**RESILIENCE LEADERS SECTOR MEETING MINUTES**

The following are draft minutes for the meeting of the Resilience Leaders Sectors held from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm on Friday, April 16, 2021, via Zoom, any corrections will be added/corrected later.

1. **CALL TO ORDER (2:00 PM)**
	* Mayor Pro Tem Kasandra Gandara called the meeting to order.
	* Welcome and introductions completed.
2. **MEDITATION**
	* Meg Long - Completed
3. **HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS**
* Please send in profile pic to Henry for website.
* Please schedule private tour with Dominic Cappello on [www.eyeonsolutions.org](http://www.eyeonsolutions.org).
* Sober Living-Housing a reminder to invite to RL meetings.
* Broadband reminder for families and internet providers – Public Regulation Commission is having a broadband rural conference in October. Governor signed both Senate bills and will have an office of broadband within the state department of IT. Governor has not appointed a director yet. A group of local stake holders (local municipalities and nonprofit agencies) have been meeting since September discussing broadband access within our county for rural, tribal, and underserved areas. Dona Ana County group may have a website with information in near future, still in planning stages. If anyone has an interest in sitting on broadband related meetings, notify Mayor Pro Tem Gandara.
1. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**
	* **Budget Update & Info on Funding/Grants (Grant Writer) - Kasandra Gandara:** Currently the budget sits at about $8200.00 includes monies coming from sponsorship and summit participants (donations) from the 2019 RL Summit. Expenses include payment (approx. $2500.00) to Henry Varela for the design, upkeep, and maintenance of the Resilience Leaders (RL) website. Mayor Pro Tem Gandara mentioned in terms of infrastructure, there may have to be further dialogue on how to proceed with future grant opportunities as well as the possibility of a 501c3. Feedback requested.

Sharon Thomas stated that the city subscribes to a grant service and asked if RL can get access to it. There was talk about paying for a service that specializes in looking for grant opportunities. The discussion turned to the Resource Guide and GIS maps (in terms of funds and references), maps with layers can identify where all the housing, jobs, food, transportation services are then you can stack those maps to see how you interact across the board and or where services converge or where things need to converge. Ned Rubin mentioned that the Center for Health Innovation also has a GIS mapping department and apply for their own grants and sometimes they can provide services for free or at a discounted rate. If interested may have to check with Susan Wilgher (inaudible) or Alexis (inaudible) Grant and establish relationships with them, perhaps we can do other RL related projects with them. Meg Long agreed and willing to schedule a meeting with Alexis to see if the RL goals align.

Ned Rubin mentioned Share New Mexico has their own Resource Guide and questioned why RL needed to create their own. Others mentioned that it is not complete. Rose Ann Vasquez and Lori Martinez have been in contact with Share New Mexico, but their structure does not align with what the RL Resource Guide is trying to do, there are gaps. Also, providers are responsible for updating their information, Share New Mexico staff is not, so it tends to be outdated. The RL Resource Guide is extremely specific to Dona Ana County, in relation to bus routes for example. People will know exactly what services are available in a cross-sector manner at that bus route/stop. However, it can be outdated as soon as it’s put together which will affect distribution. There is a need for the Resource Guide because providers and clients are struggling to see and know what and where services are. Sharon Thomas mentioned that it would be easier to have GIS maps uploaded to a designated spot for public accessibility rather than print form, this way, community members can print what they want.

Mayor Pro Tem Gandara mentioned having conversations with Share New Mexico and United Way (211 System) in near future. Lori Martinez mentioned that with their referral system, they have Share New Mexico data integrated into it and have discussions on what areas are problematic (filter issues) within their directory also what’s relevant information in their “fields” when it comes to “current openings” agencies should be able to go in there and update the system periodically, but do not. They are continuing to work with them and believe what they are doing will work in future.

On a different topic, Ned Rubin suggested hiring an Executive Director so that the group can discuss grants (opportunities), public announcements, public education campaign, etc. and to make decisions on how the money flows into RL. He also stated that Sectors may want to request monies for various projects and would need decisions made immediately. Mayor Pro Tem Gandara agreed and stated there are 3 things that outlines what the group needs to do in terms of direction, the Strategic Plan outlines: Public Awareness Campaign, Capacity Building - Book Clubs (to engage the public), and the Summit (Shannon will send out the Save the Date). The convention center is reserved pending Covid restrictions.

There was also discussion on how the City of Las Cruces (municipality) is on board with what the RL group is doing in relation to reducing poverty, mitigating poverty. Mayor Pro Tem Gandara mentioned wanting to hire Dr. Donna Beegle as a guest speaker for the summit. Ultimately, the group agreed that there needs to be a coordinator of some sort, perhaps working 20 hours or more with the sector leaders are the board. Ned’s concern is that there needs to be thought for the near future in hiring an executive director as the group may become fragmented. Most of the members agreed and stated that they are ready for the next step. Some mentioned that there is not enough money to hire one for now but will have to consider for future.

Mayor Pro Tem Gandara discussed scheduling a Media Awareness Campaign soon. She has talked with NMCO and Henry Varela and have received a couple of quotes from them. Anxious to lift the campaign off and will use funding to pay for the sector’s component. The campaign will educate people on ACES, and educate the community related to the recent survey as well as what each sector is doing. She also has had conversation with the Sun News and stated that Lucas Peerman is interested in continuing dialogue on what the RL is doing within the community. He will be putting a chapter of the “Anna, Age Eight” book each week (electronically) to include the work that the city and the RL are doing.

Mary Ulrich is working with the City of Las Cruces to introduce training programs for people in the community who lacked access to workforces. She mentioned the mentoring program coordinated by Michelle Adames at Jardin de los Ninos that help homeless or near homeless families connect with a mentor to expand their network. Mary Ulrich is currently finding opportunities for some interdisciplinary research and is working on a proposal that falls in line with what the RL are doing. Project will entail “how do we measure/notice/record/observe transformation of a community when it happens?” When the proposal is put together, she will present to the group.

Daniela Rodriguez has completed certain portions of the Resource Guide: housing and food sectors. And continues to work on the job training sector, should be completed by early April or May.

* + **Discussion on Ameri Corp (discussion not in order):** Most of the feedback from the group agreed that it may be too large to proceed with as there is a lot of supervision and oversight, also match funding is a factor. The group discussed possibly looking into Border Serving Corp and asked that some members garner info about it. There was also discussion on other grant opportunities within Ameri Corp that may fit what the group is looking for in terms of funding, further research and discussion is needed at a later date.
	+ **Tools for Tracking Strategic Plan:** Working on a system where one can update others on collaborated projects. There was mentioned of the Monday App. A platform for teams to work together on projects. Monique Lopez stated that they are using this type of platform at her employment, and it has helped on group projects. John Burch agreed and stated that it is a great platform to use.
	+ **Bylaws 501c3:** The group discussed the pros and cons on getting a 501c3. Might involve more work such as setting up a board, governance, and bylaws (in addition to legal responsibilities). Also applying for a 501c3 may be a tedious and time-consuming process. It was mentioned that members may be spending a considerable amount of time in establishing a 501c3 and all its related guidelines rather than time on programs/group projects for the betterment of the community. Lori Martinez stated that the southern portion of New Mexico in particular, Dona Ana County, has a high density of non-profit agencies in comparison to other counties and fewer funders, because the funders in New Mexico are concentrated in Santa Fe, Albuquerque and (inaudible) County. However, the benefits of a 501c3 are grant opportunities and having the reciprocity of tax write offs. Ned Rubin brought up the discussion of possibly being under an umbrella of a well-established organization (important infrastructure) who can act on the group’s behalf, he stated that this would save the group time and expense of having to go through the process of a 501c3. He also added the RL Sector Leaders could be the advisory board under another 501c3 organization. Mayor Pro Tem Gandara replied that the Community Foundation is the 501c3 for Resilience Leaders for the interim. Sharon Thomas added that in the event the group does not go with a 501c3, the group still needs to spend some time on organization and bylaws, structure and to identify roles. Mayor Pro Tem Gandara mentioned that she has started working on bylaws and will share with the group within the next couple of weeks.
	+ **Power Hour TA:** Power Hour TA Dom and Catherine are presenting Power Hours for technical assistance a series of cross sector work, updating the group, and offering help. The dates are as follows:

Engaging in Change — Tue, May 4
Partnerships for Change — Tue, May 11
Clear Steps to Change — Tue, May 18
Assessing Why Change is Needed — Tue, May 25
Planning for Change — Tue, June 1
Acting as a Change Agent — Tue, June 8
Evaluating Change — Tue, June 15

* + **PED Teen Parent Presentation – Volunteers:** Mayor Pro Tem Gandara has been asked to work with Public Education Department (PED). They are putting on a youth (young moms) conference with roundtables (to include agenda) and would like to hear from RL. She is asking for two volunteers to discuss what the RL is doing in terms of identifying diversity, childhood trauma experiences, gaps, and barriers, and or how can the city improve services. The youth are coming from the entire state, PED has done this before, with opportunities to train up the facilitators. She mentioned that Dom is putting great things together to talk about the work the institute doing. Young parents with babies and hearing from them about how good or bad our system/services are important for the group. The dates are in late April and early May, not confirmed. Will send email with info.
1. **Set Next Meeting Date.** Friday, July 16, 2021 at 2pm
2. **Adjournment.**