



2375 Gordon Road  
Alpena, MI 49707



## Community Advisory Groups Meeting Highlights Monday, August 13, 2018

FGP and SCP Advisory Group meetings were held on August 13<sup>th</sup> at the NEMCSA Alpena Annex.

Highlights from the May 21, 2018 meetings were reviewed.

FGP was chaired by Nancy Wedge. SCP by Heidi Powers in Pat Rondeau's absence.

Project Director Heidi Powers shared the feedback received from our federal funder, The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) on the year end Progress Reports.

FGP received a note of congratulations having surpassed our minimum target of stipend expenditures. This is significant since we received a warning letter of adverse action if we did not expend a minimum of 97% of our allocation. We were also recognized for the number of new stations entering into Memorandum of Understanding and expanding the number of volunteers serving in summer placements. Our challenges include placing volunteers in Head Start (HS) centers. While HS only represents 8% of our volunteer effort, it is 50% of our outputs and outcomes and we've had difficulty maintaining volunteers in this area. This will be something to consider when establishing targets for the 2019 – 2022 grant period. Overall, the comments received are favorable and the project has been rated as "On Target". While the recruitment of new volunteers remains a high priority, we are starting the 2018-19 school year with a sufficient number of volunteers to maintain success.

The round table discussion included an offer of added training for Foster Grandparents interested in HS placements by HS Family Service/Mental Health Content Area Specialist and advisory group member Lori Clark. Member Mary Lou Froggett shared outgoing Besser School Principal Eric Caldwell expressed an interest in providing in-service training and outreach to Foster Grandparents in his new capacity as the president of the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

Despite low enrollment of SCP volunteers we were successful in exceeding the minimum 75% threshold in our performance measures and recognized for the effort. We ranged a low 81% to 91% for an overall average of 85%. We received positive feedback for our efforts in reporting in-kind support and a high rate of return of year-end client surveys which was a direct contribution to achieving our overall success. We also received a few words of confidence in our ability to reverse the trend of low enrollments and it's anticipated we'll be successful in the long-term.

Related to our under enrollment of SCP volunteers, we do anticipate receiving a warning letter or more formally, a “Notice of VSY (Volunteer Service Year) Underachievement”. We will have to respond to the notice with a corrective action plan as we did with FGP but knowing this in advance of receiving the notice allows us to act more proactively. Needless to say, we continue to make new volunteer recruitment a priority.

In lieu of a NEMCSA Board Report, the August Director’s Report from Lisa Bolen was shared with all members.

Discussion in both meetings included possible venue change for the Alpena in service meetings. The Ramada Inn notified us of an approximate 60% price increase in the meal costs.

Next Advisory Group meetings are scheduled for November 12, 2018 with FGP beginning at 9:30 followed by SCP at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Powers, FGP/SCP Project Director