gifts were not delivered in time and we did not secure a time on the March Agenda. We will do at the April Chapter meeting.

- **Newsletter**

Dawna will distribute at April Chapter meeting

- **Smart Girls**

While no date was set, the consensus was to postpone the event until early fall (September/October). Please be prepared to finalize a date at the next HHS facet meeting.

Also we clarified the role HHS will play in this activity.

We need ten volunteers to participate in a round-robin discussion with 20 girls who will be in attendance. There will be five groups of high school girls sitting together at five different table/ stations. Five link-teams (composed of teams of two volunteers) will facilitate a discussion with the girls. Each team will spend 15 minutes at each station to spark a conversation with the girls on five selected topics. Link volunteers will facilitate the conversation for 15 minutes then move to the next station. By the end of the session each Link

team would have facilitated a conversation at each of the five youth tables/stations.

The role of HHS facet will be limited to (1) securing 10 link volunteers to serve as facilitators for the round robin discussions; (2) provide gifts for each of the students who attend the luncheon, and (3) provide a date for when we would be available to participate in the SMART Girls event.

We are not involved in planning the event, setting the program or identifying or sponsoring the luncheon. These tasks will be done by the BGC for New Rochelle

It was pointed out that several attempts were made to schedule this event. It would be helpful if we come up with a new date that everyone could agree upon and stick to the date to which we committed.

Mary Graves presented a picture of the proposed gift—a bracelet for each girl for a price of \$10 each. Members in attendance agreed to proceed with purchasing the gift.

- **Umbrella Programs**

Link Dianne discussed two programs initiated by the Area team to implement at the Chapter level—*Health Equity Ambassador* and *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer*:

*Health Equity Ambassador (HEA)*

This national initiative is designed to increase awareness around breast cancer among African American, Asian, Hispanic/Latino, Native American and rural populations. Ambassadors provide outreach and education to the community to help individuals prevent cancer and find cancer early. HHS facets are being Our responsibility would be to:

- ✓ Establish an action plan for how we would represent the American Cancer Society in our local community
- ✓ Identify a diverse population with whom we would communicate
- ✓ A strategy for accurately communicating cancer information
- ✓ Networking with appropriate community partners

Other Background:

*Link Olga suggested a joint meeting to consider a collaboration between our chapters and earn more about the training for this initiative. The IT facet for her chapter led the chapter participation on the Haiti initiative. She thought it might be a great opportunity to collaborate with other chapters to execute a local initiative and benefit from the experience gained by the Metropolitan Chapter. The American Cancer Society is willing to sponsor training for potential ambassadors for the program (training and breakfast) and local 1199 will provide the space. We might want to join that training session.*

Members in attendance came to the following consensus:

The is a national umbrella organization and increases our potential for national recognition

In addition, we have been discussing our partnership with Food Bank For Westchester and the difficulty in securing service hours. We might want to phase out and focusing on this umbrella initiative.

Ask Olga to attend the next meeting to discuss how her chapter supported the Haiti initiative and her thoughts on how we might work together.

We should think about potential partners to help identify gaps in services in Westchester. Mary Graves will contact a friend she knows who sits on

the board of White Plains Hospital. HHS members should think about other potential partners

Members agreed that the initiative was a good idea but felt we should hold off on a decision until we gathered more information and got greater input from other members of the facet

### *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer*

This 3-5 mile marathon is designed to unite as a community to honor breast cancer survivors. It raises awareness about breast cancer prevention and monies for the American Cancer Society. There are walk-a-thons taking place all over the country.

- A walk-a-thon is scheduled for Westchester at Manhattanville College on October 16. It's an eight-mile walk. Members in attendance thought this would be a good opportunity for service and committed to establish a Chapter team for this marathon. Claudia will follow up on registration

### **Update from Eastern Area HHS Chairs**

- Each month HHS chairs join in on a Area conference to discuss HHS activities taking place on the local level. Co-chairs Dawna and Claudia have taken alternative months to represent the chapter.
- HHS chairs are encouraged to use took kits available on the national website for HHS. For information, go to Member's only and click on Documents and you'll find HeartLinks—This link will connect you to a ton of templates we can use for potential HHS projects.
- If members want to participate on the call (as silent participants) or represent one of the co-chairs, feel free to join us. Instructions below:
  - The call will be the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 8pm.
  - Next schedule meetings are (April 20, May 18, June 15)

- You will need to call in for the audio. (If you participate as a silent partner don't respond to the attendance call. Just email one of the co-chairs so that we credit you for the service hours.)
- You will also have to log onto the following link in order to see the shared slides for this months updates.
- Dial into the conference: (712) 775-7031, Access Code: 908541
- Join the online meeting: <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/linktamiko>
- At the scheduled date and time of the meeting, dial into the conference line. When prompted, enter the Access Code followed by the pound key.
- To join the online meeting, click on the meeting link listed above and follow the prompts to join the meeting

## **Other Matters**

- One member suggested we prioritize our service activity more so that events don't "crop up."
- Our president asked for an update on why our service activities with the Dental Van has declined over this calendar. Given the national award we received last year, she is interested in knowing what were the complications
- The April meeting will is scheduled, however, Link Claudia agreed to host the next meeting.
- **Next meeting**  
April 2016 – One hour before Chapter meeting @ Crown Plaza.

## **ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION AT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING:**

None

## **MOTIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER:**

NONE

**Submitted by: Claudia Edwards and Dawna Michelle Fields**

**Date: April 2, 2016**